

**RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION**  
**Records of Vermont Birds**

The following form has been prepared to encourage full documentation, when requested, of rare or unseasonal birds in the state of Vermont. These reports are put into a permanent file and should be as detailed as possible. New reports are reviewed annually by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, which evaluates records for their acceptability to future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list.

Please print or type

SPECIES: LAUGHING GULL

NUMBER OBSERVED: 1

OBSERVER MAKING REPORT: OTHER OBSERVERS (and addresses if available) DON CLARK

LOCATION: (place, township, county) Vernon Dam, Vernon, Windham Co., VT

DATE: 10/30/2012

TIME AND LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 20 MIN

DISTANCES FROM BIRD: Maximum 100' Minimum \_\_\_\_\_

WEATHER:

wind direction \_\_\_\_\_ wind speed \_\_\_\_\_

sky cover \_\_\_\_\_ light in relation to observer's position temperature \_\_\_\_\_

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: (make, power, etc.) 7x42 Zeiss, 20-60 Nikon Fieldscope

OBSERVER'S PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS SPECIES OR SIMILAR FORMS:

Some along the coast. First inland sighting

OTHER DOCUMENTATION: Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Tape Recording \_\_\_\_\_ Specimen \_\_\_\_\_

If yes to the above, where is this information deposited? \_\_\_\_\_

HABITAT: (be as detailed as possible, include associated bird species)

River. Setback above dam.

BIRD'S BEHAVIOR: (feeding actions, manner of flight, displays or interactions, reaction to observer)

Bird was sitting on the water, washing along with Ring-billed Gulls (6). It remained close but separate from the group. At one point it flew up, circled, and dropped back in with Ring-bills.

VOCALIZATION: (song or calls)

None that I heard but there were a few calls from Ring-bills.

**DESCRIPTION:** (Describe what you actually saw during the observation. We hope that observers will take field notes during the observation and before consulting field guides, etc. Additional pages with sketches and copies of field notes are encouraged.)

**Relative size and shape:** Bird was sitting on the water in the vicinity of  
6 Ring-bills. Was close in size.

**Head (crown, cheeks, eye, throat, nape):**  
Black head

**Feet and Bill (shape, color, length):** Reddish orange bill. Did not notice foot & leg color.

**Upper back:**

**Lower back and rump:**

**Wings (shape, length, markings):** Dark gray wings with black tips

**Breast, belly, flanks, undertail coverts:**  
white underparts

**Tail (shape, length, markings):**  
white unmarked tail

**IMPORTANT: WHAT SIMILAR SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED WHEN MAKING THIS IDENTIFICATION AND HOW WAS THIS BIRD DIFFERENT?**

Eliminated Bonapartes by color and size.

**COMMENTS:** (was age or sex determined?, etc) Adult. Two more birds were observed up river prior to this sighting. They were also observed by Hector Naibrath and Eric Masterson. Probably hurricane induced.

This report was written from notes taken during \_\_\_\_\_ immediately after  the observation, or written from memory \_\_\_\_\_ (please attach copies of notes if available)

**NAME (print)** DONALD CLARK **SIGNATURE (not req'd)** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS** PO BOX 86, GRAFTON, VT 05146

**DATE** 1/20/2013

Return electronically (preferred) to: [vbrc@vtcostudies.org](mailto:vbrc@vtcostudies.org) or mail to: Vermont Bird Records Committee, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, PO Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055