

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One 1st year
3. Locality: Acadia Parish
Specific Locality: Egan
4. Date(s) when observed: 01/06/2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 8:49 acc. to time stamp.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None on this day. A bird seen a week later and 20 miles W at the Jeff Davis landfill might have been the same bird.
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Light was fine. Temperature and wind were miserable, making documentation difficult.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Fieldscope 20-60X, Zeiss 10s, Samsung S4 phone camera.
11. Distance to bird(s): 100 yards?
12. Duration of observation: Sighting was brief. Bird was spotted mixed in with birds on trash, I tried to film with limited success, and bird flew within a minute. Bird was followed in flight as it flew to facility pond. Bird stayed on pond less than 30 seconds, keeping me from filming.
13. Habitat: Landfill.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: Fighting for trash, flying, etc.

A relatively huge gull with round whitish head and large black bill, mottled pale upperparts, single dark secondary bar, dark primaries, white rump and tail with narrow black terminal band of variable width.

Size of bird was not readily apparent at first glance as it was on a lower level and obscured by other birds, but its head shape was distinctive: rounded in back with a bulbous sloping forehead, and eye set somewhat far back from gape. When the bird climbed the hill a bit, its size was obvious, dwarfing Laughing and Ring-billed, and much larger even than Herrings.

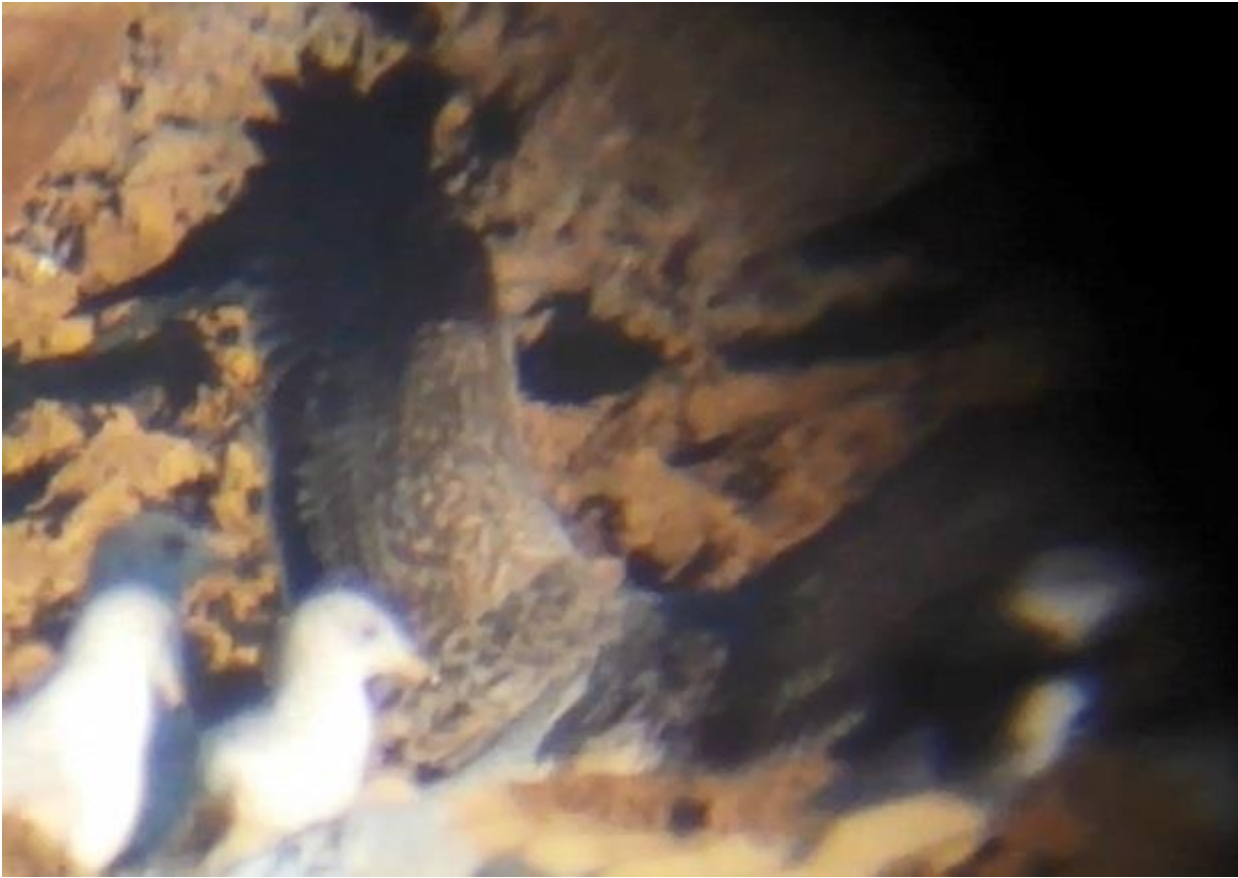
Mantle of the bird was somewhat pale, with pale ground color and scattered dark markings. Pattern was no doubt more complex, but my looks at it were limited. Wings of bird were also mottled, but with more dark marking causing a slight contrast between shoulders and mantle.

