

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: Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
one immature in first winter plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: Cameron Par.; Cameron, east side Calcasieu River about 1 mi. N of East Ferry Landing on Wakefield Road
4. Date(s) when observed: 15 December 2013 (Sabine NWR CBC)
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 10:23-10:27 AM.
6. Reporting observers and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
excellent; clear day with early AM sun behind observers
10. Optical equipment (type, power, and condition): Leica 10 X 42 and 10 X 50 binoculars – in good condition, plus KOWA 20-60X Zoom telescope.
11. Distance to bird(s): as close as 50-100 meters.
12. Duration of observation: about 4 minutes.
13. Habitat: over east side of Calcasieu River channel.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits

used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): first spotted by DLD flying over river with other gulls and terns to north of Wakefield Road at junction of main Calcasieu River and east fork channel about a mile N of the ferry landing. Dittmann noticed pale under wings and alerted SWC. SWC had scope and binocular views of flying bird at about 500 meters for a minute or two while DLD attempted to take photos. Bird then flew south towards us and continued out of sight down the river channel, coming as close as about 50-100 meters in great light. Dittmann was able to snap several photos – see below and next page.

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): Obvious first year immature Herring-type gull. Obviously larger than Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls in direct comparison, but impression was that it was small Herring Gull-sized. Bill black, proportionately relatively small, appearing shorter, thinner, and generally more delicate than typical Herring Gull. Iris dark; legs/feet flesh (see also photos), but not well seen. Plumage overall noticeably much paler than typical first basic Herring Gull – but not as pale as typical of Iceland. First character alerting observers to ID was the pale silvery underside of the primaries. Plumage overall pale grayish tan, with a frosty appearance. Upper surface of primaries appeared dark grayish-tan, P10-P6 (or P5) with distinctly paler inner web; inner primaries paler. Secondaries similar in color to outer primaries, appeared uniform without internal markings. Tail was generally concolor, color similar to that of the remiges and lacking paler bands. See photos for additional detail.

16. Voice: not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Kumlien's Iceland similar, generally plumage paler; theoretically eliminated by primary coloration and pattern, uniform secondaries and tail.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, photos taken by Dittmann, see next page.

19. Previous experience with this species: Both observers familiar with species on West Coast during early birding careers in 1970's-1980's. In Louisiana, we have documented several individuals (specimens, photographs) since early 1980's.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
None.

21. This description is written from: ____ notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); ____ notes made after the observation (date: ____); memory and photographs.

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

23. Signatures of reporters: *Donna L. Dittmann* & **Steven W. Cardiff** Date: 1 January 2013



Digital photos (Nikon D300) by D. L. Dittmann
15 December 2013, taken 10:24-10:25 AM; Cameron Par.; Cameron, as it flew south along Calcasieu River from about 1 mi. N
of East Ferry Landing on Wakefield Road