

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 hyperboreus***
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **three sub-adults**
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Plaquemines: <Bay Ronquille Quad> East Grand Terre Island
Specific Locality: all three gulls where in the ponds on the interior of island behind sand fencing
4. Date(s) when observed: **25 August 2010**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **#1 0848-0850 hours, and 0930-0935 hrs.; #2 0945-0950 hrs.; bird #3 around 1010-1015 hrs.**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **No**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **No.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **good, weather clear.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **10 X Leica binoculars**
11. Distance to bird(s): **We were on foot; gulls were associated with flocks on ponds, mudflats on interior of island, DLD closest - probably no closer than 50 ft.**
12. Duration of observation: **SWC spotted all three gulls; DLD spent more time stalking and photographing during a BTNEP/LSUMNS oil bird survey.**
13. Habitat: **Barrier island. Birds were resting on mudflats, bathing in pools; a great deal of human disturbance due to restoration activities, BP cleanup.**
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
All birds seen resting in a flock in association with Laughing and Herring gulls; all also observed in flight.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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 photos.**

16. Voice: **Not heard.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Other species and hybrids eliminated by combination of overall size and proportions, plumage patterns.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes by DLD and SWC - see below.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Very familiar with various gull species and hybrids.**

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification): **none**

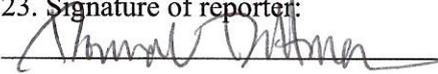
a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **none**

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

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

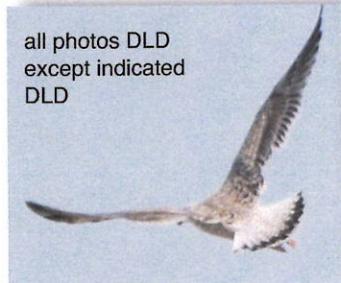
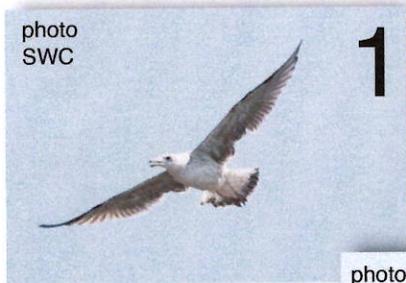
23. Signature of reporter:

 Date: **5 Feb 2011** Time: **11:30 AM**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? **yes**

If yes, may we include your name with the report? **yes**





Bird #1 right and
center columns; bird
#2 left column.



All three birds superficially similar: birds #1 and #2 in 2nd basic plumage: #1 has smudge on flank, primary 10 growing in and has missing/growing secondaries- (see center middle); #2 has differently patterned bill, blaze of white in the alula area, and a darker-looking back. #3 (next page) has a very worn and ratty head.



Three sub-adults. Bird #1 is a second-basic, completing primary molt (P10 growing in). Bird #2 is a fresh second-basic (note bill color and fresh primaries and secondaries). Bird #3 (above; photos SWC) may be a worn first alternate but is too distant to be sure (bill looks darker, tertials browner, head very worn). All of these gulls are identified by the combination of large size, heavy bill, generally very white-headed appearance, and checkered look to back and wing coverts. In flight, tail band also distinctive on birds #1 and #2 (white with mottled and black subterminal band); bird #3 not seen in flight. Although #3 is more distant, no characters suggest a Herring or Herring X Great Black-backed hybrid.

These individuals likely summered locally. None had any obvious signs of oiling.