

## LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Thayer's Gull (*Larus glaucoides thayeri*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
One bird in its first plumage cycle
3. Parish:  
Cameron
4. Specific Locality:  
Rutherford Beach
5. Date(s) when observed: 21 November 2023
6. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:30 am
7. Reporting observer: Nick Ramsey
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
Garrett Rhyne
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
Paul Conover
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird in direct afternoon sunlight
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Observed through Vortex Diamondback 10x42 binoculars, Canon EOS R5 with 100-500mm lens, and Vortex Diamondback 20-60x85mm spotting scope
12. Distance to bird(s): 100 yards to 20 yards
13. Duration of observation: 45 minutes
14. Habitat: Sandy beach
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Loafing with other gulls, occasionally flying around
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, pale Larus gull with a long, almost entirely black bill. Primaries showing diagnostic "venetian blind" pattern with pale inner webs. Eye dark. Legs rather bright pink. Overall a pale sandy color with primaries appearing a slightly darker brown at rest with paler edging.

17. Voice: Not heard

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

Too pale for most members of the genus Larus, with a thinner, entirely dark bill than *L. hyperboreus* (which would show a thicker, parallel edged bill with a pinkish basal half and a sharply demarcated blackish distal half by November). Separation from 'Kumlien's' Iceland Gull based on darker wings, longer bill, and stronger overall build than expected from Kumlien's Gull .

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

Photographs were obtained by myself (Nick Ramsey), by Garrett Rhyne, and also by Paul Conover.

20. Previous experience with this species: I've seen a couple Thayer's Gulls in Louisiana and other places outside their winter stronghold but the bulk of my experience comes from a handful of trips to the west coast in early spring when Thayer's are abundant. Still, I don't have very much experience with these gulls.

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

I sent back of camera pics to a couple trusted birders to confirm (David Van der Pluym got back to me quickly) before I sent out a message to the state group chat. Paul Conover pulled up in the meantime, as he happened to be birding right behind us, and confirmed that it was an "Iceland Gull".

22. Identification aids used when?

At time of sighting

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

Yes

24. Date report completed:

21 November 2023

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



