

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> .

1. English and Scientific names: Thayer's (Iceland) Gull; *Larus glaucoides thayeri*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1, adult.
3. Parish: Cameron
Specific Locality: Broussard Beach
4. Date(s) when observed: 28 October 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: Approximately 8:30-9 am
6. Reporting observer and address: Steven Mlodinow, 530 Peregrine Circle, Longmont
CO 80504
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Paul Conover
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): good to excellent
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 95mm, 30-70x telescope.
11. Distance to bird(s): approximately 50 meters at closest, 150 meters at most distant
12. Duration of observation: 30-60 minutes, likely closer to 30
13. Habitat: Open Beach
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):
Standing about with mixed flock of mostly Herring and Ring-billed Gulls and Caspian and Royal Terns
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*):

The Thayer's was in a moderate sized flock of gulls and terns with good diversity, but with Herring Gull predominant gull species (>100 present; also 5+ LBBG and 1 GBBG). The Thayer's was initially picked out by its size and shape. It was distinctly smaller than any of the many (dozens) of Herring Gulls nearby, with a rounder head and delicate bill. This appearance was quite distinct throughout lengthy period of observation, and bird could easily be relocated by searching for the round head/small bill. The bill was straw-colored near base and a more true yellow towards tip with a small red spot at the gonys. Tip of bill very pale. Iris color, seen very well many times during period of observation, was consistently dark, whereas that of Herring Gulls was consistently visibly white or yellow in appearance. The legs and feet were moderately intense pink, without hint of gray, yellow, or olive

The head and underparts were clean white except a hint of smudging near eye at Thayer's Gull that was not consistently visible. The folded wings and back (excepting tertials and primaries) were gray, a touch darker than the nearby Herring Gulls. The tertials were tipped broadly in white. The folded primaries were black with moderately large white mirrors, large than those of nearby Herring Gulls. The tail was entirely white, seen well when preening. The visible underside of the folded primaries, seen as bird is perched, showed no black.

In my rather extensive experience with Thayer's Gull, this bird was towards the smaller and more "delicate" end of spectrum.

16. Voice: Not heard.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Major marks for separation from Herring Gull is smaller size, dark eye, smaller bill, proportionately more delicate eye and bill. Secondary marks would include straw color to bill in apparent adult (especially adult not with head still unstreaked), larger white spots on folded primaries, lack of black on underside of folded primaries. Vega Gull is similarly eliminated, except eye color.

California Gull should have yellow or olive, but not pink, legs, black on underside of primaries, smaller mirrors on folded wings.

Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull should be paler mantled, paler eyed (though variation in this), paler wing-tipped with more extensive white, even when wings folded.

California x Herring Gulls should be larger and still have non-pink legs/feet (in my experience of n=2 adults)

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

Yes, by Steven Mlodinow. Yes, attached

19. Previous experience with this species:

Extensive during many years in WA (1000+ per year) and last 6 years in CO (~100 per year)

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

None

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	Same date, written hours later, but marks spoken out loud (oft repeatedly) to myself and Paul as we observed bird.
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

Yes

23. Date: 10 November 2017

Time: 2pm, MST

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 _____





