

Laughing Gull

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Agree with Laughing Gull. Slight droop to the bill. Tail patterns look correct. It was hard to see eye crescents but they are more pronounced in other pictures found on ebird.

CM2: This bird was well documented by the original observers and seen on numerous occasions subsequently by many birders. The photographs are sufficient to establish the identification and eliminate other likely gull species. More elaboration on how others were eliminated would have been ideal, but the photos provide evidence enough. The identification was confirmed by experts. And I personally observed and photographed the bird as well. Issues of provenance are not a concern with the species. The timing/age seem to fit expected patterns of wandering. For all these reasons a vote FOR this record is warranted in my opinion.

CM3: Great photo documentation by the original finders! Seen by multiple observers.

CM4: Multiple experienced observers. Photo documentation.

CM5: I vote to include the Taylor County sighting of the Laughing Gull on the official state list. The report, with supporting photographs, provides the evidence to conclusively include in the record. This juvenile gull has the identification characteristics on Laughing Gull. The photographs show white eyelids, broad dark tail band and slightly drooping bill.

CM6: Seen by almost everyone who went to look for it.

CM7: The pictures of the gull help to verify the record since we have photos of the bird in flight from the side, landing to give underwing patterns and standing on the shore of the lake. The dark terminal tail band in a juvenile set against a white rump is indicative of only a handful of potential species of gulls (Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, and Yellow-footed Gull). However, the dark outer wing under coverts with general mottling and large, dark bill are what eliminate each of these other species. It is the combination of dark terminal tail band, white upper rump, dark outer under coverts, mottled inner under coverts and large, dark bill that eliminate all other plausible options in eastern North America.