

**L. O. S. Bird Record's Committee Report Form**

1. **English and scientific name:** Great Black-backed Gull. Larus marinus.
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 adult
3. **Locality. Louisiana:** Beach at Port Fourchon, 4.0 miles by odometer east of junction of LA-3090 and the beach.
4. **Date(s) seen:** 7 December 1991.
5. **Times of day seen:** 1130-1145.
6. **Reporting observers and address:** Gwen Smalley & Al Smalley, 88 Egret Street, New Orleans, LA 70124.
7. **Other observers accompanying reporters who also identified the bird:** None.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** This is presumably the same bird seen on previous occasions at about the same location by R. D. Purrington & David Muth.
9. **Light conditions:** Clear.
10. **Optical equipment:** 7X and 10X Zeiss binoculars and 20X Kowa scope.
11. **Distance to bird:** 30-100 yards.
12. **Duration of observation:** About 15 minutes, but most of this time was spent in maneuvering car and taking photos.
13. **Habitat:** Sand-shell beach along Gulf of Mexico.
14. **Behavior:** At all times, bird was preoccupied with our presence in an alert position as shown in photos. We flushed it three times; the third time it landed in the water well away from the beach.
15. **Description:** Large gull, which when first seen, was compared with a Herring Gull standing directly in front of it, and the GBBG was noted to be distinctly larger. Legs a light flesh color. Bill light yellow with a dark red

spot on lower mandible; bill as long as head with straight culmen for about two-thirds length, with distal part hooked. Mantle (wings and back) black, lacking any contrast between back and any part of wings. Head, neck, and underparts white. Narrow white posterior border to wing and an even narrower white anterior border (the outer primary is not "supposed" to have a white border). Primaries with white tips, this being particularly prominent on outer primary.

**16. Voice:** Not heard.

**17. Similar species:** Lesser Black-backed Gull is smaller (even considering size variation in GBBG and Herring Gull, our observations seem to exclude Lesser Black-backed), and the adult has yellow feet and legs.

**18. Photographs:** Three slides by Gwen enclosed.

**19. Previous experience with species:** Observed on east coast on numerous occasions where they are regular and often common.

**20. Aids: Books etc. (a) at time of observation:** None.

**(b) after observation:** "Geo" Guide. Also consulted photos.

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

**22. Are you positive of your observation?** Yes.

**23. Signatures of reporters:**

 

**24. Date and time of this account:** 17 December 1991; 4:30 PM.

1145  
Dec. 7, 1991. 1130. <sup>gray</sup> flesh-colored.

<sup>yellow</sup>  
Legs pink, bill of dark <sup>red</sup> spot on  
lower mandible.

Appeared larger than H. Gull  
which was about 2 m closer.

Dark mandible (wings + back)

All white head. White post  
border to wing and narrow white  
antero-dorsal border.

Bill as long as head with culmen  
straight for  $\frac{2}{3}$  before hooked tip.

Weather clear.