

July 19, 1994

Dick Williams
Dauphin County Compiler
Pennsylvania Birds

POPC
Little Gull
339-02-1994

Dick,

On Easter Sunday, April 3rd, Robyn and I along with Ramsay Koury went up to Fort Hunter at about 2 pm to look for some Common Loons that we had been told were there earlier in the day. While scanning the river, I was looking through a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls when I saw this bird with a very dark wing lining. I got excited and shouted to Robyn and Ramsay, "Little Gull!!". Eventually they both got very good looks at it as it moved up and down the river. It was a life bird for Robyn and I. Robyn and I watched it for 1/2 an hour while Ramsay went to make some phone calls. No one was home, so we watched it a little more and then left. A nice Easter present!

Dan Bogar saw it from his house on Monday evening the 4th. He lives along the river in Marysville, which is just across the river from Fort Hunter. In fact on Sunday we watched it fly past Dan's house several times, thinking "Dan's going to be upset that he missed this!". On Saturday, the 9th, Cliff Jones saw one from West Fairview. Later two were seen from Fort Hunter by Cliff and also Dick Coyler. I'm not sure about the date of the last sighting, it may have been Saturday the 16th.

Here are the descriptive notes from my journal that day: Upperparts - light gray, same color as the Bonaparte's but without the white wedge on the outer edge of the primaries. Underwings were black with a white border on the trailing edge of the flight feathers. Head was black with some white still on the forehead. Flight was tern like - faster wingbeats than Bonaparte's - would circle down to the water surface to feed. Bird was smaller than the Bonaparte's with more rounded wings. We watched it for 20 to 30 minutes. It would fly north up the river about 400 yards and then float down river on the water surface. We were able to pick it out on the water by its smaller size and less pointed wings (on a floating Bonaparte's the folded wings gave the appearance of a long tail). We watched the Little Gull from about 200 yards, through a 22x Bushnell Spacemaster and a 22x Kowa TSN2 as well as through 10x40 Zeiss binoculars.

Regards,

Don Henise

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CC: POPC - FRANK HAAS SECRETARY
NICK PULCINELLA

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Little Gull (Larus minutus)**

Date of Sighting: **3 April 1994 to 3 April 1994**

Location: **HARRISBURG**

County: **DAUPHIN**

Observer(s): **Don Henise**

Date of Submission: **1994**

Submitted by: **Don Henise**

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					
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:

3-31-95