

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: Iceland (Thayer's) Gull (Larus glaucoides)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
Two first winter birds
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) East Baton Rouge Parish
Specific Locality: BR Dump, W Irene Rd.
4. Date(s) when observed: 4 January, 12 January 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 12:45-2:50pm (not continuous) on 4 Jan, about 12:55-3:20pm on 12 Jan.
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 on 4 Jan, overcast with lower light but unobstructed views on 12 Jan.
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 30 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): One, or possibly both, birds first noticed while it/they circled with hundreds of other gulls over dump (and after we first detected a Glaucous there), but were hard to follow due to gull activity. We moved over to watch roosting and bathing gulls at the settling pond nearby, where we detected first one, then the second, bird among the group. These birds were loafing about within a larger mixed gull flock, but we were able to see both individuals nearly simultaneously, making it clear two were involved. The 12 January bird was likely to be one of these two individuals, but it was unclear which.

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):

Large gulls, about Herring sized, but perhaps a bit more lightly built, with smaller bills. Both birds were clearly first winter plumaged, and neither had particularly dark primaries, but dark enough that they were probably not "Kumlien's" but rather "Thayer's" types. Overall a pale grayish-brown color with all black bills and dark irides. Body plumage was noticeably paler and less starkly-patterned than the nearby Herring gulls of similar ages. Perhaps briefly seen in flight, I was not able to get documentation with open wings or exposed rumps and tails. The two individuals were not very different in plumage, and had we not seen them nearly simultaneously, we might not have known there was more than one bird.

16. Voice: none heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Glaucous Gull (one at same age also present) has a distinctly heavier, bicolored bill and whiter primaries. A leucistic Herring would be unlikely to have an all dark bill (and would usually appear lankier and heavier in proportions). 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>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S41849064>

19. Previous experience with this species: Several Thayer's seen previously in Texas, California, and Alaska. Iceland's seen regularly when I lived in the Northeast.

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: _____); X memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Daniel Lane Date: 14 Jan 2018 Time: 4:11pm

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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