



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

IORC Web Submission <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 2, 2016 at 1:06 PM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Hybrid
If other, please describe:	Putative Hybrid
2) Species:	Herring x Kelp
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Adult Type
5) Date:	2016-02-15
6) Location (include county):	Arsenal Road Pond. Willmington, Illinois. Will County.
7) Observers:	Amar Ayyash
8) Your name:	Amar Ayyash
Street Address	[REDACTED]
Street Address Line 2	
City	[REDACTED]
State / Province / Region	[REDACTED]
Postal / Zip Code	[REDACTED]
Country	[REDACTED]
10) Your e-mail address:	[REDACTED]
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	Kenneth Brock, Jeff McCoy, John Cassady, John Kendall
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	N/A
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	Herring size but with slightly longer legs and a more bulbous-tipped bill. Upperparts close to Great Black-backed, but with a grayish matte appearance. Leg color unmatched by any species - a dull, grayish yellow. Broader trailing edge than typical Herring and every primary marked with some subterminal black (not seen in the provided images).
14) Description of behavior:	Resting at a known loafing spot near the Willmington landfill.
15) Description of vocalizations:	N/A
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	Open rural area with semi-industrial surrounding. Landfill nearby which is what was holding this bird, and hundreds of more gulls.

17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Eagle Optic Rangers 10 x 42.
18) Distance/how measured?	50-75 yards (rough estimate)
19) Time of observation:	10:00 am
20) Total time of observation:	15-20 minutes
21) Weather conditions:	Overcast, in between snow bouts. Temperature under 20F.
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	This is a known individual that has frequented the southeast rim of Lake Michigan, alternating between Berrien County, Michigan and Michigan City, Indiana. I've observed this same bird multiple times away from this site. The bird was reported at the Arsenal Road Pond a couple of days before my sighting, and there was some confusion as to whether it was a GBBG x HERG or "the" SBGU. A confusing photo was posted on Facebook and I immediately suspected it was the presumed Kelp x Herring Gull from Lake Michigan (so-called Chandeleur Gull).
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	Great Black-backed x Herring ruled out by leg color and persistent small white mirror on p10 (this wingtip pattern hasn't changed much in the last 4-5 years). Great Black-backed x Lesser Black-backed isn't a known hybrid form. Although that combination is plausible, this individual looks much more like the hybrids documented on the Chandeleur Islands by Donna Dittmann and Steven Cardiff (see Birding; May/June 2005).
24) Were photos obtained?	Yes
25) If so, by whom?	Amar Ayyash
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	Presumed identity already established. Literature used "Origins and Identification of Kelp x Herring Gull Hybrids. The Chandeleur Gull." in Birding.
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	No field notes taken.
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	Almost 5 months.
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	Photo album can be found here: https://goo.gl/I1KVqg