Head white with slight dark markings on nape and perhaps right around eye. Bill large and black with strongly curved culmen, strong gonys.

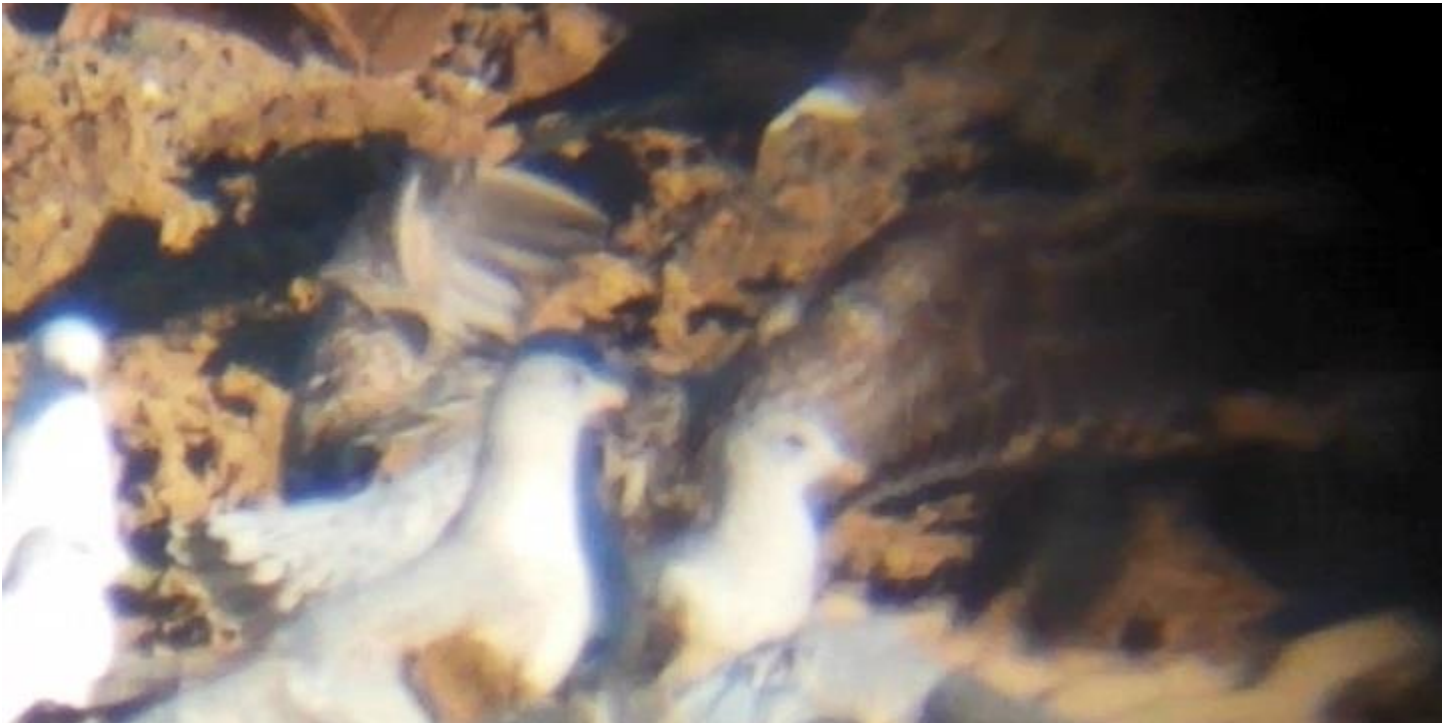


Underparts largely white with some dusky flank markings.

