

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 first winter sex unknown
3. Locality: Cameron Parish
Specific Locality: Davis Road, Cameron
4. Date(s) when observed: April 2, 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 3:30-5:15 p.m.
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): As of this date, no one that I know of.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast, occasionally only thinly so. Wind was more of a factor, as wind was steady around 15-20, I'd guess, with gusts probably double that. Holding optics steady was a challenge, but I was able to get good looks, and some decent footage.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon scope 20-60x, Samsung s4 smartphone camera
11. Distance to bird(s): From about 40 yards to about 200 yards
12. Duration of observation: About 1:30's worth of viewing.
13. Habitat: Parking lot along ship channel. Birds were pushed to the lots by high water caused by strong S winds.
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): First seen in pond in one parking lot, birds all flushed, found a few minutes later farther in the back of a different lot.
15. Description: (Note: Much of this description is written from review of images. Although the bird was within close range for a time, it and all of the birds were facing me directly, pointing into a strong wind. I tried to film as much as possible hoping for good images of are of importance to the ID.)

A pale immature "white-headed gull" about small Herring Gull-sized, not overly petite but not as robust as the Herrings it was seen with.

Overall color white below, pale brown above, with slightly darker brown primaries, secondaries, and tail.

Underparts: Largely white, with darker smudges on breast sides and flanks created by isolated gray feathers.



Undertail coverts with regularly spaced pale brown barring on whitish feathers, with brown and white spaces about equal in width.



Upperparts: Mantle and scapulars a mix of pale worn brownish gray feathers and newer clear pale silvery-gray feathers. The presence of silvery feathers on the mantle raises the question of the age of this bird; however, bill color, tail pattern, etc. point to this being a first “winter” bird.



Open wings: Upperwings pale brownish white with medium gray-brown outer primaries and primary coverts and similarly-colored secondary bar. Outer primaries with darker outer webs, paler inner webs. Wing coverts pale overall, appearing somewhat worn and bleached. Through the scope the pale secondary coverts showed faint dark marks centrally near their tips.

Underwings with pale brownish coverts contrasting with pale silvery or translucent flight feathers.

Closed wings: Coverts pale, almost white, contrasting with primaries. Individual primaries showed obvious contrasting pale edgings. Tertiaries appeared solidly pale brown on interiors, with pale edge, broadest distally.

Tail: Similar in color to outer primaries and secondary bar. Outer rect, or perhaps just outer web of outer rect, barred.



Eyes dark. Bill overall blackish, some fading on base of maxilla, and a pale area on extreme bill tip.

Legs fairly bright rosy pink.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): From Kumlien's by secondary bar contrastingly darker than rest of inner upperwing, tertials appeared solidly pigmented, tail with complete band. Other other hybrid combos that produce similar effect are a moving target—while some may approach this bird in size and color, overall this bird had the appearance of a faded late "winter" Thayer's.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): yes, photos and video by me

19. Previous experience with this species: several thayers/kumlien types, study of skins, study of photos and ID material

20. This description is written from mental notes and comparisons during observation, and from study of photos.

21. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: It appears to be a Kumlien's/Thayer's type, and to have markings in line with Thayer's.

22. Date: 04/09/2017





























