

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

98-10A

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?
3. Locality: Louisiana: Lafourche Parish: Port Fourchon -
fill area at south end of main pond
4. Date(s) when seen: 28 March 1998
5. Times of day when seen: ~ 10:55 AM
6. Reporting observer and address:
B. Mac. Myers III, 105 McClung St, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3929
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Phillip Wallace, Curt Sorrells, Cecil Kersting, George Payne (sp?)
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
probably same bird found earlier not far away by Melvin Weber and (John?) Sylvest
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): pretty good
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x40 Zeiss, 22x60 Bushnell -
very good
11. Distance to bird: mostly 175-200 yards
12. Duration of observation: several minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
pumped in fill (sand) w/ very little vegetation
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
at rest, 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):

A very large gull w/ large head & bill. Bill yellow with blackish terminal spot, with small dull red spot on lower mandible, just behind black spot. Head and underparts generally white-whitish. Back cold blackish, wing coverts browner. Tail generally white with broken remains of sub-terminal band. Legs pinkish/flesh.

black



16. Voice: n/c

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

Its size and quite black back along w/ fleshy/pink legs should eliminate various Lesser Black-backs, Western, Slaty-backed, Kelp, Yellow-footed, Yellow-legged, etc.

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

3 by B.M.M. enclosed
I think George Payne got some good photos

19. Previous experience with this species:

A few almost every winter; many in NE U.S.

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

- a) at time of observation;
- b) after observation:

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

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

23. Signature of reporter: B. Mac Myers III

24. Date and time of writing this account:

7 June 1998 3:30 pm

**LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM**

1. **Common and scientific name:** Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 - 3rd year bird
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish: Lafourche**
Exact Location: Newly formed fill at south end of Fourchon Lake
4. **Date(s) seen:** March 28, 1998
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 10:35-10:49
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Prieur St.
New Orleans, LA 70125-5044
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** Mac Myers, Curt Sorrells, Cecil Kersting, George Payne
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** Melvin Weber reported what he said had to be a Great Black-backed seen at a great distance earlier the same morning in the same general area.
9. **Light conditions:** Excellent light; sun behind observers.
10. **Optical equipment:** Bushnell Spacemaster scope (22x)
11. **Distance to the bird:** 75-150 yards
12. **Duration of observation:** 14 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** On open, bare, recently filled area at south end of Lake Fourchon.
14. **Behavior:** Resting, preening, and flying
15. **Description:**
Size and General Impression Significantly larger than adjacent Herring Gulls.
Head Head appeared all white. Feather patterns seemed to form a linear indentation trailing behind the eye.
Upper Parts The mantle was dark black. The wing coverts were brownish-black.
Wings In flight the wings showed extensive brown on the coverts.

Underparts The underparts were pure white.

Tail The tail was primarily white with some black near the tip, but not a clear terminal or subterminal tail band.

Bill The bill was a fairly bright yellow with extensive black on the tip. There was a small red spot on the lower mandible just inside the black tip.

Eye The eye appeared dark.

Legs The legs were a dull grayish-pink color.

16. Voice: None

17. Similar species and how they were eliminated: The large size eliminates Lesser Black-backed. Furthermore the mantle color would eliminate *graellsii*. The size and mantle color eliminate Herring.

18. Photographs? Photos by Myers and Payne.

19. Previous experience with this species: I've seen the species numerous times in LA and on the east coast.

20. Aids used in identification:

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: None

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

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes

23. Signature of reporter:



24. Date and time of writing this account: April 13, 1998
10:00 am

Founder Band - All

OW, CS, MM, CK

Great Black-backed Gull

3rd Year 3/28/96

Light excellent;
sun behind obscures
10:35 - 11:40

Distance 75-150 yds
Found by M. Weber
7m Syl-est

Size - large; significantly larger than
adj. H&G

Head - All white at distance; hint of indentation
behind eye
Eyes - dull pink (grayish)

Bill - yellow (fairly bright); ~~extensive~~ extensive
black on bill tip; small red spot on
lower mandible, just inside black tip.

Back - Mantle - dark black
wing coverts brownish/black
Wing - extensive brown on coverts in flight
Eye - dark at distance;

Underparts - pure white

Tail - (folded)
white, some black in tip.

Behavior - resting, preening, flying

Acobs - MM, PC, George Payne

Scope, bins

RESULTS OF
LOS-Louisiana Bird Records Committee
Round 95
(4 First Circulation and 1 Second Circulation Records)
circulation initiated 26 February 2004
round completed: 8 April 2004

FIRST CIRCULATION RECORDS:

98-10 Great Black-backed Gull

Report and three color slides by B. Mac Myers III; report and field notes by Phillip Wallace.

OUTCOME: ACCEPT

The following Members accepted this record: Dittmann, Fontenot, Wallace, Myers, Dickson, Cardiff, and Conover.

Donna L. Dittmann, 4 March 2004; Accept. Photos and description is consistent with this species: 2nd Alternate molting to Third Basic.

Bill Fontenot, 05 March 04. accept (without comment-DLD)

Phillip Wallace; March 20, 2004, Accept. The photos clearly show a Great Black-backed Gull. The notes along with the photos indicate a 3rd year bird. The mantle color, massive bill, leg color, and head shape and size make the identification straight-forward.

B. Mac. Myers III: 2 April 2004, accept identification. the photos and descriptions seem okay

Paul Dickson, 04/05/04, ACCEPT, (without comment-DLD)

Steven W. Cardiff; 5 April 2004; Accept Identification and Origin. I agree with the observers that the combination of overall size, bill size, blackness of the mantle, and the pink legs/feet pretty much clinch it for a 3rd-year Great Black-backed Gull.

P. Conover, 8 April 2004, Accept. I agree with the reporters that size, leg color, etc. eliminate candidates for confusion.