



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

IORC Web Submission <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Thu, May 30, 2024 at 11:50 AM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Black-tailed Gull
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Breeding adult
5) Date:	2024-05-29
6) Location (include county):	Waukegan Beach (Lake County)
7) Observers:	Matt Tobin
8) Your name:	Matt Tobin
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:	
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	
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 :	The gull appeared a little bit larger than some nearby ring-billed gulls. It had solid white on the head and underparts, dark wings, black wingtips, black tail, and yellow legs. The large yellow bill was red and black at the tip (which really stood out when I first saw it).
14) Description of behavior:	For the duration of my observation, it was standing right along the lakefront with a mixed flock of gulls and terns. I don't recall it moving from that position while I was watching it.
15) Description of vocalizations:	I did not hear any vocalizations.
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	The habitat is a beach right along Lake Michigan, which stretches for over a mile at this site. There is a sizable natural dune habitat along the west side of the beach, with a swale in the middle of the closest dunes to the lake.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	Binoculars (Nikon 8 x 42) and Zoom Camera (Nikon P950)

18) Distance/how measured?	I was maybe 30-40 feet away, standing still outside the mixed flock
19) Time of observation:	01:55 pm
20) Total time of observation:	About 15 minutes
21) Weather conditions:	Partly sunny; chilly along the lakefront for the date. 61°F, moderate breeze becoming a fresh breeze, NE winds
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	This is the first time I have ever seen the species.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	The bill immediately stood out to me as being different than LBBG and warranting further investigation. The overall size was a bit larger than RBGU to rule out some larger species.
24) Were photos obtained?	Yes
25) If so, by whom?	Matt Tobin
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	I sought ID assistance on the Discord Bird-ID channel, where I was helped with a Sibley description. After this, I looked through the eBird profile and photos for BTGU. The bird I saw really seemed to match up well
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	I didn't get a chance to examine my photos more closely for about 7 hours, so I didn't get the ID assistance and eBird list up until rather late
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	The next day, about 22 hours after the observation on the beach
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	I'm having some issues attaching my photos below, but here is the link to my eBird checklist that includes the observation, photos, and other details: https://ebird.org/checklist/S178134705