

# LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <[zoiseaux@lusfiber.net](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

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): 1, immature (SY?)

3. Parish: Cameron

Specific Locality: Broussard Beach, about ¼ mi west of the access path

4. Date(s) when observed: 26 April 2023

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1:20 - 2:00pm

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Erik I. Johnson
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Katie Barnes (she initially spotted it)

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Likely this is the same bird found on 23 April 2023 by Paul Conover at Rutherford Beach. It was seen by others that day, the next day, and the 25<sup>th</sup>. I believe this record on the 26<sup>th</sup> may be the last observed date (at least based on what is publicly viewable on eBird).

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bright sunny conditions, initially looking slightly into the sun to the west. Then we swapped places with the bird as we walked west, and on the way back about 30 minutes later got better photos looking east toward the bird.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex Razor ED 10x42 binoculars. Digiscoped with A52 Samsung smartphone through Vortex Razor 25-50mm spotting scope.

11. Distance to bird(s): Approached as close as about 80 m.

12. Duration of observation: 10 minutes. First saw at 1:20pm, took some photos and studied for about 5 minutes, then walked west. On the way back at 2:00, we took more photos and studied for about 5 minutes.

13. Habitat: Beach – bird was loafing on the wrack line.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Loafing. Moderately alert to our approach, and flushed around us as we walked west (neither of us had a hand-held camera, just digiscoping, so didn't get flight shots).

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Notes typed into eBird that day: Huge next to adult Herring Gull. White head, dark spangled markings on back, pale pink legs, thick bill, dark eye. In flight saw white rump and mostly white tail with dark thick terminal bar, molt out to middle primaries, thus hard to assess evenness of dark across primaries. Shape - barrel chested and stocky with wings slightly longer than tail in rest.

16. Voice: Silent.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Lots of Larus first/second cycle gulls to consider, but massive size next to Herring Gull and relatively short wings rules out a number of things (e.g., Lesser Black-backed, California, Iceland). The combination of barely marked head and neck, and spangled back rule out Herring, Kelp, and Chantrelle. The biggest issue could be a hybrid GBBG x something else (probably most likely Herring). Nothing that I could see about the head, neck, back, rump, and tail pattern suggested hybridization.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos submitted.

19. Previous experience with this species: I just spent a week in New England last fall, where I got to spend some time refreshing on this species (I lived there 2001-2003, when I was just getting serious about birding). I've seen a few on the Gulf Coast, including LA and AL, although it's been years.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: Sibley Guide to NA Birds, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	Yes (see 15)
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 17 June 2023

Time: 9:15 pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? Yes

If yes, may we include your name with the report? Yes















