

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 (Larus hyperboreus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One first winter bird
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) East Baton Rouge Parish
Specific Locality: BR Dump, W Irene Rd.
4. Date(s) when observed: 4 January 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 12:45-2:05pm (not continuous)
6. Reporting observer and address: LSU Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): J. V. Remsen, Jr.
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):
Clear sky, good sunlight.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10X40 binoculars, Swarovski 85mm angled scope with 25-60x eyepiece.
11. Distance to bird(s): At closest, at least 200 meters.
12. Duration of observation: Total time of actual observation perhaps about 20 min.
13. Habitat: over solid waste dump and then at settling pond nearby.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird first noticed while it

circled with hundreds of other gulls over dump, and we watched until it disappeared from view behind the working machinery. Afterwards, easily over an hour later, we were watching roosting and bathing gulls at the settling pond nearby, when it flew in and swam in the pond for several minutes before flying back towards the dump.

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): A large gull, easily the size of a Herring Gull, that had eye-catchingly white primaries (easily noted when backlit, as it was when first observed). Body very pale, almost white with weak brownish markings on most contour feathers. Tail very weakly marked (almost white). Bill was thick compared to nearby Herring and strikingly bicolored: basally very pink, distal 1/3 black (noted when first seen in flight at considerable distance). Iris not seen well due to distance.

16. Voice: none heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Iceland Gull usually has less-strikingly bicolored bill in 1st winter plumage. "Thayer's" usually has black bill and darker markings on primaries. A leucistic Herring would be unlikely to have this bill pattern, and usually has more slender bill shape and at least a ghosted pattern of melanin on wingtips and tail. Hybrid gulls should have more suggestion of melanin on wingtips and tail.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by both DFL and JVR. DFL photos available:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/8013969@N03/albums/72157664674711138/with/38798643274/>
<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41629546>

19. Previous experience with this species: Several seen previously in Louisiana over the past two decades, as well as many in Northeast US and Alaska.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): None.

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation (_____ notes attached?); _____ notes made after the observation (date: _____); memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: ___Daniel Lane_____ Date: ___14 Jan 2018___ Time: ___2:55pm___

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 _____

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