

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1, juvenile plumage, sex unknown
3. Parish: Jefferson
Specific Locality: Elmer's Island, at eastern "point" (Caminada Pass)
4. Date(s) when observed: 5 January 2015
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 12:35
6. Reporting observer and address: Erik I. Johnson, 102 Goodwood Cir., Lafayette, LA 70508
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): David Gessner
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none known
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
winter mid-day mixed sun and clouds. Bird was generally east to southeast of me, so sun was always at least over one shoulder not silhouetting bird.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 42 Swarovski EL binoculars, Nikon D7000 with Nikon 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 VR lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): Got as close as about 100-150 feet
12. Duration of observation: about 2 minutes
13. Habitat: beach
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
Loafing with other gulls (about a dozen Herring, several Ring-billed and Laughing), terns (Royal, a few Caspians and Foster's), and Brown Pelicans in small group. After slowly approaching by car, we stopped to take photos. After a minute or so, it got nervous and flew off even though most other birds in the flock stayed.
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*):

Very large mostly white gull including wing tips at first glance similar in size standing next to several Herring Gulls. Bubble gum pink bill with outer ¼ of bill contrastingly black and well demarcated. Legs bright pink. Eye dark and beedy looking (smallish) against large head. Head not particularly round with long sloping forehead. On closer inspection, most of the coverts, back feathers, other body feathers, and flight feathers had very faint pale brown markings, chevrons and other spotting. The bird was entirely missing its left leg, flying off by “running” with one leg while flapping. The nub is barely visible in one photo.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Too large for Iceland Gull. Leucistic or albino Herring Gull (or other large gull sp.) doesn't make sense based on uniformity of faint pattern throughout body and wings. Flight feathers were not particularly worn, suggesting the bird was not a bleached Herring Gull. Plus the combination of bill pattern, bright leg color, and head/eye shape were entirely consistent with Glaucous Gull.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen several times now in LA over last few 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 Birds of North America vol 1.

21. This description is written from:

	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
x	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	5 Jan 2015, submitted to eBird
X	memory		
X	study of images		

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

23. Date: 17 Jan 2015

Time: 10:35 pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes

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



