

## BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 1st. winter plumage
3. Locality: Louisiana: Fourchon/Bay Champagne Parish: Lafourche  
5 miles west of Grand Isle.
4. Date(s) when seen: 1-5-1985
5. Times of day when seen: LATE AFTERNOON (4-4:30 PM)
6. Reporting observer and address: Ronald J. Stein, Rte 2, Box 943 C  
Reserve, LA 70084
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: DAVID MUTH
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: DAVID MUTH
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): SUN BEHIND US MOST OF TIME. FLUSHED SEVERAL TIMES TO STUDY FEATURES.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10X50 Binoculars  
60X Telescope
11. Distance to bird: < 100 ft initially
12. Duration of observation: 1/2 hr on & off.
13. Habitat (general and specific): BAY/Shoreline - open water and beach
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Initially found feeding on dead Lesser Scaup on shoreline. Approached to less than 100 feet. Later flushed and joined other gulls/terns on sandbar.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks): Large size obvious when first seen. White head and underparts also caught our attention. Bird had mottled/checkered back & wings. Flushed to check tail & rump. Rump & base of tail white, rest of tail had diffused black bar. Later joined other gulls. Noticeably larger than nearby Herring Gulls. Legs pink, bill & eyes dark. Flushed several times to recheck all features.

16. Voice: None heard by this observer

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):  
All Dark bill, white head & underparts, size (larger than Herring & Lesser Black-backed Gulls) eliminate both species in all plumages.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

NO

19. Previous experience with this species:

Numerous observations in early 1960's while stationed in Europe.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification.

a) at time of observation; NONE / Both birders exchanged information then checked guides

b) after observation: National Geographic & Aud. Soc. Master Guide to Birding

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation;  memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Ronald J. Stein

24. Date and time of writing this account:

7:45 PM on 1-7-85