

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
REPORT FORM

- 1. Name: Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*
- 2. Number: one, third or fourth year
- 3. Locality: Louisiana; Lafourche Parish; Fourchon Beach west from end of Fourchon Rd.
- 4. Date: 14 Oct. 2002
- 5. Time: 12:30 p.m. cdt
- 6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III; 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt.; New Orleans, LA; 70124
- 7. Accompanying observers: David P. Muth and Curtis C. Sorrells
- 8. Independent observers: none
- 9. Light conditions: good, varying angles
- 10. Optics: 10x42 Eagle excellent; also scoped, but don't remember if it was mine or David's
- 11. Distance: as close as 40-45 yds.
- 12. Duration: probably 15 minutes, approaching it, shooting photos, trying to get close for collection
- 13. Habitat: gulf beach
- 14. Behavior: walking and resting with other gull, including Laughing and Herring; in flight only when it flew away as I recall
- 15. Description: A large, dark-backed, white-headed gull. Although not large as GBBGs go, it was larger than Herrings nearby. The bill was long and heavy, yellow with a red spot and a small dusky mark on lower mandible. The eyes were light yellowish. The legs were pale, dull pink, the feet a little brighter. The head and underparts were white. There was little or no streaking on the head and nape, but a very small area immediately around the eye appeared slightly darker. The mantle was quite dark, close to true charcoal gray, but not quite black, with no slaty or bluish tones. From what I could see of the tail it was white. The white mirrors or spots in the wings seemed to be reduced, but I did not get a

good look at the bird in flight. In direct comparison with Herring Gulls, the legs were longer and noticeably thicker.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species: The combination of size and very dark back would seem to eliminate most. Kelp would have yellowish legs, probably not as large. Western would probably be lighter mantled, darker eyed, and not as large. Slaty-backed would have head streaking, be not as dark and probably not as large. There was nothing about the bird to suggest a hybrid.

18. Photographs: By D. Muth and BMM, using my camera; six are enclosed

19. Previous experience: Probably ten or so in LA; hundreds in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. A fair number of Westerns on the Pacific coast, but not real recently. A couple of Slaty-backed in AK a few years ago. A very few Kelp and Kelp hybrids here in LA.

20. Aids: none at the time that I recall; afterwards checked the usual field guides and Grant.

21. Description written from notes made in the field; also reference to photographs concerning dark area around eye. *copy of notes enclosed*

22. Yes, I am positive of the identification.

23. Signature: *B. Mac. Myers III*

24. Date: 4 Dec. 2002 7:35 p.m. est

14 Oct 02 w/ DPM,  
CCS

Great Black-backed Gull

Forrehan Beach <sup>~ 4500</sup>

~ 1230. Near adult -

very dull gray-pink legs.

Legs clearly larger than  
<sup>thicker</sup>

adj. Herring G. Back very

dark near black - in flight

wingtips lacked (at least

mostly lacked) mirrors, spot.

Bill yellow w/ red spot

lower mandible. Irides yellow.

A ~~rather~~ small individual -

but larger than HEAD. Head

almost pure white - little no  
streaking.

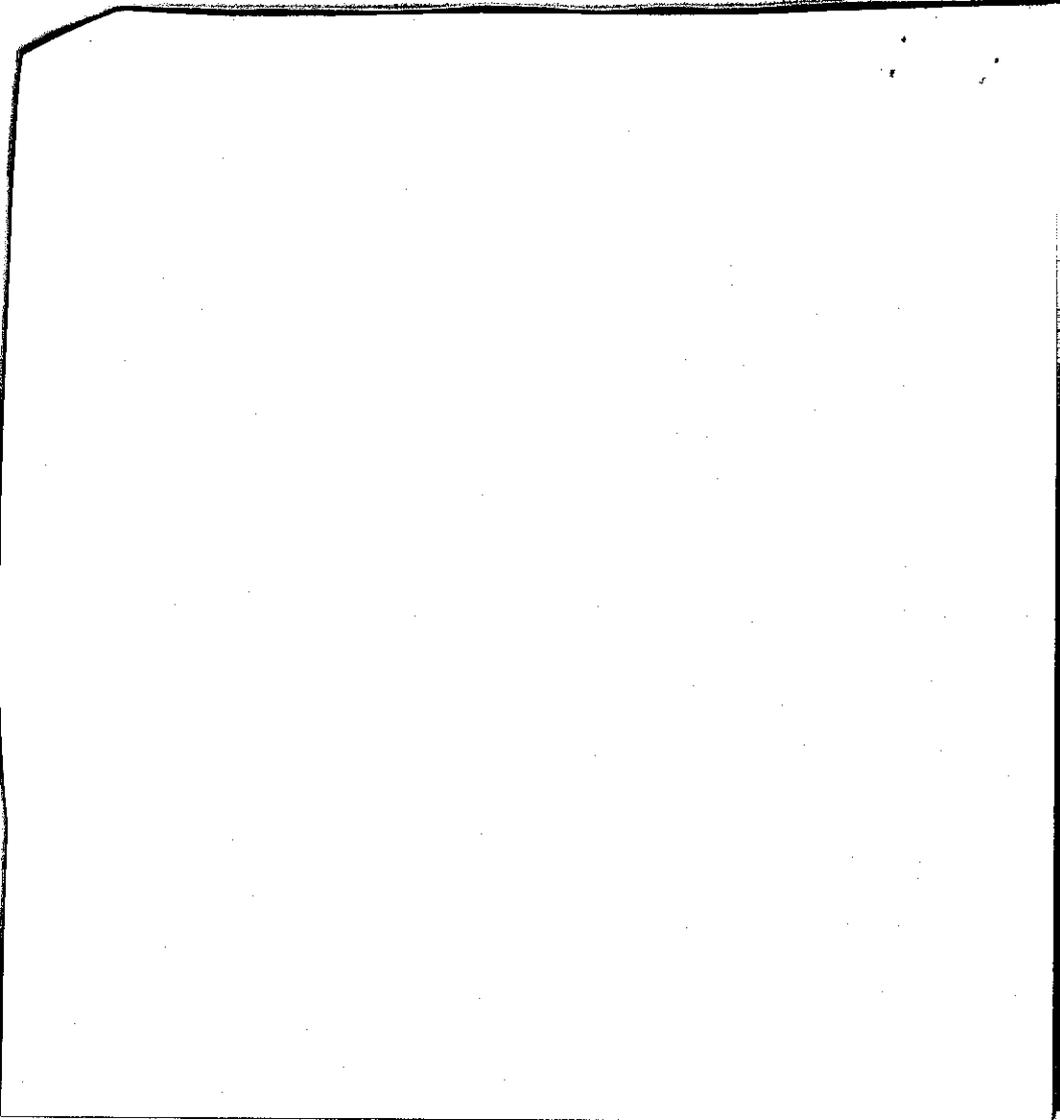














Photo by B. Myers/D.P. Muth

14 Oct. 2002 Lafourche Parish - Fourchon Beach

G BBG

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