

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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 4th winter or older
3. Locality: Louisiana: Lafourche Parish: Fourchon Beach - Bay Champagne about 1 mi. east of Fourchon Rd
4. Date(s) when seen:
5. Times of day when seen: 10:05-10:20 AM AND ABOUT AN HOUR OR HOUR AND A HALF LATER
6. Reporting observer and address:  
B. Mac. Myers III 105 McClung St. Pass Christian, MS 39571
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
R. Dan. Purrington
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): generally good to excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x48 Zeiss, 22x60 Bushnell Scope
11. Distance to bird: first time 150 yds; second time closer
12. Duration of observation: 15 minutes plus 10 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
Beach of Bay Champagne, Reach of Gulf of Mexico
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): standing, 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):  
it is possible that two individuals were involved, but perhaps it was distance and light that made them appear different  
Observation #1. <sup>on Bay Champagne beach</sup> A very large individual, dwarfing nearby Herring Gulls, very large-headed. Bill very large, heavy, with red gonydeal spot and possibly some dusky/black at forward edge of red spot. Gonydeal angle prominent. Mantle very dark blackish, no trace of brown on wing coverts. Head massive, white, with very light spotting - especially on nape. Legs pink. Eye color not discernible. In flight large white window in 10th primary and another on 9th, they appeared to bleed together. Tail all white. See slides nos. 21-24.

Observation #2. On the Gulf Beach, but not far from the earlier sighting

Much closer - see slides. I spent more time trying to photograph it and less time studying it through binoculars. It did not seem as massive as the earlier bird, the bill seemed proportionately longer/less heavy, and the mantle seemed definitely lighter. As mentioned earlier, all of these may be artifacts of light and distance. Slides 25-30

16. Voice: n/r

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

The size, coloration, proportions, leg color, and mirror pattern

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

10 slides by Myers enclosed

19. Previous experience with this species: many in N. Atlantic, several in LA

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

a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: usual guides

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:

31 March 1998 8:00 pm

Species: Great Black-backed Gull  
State: LA Parish or County: Lafourche  
Locality: Fourchon Beach  
Date: 11 Jan. 1998 No. seen: 1 (or 2?)  
Observers: R.D. Purrington, Mac Myers  
Documentation: sight record (  ); photo (  ); specimen (  ); heard only (  )  
Significance: rare in LA

For unusual records, give details on reverse side

Species: Great Black-backed Gull  
State: LA Parish or County: Lafourche  
Locality: Fourchon Beach - Bay d'Ampeigne, ~1 mi. E. of Fourchon, Rd  
Date: Jan 1998 No. seen: 1  
Observers: B. Mac Myers II, R.D. Purrington  
Documentation: sight record (  ); photo (  ); specimen (  ); heard only (  )  
Significance: Review List species - long term  
and slides accompany this card

For unusual records, give details on reverse side