

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1, sex unknown, adult, alternate plumage
3. Parish:
Plaquemines Parish
4. Specific Locality:
Breton NWR--Breton Island
5. Date(s) when observed: Fri 28 Jun 2024
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 9:03 AM
7. Reporting observer: Connor Gable
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Full sunlight on open beach, viewed bird looking south
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss SFL 40 8x40, binoculars, new condition. Canon Powershot SX60 HS, digital camera, worn.
12. Distance to bird(s): 50 meters
13. Duration of observation: 15 minutes
14. Habitat: Beach
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Resting and associating with two other individual gulls of different species (HERG and LBBG).
Loafing on beach near water, birds flew farther south on island when disturbed by walking closer.
16. 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):

A large gull with a slate gray back, pale legs, thick black band on tip of bill. Associating with a sub-adult herring gull and an adult lesser black-backed gull (see photos). I followed the trio of gulls to the southwest end of the island, and they continued to closely associate with each other. In flight, the GBBG had a mostly white tail with some faint outer rectrice markings, hard to tell if missing rects from molting or just ratty feathers. Pale legs.

17. Voice:

18. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Similar species would be Lesser black-backed gull and Herring x Kelp Gull hybrid. Larger than nearby LBBG, paler legs, not yellow like in LBBG. Hybrid ruled out by Steven Cardiff.

19. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

Connor Gable, Attached.

20. Previous experience with this species: Seen hundreds of times in Mid-Atlantic region.

21. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

Yes.

24. Date report completed:

11/18/2024

25. 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

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

Yes



