

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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: California Gull *Larus californicus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 first winter
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Broussard and Holly beaches
4. Date(s) when observed: 12 October 2024 and what seems to be same bird on 18 October 2024.
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 10:00 a.m. / 3:00 p.m. on respective days.
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Mac Myers and David Muth on 11 October.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Fine both days.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 20-60 zoom Nikon Fieldscope, 12x binos, Canon r10 cam with 200mm lens.
11. Distance to bird(s): perhaps a hundred yards at least on first day, down to 30-40 yards on second.
12. Duration of observation: Probably 40 minutes combined.
13. Habitat: Beach

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): When first seen by Mac and me on 12 Oct, was sleeping lying down with head tucked in a flock of hundreds of gulls and terns. It was very far away, so we walked up on it. The flock startled several times—not because of our approach—and resettled as we waited. This made it hard to relocate the bird. We relocated it on the far side of the flock and got photos and maybe video. It then flew, landed up the beach, and I walked toward it but found it was not in the new location when I got there.

On 18 October, I was driving the highway along Holly Beach and saw a small flock of gulls including this bird. I pulled over to get photos, but a single bird picked up—this bird—and flew a little down the beach. I drove down, and it took flight again. The bird and I repeated this procedure several times and I got many flight shots.

15. Description: Overall grayish gull smaller than Herrings. Wings with double dark bar, greater secondary coverts with narrow white barring on inner ca. 1/3 of coverts, quickly diminishing distally to all dark outer coverts. Primaries dark with paler inner webs, dark tips, and indistinct white tongue tips to PP 2-5. Rump pale with whitish ground color and finer dark mottling. Tail blackish with paler basal barring, especially visible on outer rects. Head with pale forehead and throat, darker eye- and earpatch. Bill thin, with dark tip and paler base but bill not cleanly demarcated, showing dusky markings retained from juvenile stage. Belly solidly gray brown, vent and undertail contrastingly white, undertail coverts with distinct narrow, evenly spaced dark barring.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): “Double dark bar” of secondaries and greater secondary coverts and paler rump/dark tail similar to LBBG, but differs in tail pattern, bill pattern, and inner primary covert pattern. Wing pattern eliminates Herring.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by me.

19. Previous experience with this species: Fairly broad.

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

23. Date: 30 Oct 2024

Tail photos from 12 Oct and 18 Oct showing identical feather patterns.



12 October:





18 oct













