

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report Form

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

1. English and Scientific names: Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one, (apparently first summer/second winter)
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: CAMERON
Broussard Beach (parish)

(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed: April 14, 1996
5. Time(s) of day when observed: late afternoon (3:30? 4:00?)
6. Reporting observer and address:
Paul Conover
501 Adrienne
Lafayette, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
GARY BROUSSARD
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Afternoon ~~sun~~ ~~sun~~ sun, full; bird was to ~~the~~ East, sun to West.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Kowa 20x video
11. Distance to bird(s):
40 yds.
12. Duration of observation:
30 minutes.
13. Habitat:
Beach

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

a GBBG. I had Gary move up next to a ~~small~~ flock & I saw a bird that seemed good for bird talk for a few minutes, & I forgot about the bird til he left. When I looked at it through the scope, it was obviously a GBBG, among a flock of about 10 Herring. I look for Dan's car but it was gone!

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

see attached writeup.

16. Voice: ~~not~~ not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Herring, lesser-black-backed. Too dark above for Herring, pattern wrong for LBBG.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

video, of which stills are reproduced here.

19. Previous experience with this species:

None in state, but I have seen thousands in the NE & the Maritimes.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: ___ notes made during the observation (___ notes attached?); ___ notes made after the observation (date: ___);
X memory. + video.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: yes

23. Signature of reporter: [Signature] July 15 '96
(date) (time)

Description: A large gull, but only equal in size to the largest Herrings present. The overall appearance of the bird was of a large, pale gull with interspersed blackish markings on the mantle. The bird was a fairly worn individual in what appeared to be first winter/summer plumage; however, it was molting its primaries, which would place it closer to approaching first summer/second winter plumage.

The head was white, with a pale dusky crescent before the dark eye, and with faint dusky streaking beginning on the hind nape, and running onto the sides of the neck. The bill was dark, blackest on the terminal 1/3rd, grayish black farther in. In direct comparison with Herring Gulls, the bill was obviously larger, and with a more abrupt downward curve to culmen. The head also had a different look than the Herrings, with a much more gently curved, less angled, forehead which as a result made the eye look as if it were set much further back from the gape than on the Herrings.

The underparts were predominantly white, with a light scattering of pale dusky markings on the sides of the breast, and less obviously near the vent.

The tail was overall pale, white with sparse irregular blackish mottling or barring (perhaps forming chevrons across the width of the tail) running most of the length of the feathers but becoming denser near the tail tip and forming a fairly distinct terminal band. The tail was very worn.

The rump was white with very sparse, light dusky speckling scattered irregularly throughout.

The upperparts were obviously in a state of molt. The back looked overall very worn and faded, although the dark feather centers of the older feathers still contrasted greatly with their paler fringing, giving the upperparts a subdued checkered look. The newer feathers were very much black and white, with strong black crossbarring joined by black along the shaft down the length of the feathers, fringed and tipped in white.

The wings were extremely worn. The feathers of the upperwing matched the checkered pattern of the back. The secondaries were dusky, marked darker on the outer web. The inner greater coverts of the secondaries were so worn as to have almost no pattern, although the outer ones seemed to be fresh. The primaries were darkest on their outer web and down the shaft, and were reduced by wear to the point where the tips were merely spikes. Only the six outermost primaries remained to be molted.

The underwing pattern was dusky coverts and paler flight feathers. The dark primary tips were somewhat evident from below. The axillars were whitish, finely barred dusky.

The eyes were dark.

The legs were pinkish-gray.

JPEG image 225x220 pixels

<http://www.ucs.usl.edu/~agd1113/gullf.JPG>







bill had pale, whitish tip.

5 IMAGES OF GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL/BROUSSARD BEACH/APRIL 14, 1996.

compare the flight shot of this bird w/ that of the April 26, 1996 bird.

tail whitish, with irregular black markings, blackish terminally. Rump white.

