

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One 1st spring molting into basic (II) plumage
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Rutherford Beach tourist area at end of Rutherford Beach Road
4. Date(s) when observed: 23 April 2023
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 10:20-10:40
6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City: Lafayette
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): Robby Bacon and Charlie Lyon
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Overcast, even light.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon Fieldscope III 20-60X, Vortex 12X binos, Samsung S22 phonecam, Nikon D3500 200 mm.
11. Distance to bird(s): ca. 40 yards
12. Duration of observation: About 20 minutes
13. Habitat: Beach sand bar
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Bird was in a mixed flock of gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Bird preened, then flew off to the east, perhaps to forage at a nearby shrimp boat that was being swarmed by birds.
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 large, tall, long-legged gull with somewhat checkered dorsal aspect and fairly white head and underparts.

Much larger than several Herring Gulls seen in direct comparison perched and in flight,

Head large, head and neck largely white but with sparse short, distinct dark gray streaks from mid-crown back to nape, and streaks and blotchy gray and blackish spots coalescing into grayish patch on hindneck and sides of neck. Dark feathering around eye, dark eye.

Bill very large, with bulbous tip. Distal end of bill dark except for distinct ivory nail. Bill looked all dark to naked eye but through optics basal 2/3 of bill to just beyond nostril appeared dusky pink with irregular darker markings.

Underparts largely bright white with sparse small grayish chevrons along flanks and scattered more sparsely on breast and belly.

Upperparts with some slaty feathers on the mantle. Some upperwing coverts and tertials with pale tan and white ground color and dark crossbars and white tips.

Upper surface of wings in flight with paler, worn greater with one or two fresher secondary coverts, darker replaced median coverts. Inner primaries fresh, gray. Outer primaries blackish, pointed (perhaps because of wear), with slightly paler inner web. Primary tips extended slightly beyond tail on perched bird.

Tail white with dark markings forming wavy terminal band. Rump white, becoming mottled with black or gray moving toward the mantle.

Legs pale pink, long, fairly thick, with much exposed tibia and knobby knees.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Size and bill size, shape eliminates most gulls including Herring. Plumage eliminates the rest. Bird looked typical of Great Black-backed, with no sign of hybridization.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Extensive at times in Atlantic Canada, with scattered observations in Louisiana.

21. This description is written from:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

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

23. Date: 23 April 2023

Time:

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? yes

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







