

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Gray Gull, *Larus modestus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 - Adult or near adult, sex unknown, a bit worn looking alternate plumage
3. Parish:
Cameron Parish
4. Specific Locality:
Standing near the water on the beach 3 miles west of Holly Beach
5. Date(s) when observed: April 25, 2025
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 3:21 PM
7. Reporting observer: Dave Patton
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
None
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
None
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Partly cloudy good light from the west.
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Good 8.5 power binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): about 50 yards
13. Duration of observation: 5 minutes
14. Habitat: open shoreline along a sand and broken shell beach. A moderate continuous line of fresh sargassum just in and along the water line.
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Standing and preening the whole time of observation. Looked in good health. There were a small number of gulls spread along the water line of the beach. One group of about 200 mixed birds made up of mostly mixed terns, shorebirds, and a few Laughing Gulls was about 100 feet to the east.
16. 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):

Gull about the size of a Laughing Gull. Looked all dark brown with a pale gray head. Dark eye, black bill, black legs. White eye ring could be seen when head held at a certain angle. The secondaries had white tips that created a thin line of white visible on the folded wing. One photo shows it better with the wing slightly lifted. Primaries looked all black on the folded wing. I got no views or photos in flight.

17. Voice: No

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Immature Laughing Gull. The coloration was all dark without white on the body.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):
My photographs with a Canon camera and 400mm lens.

20. Previous experience with this species: No

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

"Gulls of the Americas", Howell and Dunn, and online photos

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting, After observation

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

April 28, 2025

25. 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

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

Yes









