

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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 MARIUS)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad.
3. Locality: Louisiana: FOURCHON BEACH Parish: LAFOURCHE
4. Date(s) when seen: 1/13/91
5. Times of day when seen: mid-morning
6. Reporting observer and address:
DAVID P. MUTH - 1617 CHARLTON DR. NOLA 70122
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
RD PURRINGTON, MAC MUERS, NORTON NELKIN
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): good
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
ZEISS 10x40 & SPALMASSEE 25x
11. Distance to bird: 1/4 mile to 200 yds.
12. Duration of observation: 5 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
on beach and floating in surf.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
loafing on beach with mixed flock of gulls and terns - spooked by three-wheeler - flew into surf and began a leisurely swim towards Yucatan.
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):
v. large gull - stood perhaps 28% taller than nearby HE64.
Mantles entirely black, no visible (at that distance) contrast with primaries.
plumage otherwise entirely white (tail seen in flight).
Legs - long, thick and pink.
Bill - large - yellow with red spot in gonyx.
eye - pale.

16. Voice: *not heard.*

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

LBBB - much smaller, paler, yellow legs.

SBGU & WEGU - paler mantled, smaller.

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

RDP took distant shots of bird in water.

19. Previous experience with this species:

about 15 in Louisiana.

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

a) at time of observation;

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; notes made after observation; memory. *(3x5 card) (written later?)*

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

23. Signature of reporter: *Daniel C. White*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

3/21/91