



Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

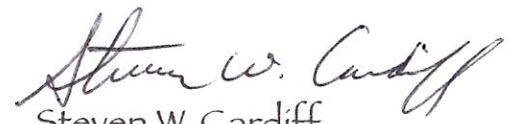
2007-35

Two in first basic plumage on 7 Feb 2007, Jefferson: beach on Grand Terre Island observed (10 power Leica binoculars), photographed (DLD/Coolpix 5700) and videotaped (DLD/Canon Elura 100) for approximately 10 minutes just before 10 AM. Gulls were flushed during photo session farther down the beach and ultimately out of sight.

One bird was slightly smaller than the other and both were proportionately larger than a nearby Herring Gull (direct comparison). Both birds were essentially identical. Stout heavy all dark bill, large size, and mostly white head and underparts initially got our attention. Stocky appearance when standing as well as in flight with proportionately long legs, short-winged look--compared to Herring Gull. In flight (no wing or tail molt noticed) the white rump and upper tail contrasted with the speckled grayish upperparts (plumage worn) and blackish tail band. Head with some dark mottling especially on nape and darker area around eye. Sides and to a lesser extent breast also had dark mottling. Underwing linings dark. Legs pale flesh.

Nothing about these birds suggested a Chandeleur or other gull hybrid.

  
Donna L. Dittmann

  
Steven W. Cardiff

7 September 2007