

## LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

91-39

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the LBRC Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or this format when submitting records for review (to assure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: LBRC Secretary, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and scientific name: Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus Marinus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 winter adult
3. Locality: Louisiana state Lafourche parish  
Fourchon Beach specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: October 27, 1991
5. Times of day when seen: Around 10AM
6. Reporting observer and address:  
Norton Melkin  
23 Swallow St.  
New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
Dan Furrington
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 - seen from several angles
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
10X40 Zeiss binoculars; 20-power scope (spacemaster)
11. Distance to bird: 30-150 yards
12. Duration of observation: 20 minutes
13. Habitat: Gulf Beach
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification):  
standing, flying, walking, feeding at edge of surf.

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

Dark mantle. Pink legs. Head lightly sunken, flat. Bill & head both much larger ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 times) than accompanying Herring Gulls. Bill yellowish-orange w/ red mark on lower mandible & thin black mark behind red (almost looked like it formed a ring). Black around eye giving fierce look and elongating eye. White spots on forehead & primaries. Tail all white - no black band. ~~Fea~~ as flight spots on wings seemed surprisingly small, given white on folded wing. Missing feathers (moulting) on trailing edge of wings. Large overall.

16. Voice:  
Didn't hear

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

All similar species eliminated by <sup>combination of</sup> large size, large size of head and bill, very dark mantle, pink legs.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

~~RDP~~ Dan Purington (no)

19. Previous experience with this species:

Have seen several in Louisiana. Many in various parts of the East coast and Britain.

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

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: None

21. This description written from: ✓ notes made during observation;      notes made after observation (date:     );      memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: 

24. Date and time of writing this account:

12/14/91 12:55 PM

