

Details of Little Gull  
sighting 4/29/93

339-01-1993

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LITTLE GULL-~~LARUS minimus~~

Larus minutus

On 4/29/93 at 0630 I observed 2 Little Gulls flying N along the Delaware River at Marcus Hook, Delaware County. They were flying in the company of a small flock (8-10) of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). They were viewed for about 1 minute at a distance of about 200-300 yds. in clear light. Their flight was rapid and direct, no feeding behavior seen.

#### DESCRIPTION

General appearance and size: Smaller than Bonaparte's Gull pale gray above and white below.

Head: Dark nearly complete hood.

Wings: Above--grayish-white with white trailing edge; Below--dark black from near axilla to tip, with white trailing edge.

Tail: White unmarked.

Bare parts: Too distant to appreciate.

#### ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) is much larger, with wings that are gray above with black at the primary tips and underwings that are a smokey-gray.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) is slightly larger with grayish wings that have a white leading edge and grayish white underwings.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) similar to Bonaparte's but larger.

#### FAMILIARITY WITH SPECIES

I have seen Little Gull three times previously.

5/3/74 Little Creek DE.  
4/29/89 Broadkill Beach DE.  
11/29/92 Presque Isle SP. PA.

There are no previous records for Delaware County, but there is a record in nearby Philadelphia County of a bird seen 5/10/80 near the Philadelphia Airport. (Cassinia No. 59:82).

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

Date of Sighting: 29 April 1993 to 29 April 1993

Location: MARCUS HOOK

County: DELAWARE

Observer(s): Nick Pulcinella

Date of Submission: 1993

Submitted by: Nick Pulcinella

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					X
N. Pulcinella								X
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

*2-23-94*