

LBRC 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):
1 first year
3. Parish:
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:
Rutherford Beach
5. Date(s) when observed: 3/31/25
6. Time(s) of day when observed: early morning, around 7:30am
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
no
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): dark lighting due to time of day and thunderclouds in the sky, but coloration of bird was still easily seen using binoculars
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): within 10 meters
13. Duration of observation: 20 minutes or so
14. Habitat: little inlet along beach
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): resting with larger gull flock
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):

Very pale and small bird, instantly recognizable as different from the Herring Gulls around it. Overall coloration of head whitish, with some brown on the chest, indicating the bird was fairly worn. Fine light brown barring on coverts and scapulars, though the greater coverts were worn whitish. The scapulars appeared to have been molted, due to the primarily whitish base with some bars through them. Primaries were dull whitish and quite worn when the bird was sitting - the secondaries were less worn, but still light brown with a white edge, not contrasting much with the color of the body and coverts. The bill was all black, and on the larger side for an Iceland Gull, though still notably smaller than the surrounding Herring Gulls. In flight, there was some brownish color apparent on the outer primaries, around the same color as the secondaries and tail, which were only slightly darker than the rest of the bird. The rump was still barred, with some barring on the outer retrices of the tail, but the outer part of the tail solid brown. Outer primaries showed 'venetian blind pattern' with outer part slightly darker and the inner part paler, though this was not easy to see with how worn the primaries were. The legs were pink, the eye black.

17. Voice: did not call

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

Herring Gull can be eliminated by size and structure, especially the thinner bill, as well as the wing pattern, fine barring on the coverts, and so on. Glaucous would be larger as well and have a pink base to the beak, as well as cleaner white primaries. Determining if the bird falls into the 'kumlieni' or 'thayeri' group would be difficult, but fortunately they are now considered one species, and so I will not address this problem now. If they get split again (for some reason), the record can be reevaluated then

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

several photos, including flight shots, attached

20. Previous experience with this species: I have seen 100s of the 'thayeri' type in California and Nevada, as well as twice before in Louisiana. I have seen fewer 'kumlieni' type.

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

none used

22. Identification aids used when?

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

4/3/35

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