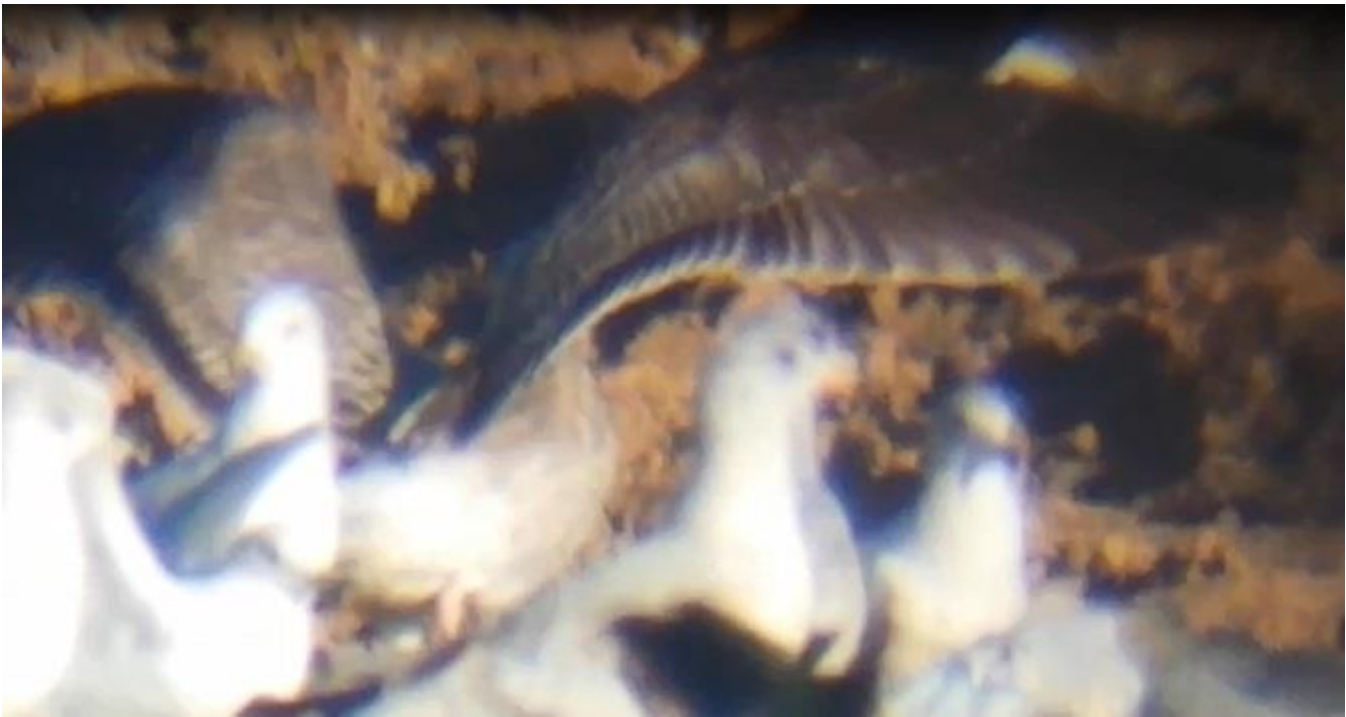
Wings with flight feathers darker than inner wing coverts. Secondaries darker than greater coverts forming a single dark trailing bar. Primaries dark, but inner primaries more lightly marked and with dark internal markings as commonly seen with GBBG, forming a weak inner primary flash.



Rump whitish, base of tail whitish, thin but obvious dark subterminal band formed by solid but thin and irregularly-shaped markings near tail tip and sparse dark speckling just proximal to the solid markings. Band thicker in middle, gradually narrowing toward edge.







Legs pink. Eye appeared dark.

In flight, the bird had a lumbering flight with unhurried shallow wingbeats and was clearly the largest gull in the group leaving the hill.

16. Voice: Not picked out

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Single rear wing bar not typical for LBBG, size also much too large for that species. Hybrid GBBG X Herring always of concern out of range, but size and pattern typical for GBBG, not intermediate, and no markings appeared compromised.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Video stills by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Fairly extensive in Nova Scotia etc., some in Louisiana.

20. This description is written from memory and photos.

21. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes.

22. Date: 01/16/2018