

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 as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and Scientific names: **Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One individual in first-cycle (first-winter) plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **Caddo Parish**

Specific Locality: **East of Squirrel Pt. on Cross Lake (north end) in Shreveport**
4. Date(s) when observed: **17 January 2016**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~4:50 – 5:15 PM CST**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler**
14112 Crossing Way East
Edmond, OK 73013
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Charles Lyon, Larry Raymond, Mac Hardy, etc.**
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **Charles Lyon (originally discovered on 1 January), Mac Myers, Dave Patton, Paul Conover, Dan O'Malley, Terry Davis, Rob Dobbs, John Dillon, William Mathews, Jeff Trahan, m. ob. (between 10 and 13 January).**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Mostly clear sky with optimal late afternoon sunlight. Sun angle fairly high initially but lowering to west. Backlighting or glare not problematic.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Canon Powershot HS 110 digital elph point-and-shoot camera (equipment in excellent condition).**

11. Distance to bird(s): **within 3-5 meters from boat**

12. Duration of observation: **~20-25 min.**

13. Habitat: **Open freshwater lake, disturbed upland mixed pine-hardwood forest, tracts of bottomland hardwood forest, cypress-tupelo swamp, manicured, short-grass lawn park, brushy edges, suburban residential, etc.**

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

First observed flying in from the northeast with group of Ring-billed Gulls (RBGU). Initially it circled the boat several times at close range to investigate our “chumming” efforts (popcorn, bread, etc.) before it flew off and alit atop a wooden dock shelter with other roosting gulls. Upon closer approach, the boat flushed most of the roosting gulls from the structure and a majority of these individuals, including the Mew Gull (MEGU), joined in on the feeding frenzy again. Once again, the MEGU made closes passes in flight by the boat and rested on the water near the boat on multiple occasions. It remained in view up until it was nearly too dark to keep track of its movements.

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):

A medium-sized, white-headed gull with overall smudgy white-brown, mottled plumage. Whitish, small, rounded head with dark smudges and streaking on crown and nape. Paler head and dirty white underparts contrasting with dark upperparts. Splotchy brownish hind-neck and upper breast. Medium gray scapular feathers replacing first-generation juvenal scapulars on mantle. Gray center mantle contrasting with brownish-black flight feathers on spread wing. Dark brown

primaries and primary coverts. Broad, extensively dark (blackish) tail contrasting with paler, mottled uppertail coverts. Mottled, barred brownish undertail coverts. Relatively slender, parallel-sided bill lacking pronounced gonydeal angle distally. Dull flesh bill base with extensive dark tip. Proportionately large, dark, beady irides. Subtle dark markings coalescing around the eyes. Dull yellowish-horn legs and feet.

16. Voice: **Generally silent.**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Superficially similar to first-cycle/ first-winter Ring-billed Gull (RBGU), however, much more smudgy and darker overall. Slightly smaller with proportionately smaller, more rounded head than RBGU. Longer, more slender wings than RBGU. Darker gray mantle scapulars eliminate RBGU. Broad, solid dark terminal tail band eliminates RBGU. Slender, parallel-sided bill lacking pronounced gonydeal angle eliminates RBGU. Lack of contrasting white tail base eliminates nominate MEGU. Not similar to any other N.A. gulls.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, hand-held digibined photos by Devin Bosler. Yes, attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

Familiar with this species from numerous encounters in coastal zones of multiple West coast (Pacific Ocean) states from Alaska to California and British Columbia (Canada). Plus, at least one nominate adult from Massachusetts.

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **Various online/ web resources.**

21. This description is written from: Yes notes made during the observation (notes attached?); Yes notes made after the observation (date:); Yes memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes, absolutely positive.**

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **18 January 2016** Time: **7:30 PM CST**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or

portions of this report on its website? **Yes, please.**

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









