

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>](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net) .

1. English and Scientific names: **Great Black-backed Gull**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
At least one, possibly two, in 1st cycle plumage.
3. Parish: **East Baton Rouge**
Specific Locality: **West Irene Impoundments by EBR dump.**
4. Date(s) when observed: **29 January, 5 February 2018**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **Late morning both days.**
6. Reporting observer and address:
Dan Lane
LSU Museum of Natural Science
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Van Remsen, Cameron Rutt, Andre Moncrieff, Matt Brady, Oscar Johnson, Robb Brumfield.**
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):
Good sunlight from behind observers.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss 10x40 bins and Swarovski 20-60 zoom telescope.**
11. Distance to bird(s): **At closest, perhaps about 80-100 m.**

12. Duration of observation: Total, perhaps about 2 hours.

13. Habitat: settling pool near landfill. Gulls were resting on the mudflat here.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Mostly preening, loafing, and occasionally swimming in the nasty water of settling pond. The gull group was antsy at times (marauding Bald Eagles?) and would flush up once or twice, putting this bird/birds up with them. We never saw the two simultaneously, but at one point, we thought one had flown off to the right and then saw a similar-looking bird out on the water to the left, hence our belief there may have been two (on 2 Feb).

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): A towering Larus that was immediately stood out among the Herring and Ring-billed gulls around it by size alone. The plumage was clearly first cycle, with a large black bill, white background of most of body with stark dark brown spangle patterning on the mantle, upperwings, streaking on the crown and nape, and a whitish rump with a blackish band on the tail. We were able to study the bird from several angles and get a large series of photos.

16. Voice: None heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): The large size of the bird, coupled with the large bill and head and the stark spangle pattern on a whitish background of the mantle and wings really eliminates any similar species. Lesser Black-back is smaller, darker, and smaller-headed and billed.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes photos by Remsen, Rutt, and me. A selection available on eBird lists:

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42350117>

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S42520026>

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive in the Northeastern US, several previous times in Louisiana, and in Alaska.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made during the observation. | Are notes attached? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | notes made after the observation. | At what date? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | memory | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | study of images | | |

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

23. Date: 19 March 2018

Time: 2:30pm

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 _____





