

Louisiana Ornithological Society's
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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach Xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names:

Glaucous Gull

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One – immature – first winter.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

Cameron – on beach at mile 21 west of Holly Beach adjacent to LA 82.

4. Date(s) when observed:

March 17, 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

9:50 AM CDST

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner
428 Hickory Hill Drive
Boyce, LA 71409

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):

None

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

This gull was seen in the same time frame on the same day by Robby Bacon. A first winter Glaucous Gull was seen in the same general area the next day 3-18-2015 by Tom Pollock and Jonathan Clark.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Sun reasonably high with light from over shoulder.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Mine – Zeiss 10 x 42 binoculars in good condition. Raven Scope – fair condition.

11. Distance to bird(s):

To start, about 100 yards. To end, about 30 yards.

12. Duration of Observation:

Watched the bird for about 10 minutes.

13. Habitat:

Sandy beach east.

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

Bird was bathing in shallow water on the NE side of a rock jetty. Tide was out and I walked toward it, taking pictures and viewing it with my scope. It walked out of the water onto a sand spit permitting definitive photos. It then got nervous as I approached closer and flushed, flying westward out of sight.

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):

Bird was significantly larger than nearby Laughing Gulls. It was distinctly white in color with no indication of dark tail/wing feather tips as seen while bathing, walking, standing, and flying. Bill had a dark tip and was a light lavender color. Legs and feet were lavender in color.

16. Voice:

I did not hear the bird vocalize.

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

At this time of year, bleached white Herring Gulls can be found on a regular basis. But, they typically show dark color on the ends of wing and tail feathers. I could not detect such coloration. And, the "white" is dull and not "bright".

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? Attached?):

Photos to be sent later.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen Glaucous Gulls several times on Alaskan birding trips and once before at Peveto Woods beach a couple of years ago. Also seen at East Jetty Park and Holly Beach in 2012.

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

- a. at time of observation: National Geographic Field Guide
- b. after observation: Sibley's Field Guide and National Geographic Field Guide.

21. This description is written from: ___notes made during the observation (notes attached?); _x_notes; ___x___ memory.

3-17-2015. 9:50-10:00 AM. Glaucous Gull. Snow white. Size similar to Herring Gull. Some grayish mottling in mantle. Black bill tip. Pinkish legs. Wings white in flight. Mile 21 LA 82 W.

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

Yes.

23. Signature of reporter ___Jay V. Huner___ date 3/22/15 1:35 PM