

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Mew Gull (American) *Larus canus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

One first-cycle plumaged individual
3. Parish: Caddo
Specific Locality: Cross Lake (north side, west of I-220 bridge)
4. Date(s) when observed: January 10, 2016; January 17, 2016
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Approx. 1615 hrs on January 10, 2016, and 1650 hrs on January 17, 2016
6. Reporting observer and address: Larry R. Raymond, 6675 North Park Circle, Shreveport, LA 71107

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Bird found by Dr. Charles Lyon. Accompanied Lyon on January 10th with Terry Davis, Ronnie Maum, and Dan O'Malley. Dave Patton, Mac Myers, Paul Conover, Philip Wallace, and Ron Dobbs in Patton's boat. Followed Lyon in my boat on January 17, 2016. I was accompanied by Dr. Laurence Hardy and Ben Raymond. Lyon carried Kalem and Suzanne Laird, Devin Bosler, Marybeth Lima, and Lynn Hathaway.

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): See #7.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of

light): Good light on both days. Able to study bird up close and at a distance.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10 x 42 binoculars

11. Distance to bird(s):): Bird flew within 25 feet of boat on both occasions.

12. Duration of observation: approx. 30 minutes on both occasions

13. Habitat: Open lake and perched on boat house

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Gulls came in to popcorn scattered around boats in lake. Also observed among many gulls, mainly Ring-billed, perched on boat house roof.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Gull observed at close distance (within 100 feet) among other gulls. Slightly smaller than common Ring-billed Gulls observed in close proximity. Also smaller than Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull seen with other gulls near bird. Bill thinner than Ring-billed Gull, with pale base and black tip. Overall appearance much warmer (browner) than other gulls, including brownish underneath. Tail with dark brown band, wider than in Ring-billed, and base of tail mottled with brown. Outer primaries dark brown.

16. Voice: N/A

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

See description. Slightly smaller than Ring-billed, and obviously smaller than Herring, and Lesser Black-backed seen nearby to Mew Gull. Overall warmer (browner) appearance than other gulls. Wide brown band at tip of tail with mottled brownish base to tail. Bill smaller than other gulls, pale at base with black tip. A North American Birding article on Mew vs Ring-billed referenced the round tips of the median upperwing coverts in Mew Gull vs the dark pointed tips in Ring-billed. I could see this feature when photos were magnified on the computer.

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

I took many photos and have attached some of the better ones.

19. Previous experience with this species: None

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

a. at time of observation: The Sibley Guide to Birds; National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America

b. after observation: Consulted several internet accounts of the species.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: February 5, 2016

Time: 1430 hrs.

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