

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

95-74

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 - 3rd winter/3rd summer
3. Locality: Louisiana: Seabrook Bridge Parish: Orleans
4. Date(s) when seen: March 26, 1995
5. Times of day when seen: 9:00 - 9:40
6. Reporting observer and address: Phillip Wallace, 4515 S. Priour St. N.O., LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: None
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): Excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10X Zeiss binoculars
11. Distance to bird: 30 - 100 yards
12. Duration of observation: 40 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific): on sand at edge of lake; in lake; on seawall.

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Resting, flying

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):

Head - white with a hint of duskiness behind eye; less duskiness in front of eye.

Eye - dark

Bill - straw colored with black subterminal band and a red spot at the gonys; more massive bill than adjacent Herring

Mantle and Scapulars - Black

Wings - At rest: ① wing coverts dark brown with black undertones; molting ② primaries - dark brown to black; much darker than coverts; not as dark as back.

Tail - White; hint of black while at rest.
In flight, tail and rump are white with minor black flecks terminally.

Size - Significantly larger than adjacent Herring

Legs - light; flesh to pink

16. Voice:

None

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

Lesser Bl-backed Gull - smaller; *graellsii* significantly lighter on mantle

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): Slides will be sent later.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen it several times in Louisiana and elsewhere in the U.S.

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

a) at time of observation; None

b) after observation: NGS and Grant

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:

Philly Wallace

24. Date and time of writing this account:

June 9, 1985

4:20 p.m.

1995-079B

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus marinus*

Peter H. Yaukey

March 26, 1995, on a delapidated pier on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain at Bucktown, Jefferson Parish.

The following is a verbatim quote (though clarifying awkward word sequences, abbreviations, etc.) of my field notes from the time; I did not indicate what date they were written, but it is my custom to write details on the day of the sighting. I have no idea what references I consulted. The notes from my journal are on the reverse, together with a drawing.

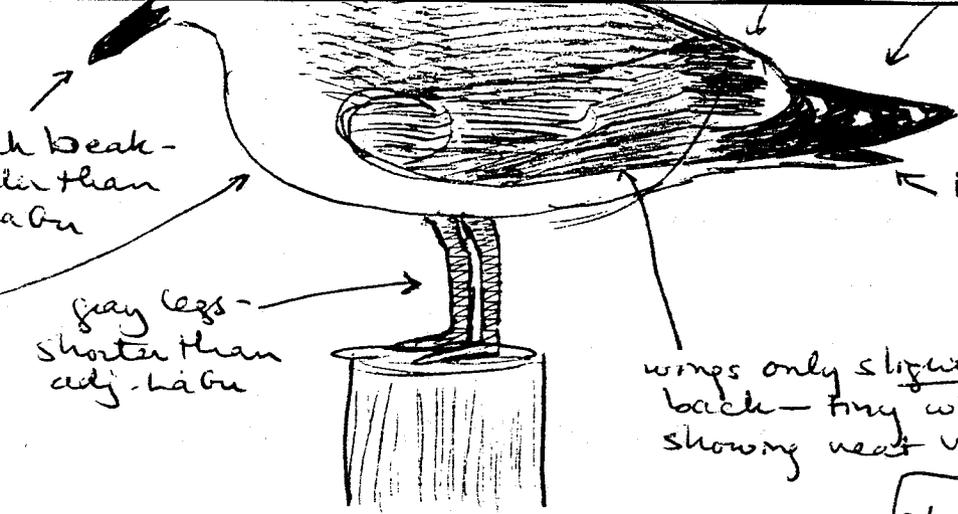
"Much larger than adjacent Herring Gull. Solidly black back. Folded wings mottled gray-brown and sooty, dark on the folded primaries. Folded tail white, with weak subterminal dark spots visible dorsally. Head and underparts white (very little if any mottling). Bill with yellow from base to gonys, where black ring around bill and red spot; pale whitish tip. Legs gray. Eye looked dark (but distant). Heavy beak, mean-scowled look (flat forehead). Viewed with Nikon Classic Eagle 8x40 binoculars, at a distance of perhaps 35 meters, light fine. Viewed from north and northwest, afternoon."

As I write this, I realize that my original wording should have been "viewed TO the north and northwest" because this is the way the pier is viewed from shore.

The bird is separable from Herring gull by the black back and much larger size, and this is supported by the whiteness of the head. The bird is also separable from Lesser Black-backed by the large size, and black (not dark slate) back, and the heavy beak and scowling look with flat forehead. The bird is separable from Kelp Gull by the large size; Kelp should be Herring-sized. I have seen thousands of Great Black-backed, of all ages, in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, and elsewhere on the East Coast and one other in Louisiana.

I am sure of this observation. Peter Yaukey 3/20/00

8470-2771



PP

8210-2PP

black on tail

wings only slightly browner than back - very wh tips to coverts - showing next very thin wing bars

dark streaked crown - flatter washed than down, as seems only a dark stripe vis. above white supercil (strong contr), several times in one view, seemed or-br area long it in crown center



uniform light gray brown cheek, nape, back, wings, tail. Face clean; nape finely streaked darker (seemed), upper torso ca. 15m pale + darker streaked.

ca. 9 views direct sun front back sides tail extremely short - esp. noticeable in flight. long flight, main w/ 1 to 5 ps.

Small-bodied ca. 50g. Red. Plumage conspic. reddish

3/26/93

Much larger than adjacent He Gr
 Black (ascid) back
 Folded wings mottled gray-brown + sooty, dark on folded pp
 Tail white, well subterminal dk spots visible dorsally (folded)
 Head + underparts white (very little if any mottling)
 Bill yellow base → gonys, where black ring and red spot; pale whitish tip
 legs grey. eye looked dark (but distant).
 Heavy beak, mean-scooped look (flat forehead)
 8 x Nikon Li. Exfls, perhaps 35mm lens, light fix. viewed from N + NW, afternoon.

30 yards - 100 yds.

Resting at in flight

DATE

Tail - White, ~~to~~ hint of black when at rest.

Eye - dark.

Significantly longer than adjacent Herring Gulls.

Bill - ^{more} massive than Herring.

In flight - tail and wing white with main black flecks at end.

of all - days to
of a to find

had a lot of things - had
to do

had - got

at night this time
the first time

just at once - had

just got home had - had
at night this time - had
to do

9:00 - 9:40

Seabrook

Still present

DATE

3/26/95

when I left.

Great Black-backed Gull

3rd Winter / 3rd Summer

Black Mantle and scapulars.

~~to~~

Wing coverts dark brown w/
black undertones - Molting

Legs - light, flesh to pink

Head - white; hint of dusky
behind eye; less in front.

~~Upper~~

Underparts - entirely white

Bill - straw / or black subterminal
band at red gonyx spot.

Premises - dark brown to
black; much darker
coverts; not quite as dark as back

1890-1891

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900

1901

1902

1903