

Louisiana Ornithological Society's
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*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

First winter bird.

3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) (specific locality)

Caddo Parish, Cross Lake, north shore about half mile west of I-220 bridge.

4. Date(s) when observed:

01/24/2016

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

From approximately 3:45 PM – 4:30 PM CST.

6. Reporting observer and address:

Jay V. Huner
428 Hickory Hill Drive
Boyce, LA 71409

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):

Charles Lyon, Van Remsen, Clyde Massey, Terry Davis, Cham Mahaffey and Mary Mehaffey.

8. Other observers who Independently identified the bird(s):

Paul Conover, David Patton, Roselie Overby, Willie Matthews, and others.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Cloudy, mid-late afternoon sun. Bird seen in good light as boat moved about.

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

Zeiss 10 x 42 binocular, good condition.

11. Distance to bird(s):

15-300 feet.

12. Duration of Observation:

Approximately 45 minutes.

13. Habitat:

Cross Lake – Water reservoir at NW Shreveport, Louisiana.

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

Staked out bird found by Charlie Lyon on 1 Jan. 16. Coming to “pop corn” chum with numerous Ring-billed Gulls at evening roost adjacent to lake side homes.

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):

Bird distinctly smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls in the gull flock roosting at site. Bill smaller and head rounder than RBGU. Somewhat similar to Rock Pigeon head. Depending on light, body was brown, especially below. In brighter light, more dull grayish. Most of upper tail brown rather than terminal bar. Eyes dark. End of bill dark.

16. Voice:

Hard to differentiate from cacophony of calls from 150+ Ring-billed Gulls.

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

First year Ring-billed Gull – bill smaller, body, especially below much darker/browner. Upper tail with more extensive brown. Head round and dissimilar to Ring-billed Gulls. Obviously smaller than adjacent Ring-billed Gulls.

18. Photos/Recordings:

J. V. Remsen's images excellent – see ebird report for Cross Lake 1-24-16. Some iphone images to be sent to LBRC.

19. Previous experience with this species:

Seen several times on West Coast birding ventures.

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

- a. at time of observation: None – In rocking motor boat in close quarters.
- b. after observation: Sibley's Field Guide / National Geographic Field Guide / Kaufman "Birds of North America".

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

22. Signature of reporter __Jay V. Huner__ 01/26/2016 8:15 AM.