

# 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: Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1 first winter bird, sex unknown
3. Parish: Jefferson  
Specific Locality: Grand Isle, LA
4. Date(s) when observed: 1/11/24
5. Time(s) of day when observed: morning (around 9 AM)
6. Reporting observer and city/state address  
Reporting observer: Chloe St. Germain-Vermillion  
City: New Orleans  
State: LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): N/A
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Jennie Leonard, a traveling avian field biologist, saw the bird again on the Grand Isle public beaches a few days later.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Very overcast morning, so lighting was neutral.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Camera: Fujifilm X-T10, Lens XF150-600mmF5.6-8 R LM OIS WR

Scope: Swarovski Optik 25-50x (good condition)

11. Distance to bird(s): The closest I was able to get was about 20 meters give or take.

12. Duration of observation: Approximately 30 minutes.

13. Habitat: Beachfront.

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

Found it during Elmer's ACBS. Associating with pair of Osprey (trying to steal fish kills). It was very flighty and did not appreciate the beachcombers on Elmer's Island getting very close to it. I had to relocate it a couple of times after it was spooked. Eventually flew off west towards Wisner property and disappeared.

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*):

Large extremely pale gull, comparable in size with the Osprey it was sitting next to on the beach. Pink bill with black tip. Pink legs. Primaries pure white. Very open face with small dark iris. FW bird so it had some light tan barring on the wings and undertail coverts. The lack of any pigmentation at all in the primaries or mantle makes the possibility of HERG x GLGU unlikely. Same criteria, plus the cleanly demarcated bicoloration on the bill (no bleeding on black into pink), also make GWGU x GLGU unlikely in my opinion.

16. Voice: N/A

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

HERG: FW HERG would be much darker

GWGU: Bill color was pink/bicolored and wingtips were pure white, not light brown like in FW GWGU

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

Photos taken by me attached.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Field guides, this was my first in person sighting.

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

a. at time of observation:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

X notes made during the observation. Are notes attached? No

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

Yes

23. Date: 3/3/2024

Time: 17:33

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 \_\_\_\_\_



