



UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species(common & scientific): Little Gull

Number of Individuals: one **Sex(es): ?** 339-01-2003

Age(s) & Plumage(s): Adult Alternate

Found by: Bill Etter 4/10/03

Date Seen: 4/11/03 **Time:** Morning

Where Seen(Town/County): Nockamixon St. Pk., Bucks Co.

Exact Location(Park, Road, Lake): At fishing pier

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone(optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers(Only those who saw & identified the bird with you):

Habitat: Lake

Distance to Bird: As close as 50 feet

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Cloudy and rainy

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss

Description(only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): The bird was a very small gull appearing about the same size as the Bonaparte's Gulls that were also present although not close to this bird. The head had a black hood, gray mantle and upper wings with light wingtips, white tail, white underparts, and very black underwings with light tips. It was a striking bird at close range.

Behavior(Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Flying low over the water

Vocalizations: None

Supporting Evidence if Any(include with report):

Photo: Yes **Video Recording:** **Audio Recording:** **Drawing:**

Name, Address, e-mail, telephone(optional) of photographer, etc. Alan Brady PO

Box 103 Wycombe, PA 18980 215-598-7856 BirderBrady@aol.com

If this is a dead bird:

General condition: NO

If collected(by permit), location and number of specimen if known:

Separation form Similar Species (How you eliminated others): There is no other gull species in my mind that would have all these features combined. Also, the "black" terns also do not have this combination of features.

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it):

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species: Have seen many Black Terns and a few Little Gulls including some at Cape May only the week before.

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Yes, there are no confusing details in separating this from other species in alternate plumage.

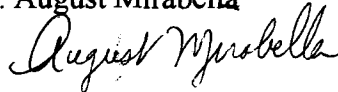
References:

During Observation: Sibley Guide to Birds

After Observation: Sibley Guide to Birds

Date of report: 6/27/03

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "August Mirabella".

Documentation for the PORC:

339-01-2003

Species: Little Gull

Location: Lake Nockamixon marina, Nockamixon State Park, Haycock Township, Bucks County, PA.

Date: 10 April, 2003.

Observer: Bill Etter. Also seen by Dave Birchler, Devich and Steve Farbotnik, and Ian Baldoch. D. Farbotnik took brief video footage.

Conditions: mostly sunny skies. Bright setting sun provided excellent light from behind for about 90 minutes. Observed at approximately 6:00 - 7:30 PM (dark).

Optics: 8-24 x 25 binoculars, and spotting scope with 20-40x lens.

Description: The Little Gull was an adult in nearly full adult plumage, feeding with a small (up to 15) flock of Bonaparte's Gulls over the water. The bird was as far out as a quarter mile, and as close as within 300-400 feet during the time that I watched it. The entire underwing was unmistakably dark grey to black. Wingtips were clean white, as was the trailing edge on the underside of the wings. The presence of the Bonaparte's Gulls provided a great comparison. The mantle was light gray, the legs were red, and the head was nearly fully hooded. Of the small hooded gull flock, this bird was the only one with anything approaching a full hood. The bird fed continuously, then came in to rest with three Bonaparte's on the water just beyond the docks in the marina. The handful of observers present had excellent, close views of the bird at rest in the water, stretching its wings, and engaging in short flights as it settled down for the night.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

Date of Sighting 10 April 2003 to 11 April 2003

Location: NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK

County : Bucks

Observer(s): Bill Etter, August Mirabella, Alan Brady et al.

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Bill Etter, August Mirabella, Alan Brady

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes


Specimen: No

Recording: ~~Video~~ NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Amistead RUITAAT	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS	6		1					
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/29/05