

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One 1st year, corresponding in plumage to a pale “Kumlien’s”
3. Locality: Acadia Parish
Specific Locality: Egan
4. Date(s) when observed: 01/06/2018, 01/13/2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca. 2-4 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Gary Byerly, Dan Lane, Marky Mutchler, Van Remsen.
This bird resembles a bird seen on 1/3 at the Jeff Davis Landfill and may be the same bird.
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): Light was fine.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Fieldscope 20-60X, Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): at closest perhaps 40 feet overhead.
12. Duration of observation: On and off perhaps 5 minutes. The bird was difficult to photo, but was easy to pick out of the scrum.
13. Habitat: Landfill.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: Fighting for trash, resting, flying.
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 very pale and almost white-primaried “white-headed” gull on the small end of the Herring Gull-sized spectrum with a small, mostly dark bill.

At rest bird small and slender with attenuated whitish wingtips extending beyond whitish tail. Mantle creamy pale brown with perhaps a pale gray saddle as in 2nd winters, but bill appears dark (except for base of mandible and perhaps with a trace of the same effect on maxilla) as in 1st winter.

Wing coverts pale with lacy dusky barring, tertials pale with pale gray ground color and sparse irregular dusky marking. Belly same pale creamy brown as mantle. Legs pink with darker tint. Eye appeared dark at distance.



Most of the above description agrees with photos of the bird in flight from below. Underwings linings are slightly dusky, and undertail coverts are evenly barred with pale brown.





Wingtips appear to show small dark arrowheads on close examination. Tail appears to be mottled. Eye appears to have paler quality, perhaps medium brown.





On 1/13, the following photos were obtained:





16. Voice: Not picked out

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

Pattern eliminates unpigmented examples of other species. Glaucous Gull would have bicolored bill. Pale hybrid combinations possible, but this bird seems to agree in all regards with “Kumlien’s” Iceland Gull.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: A smattering of experience with “Iceland” types across the spectrum from pale to dark.

20. This description is written from memory and photos.

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

22. Date: 01/16/2018