

Species: LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 2, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.-MST

Locality: Union Reservoir

Nearest Town: Longmont

County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Jack Reddall 4450 So Alton St Englewood Colo

Optical Equipment: 8.5X 44 Swift Binoculars & Variety of Spotting Scopes

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Heavy Low Overcast, no direct sunlight

Distance from bird (how measured): Estimated 30 yards


Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Unk Plumage: Adult - winter

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Gull was observed foraging buoyantly over the water. It occasionally would alight on the water, whereupon it consistently held up its wings, (tips pointing upward) fully displaying its dark underwings.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Size: A very small gull, when resting on shore, it was fully 2-2 1/2" smaller than Bonaparte's Gull 2 feet away.

Wings: When flying, as seen from below, blackish primaries and secondaries, underwing coverts lighter, seen as grayish black. From above, wing was uniformly pearly gray, with no black tips in flight feathers. Thin white border on trailing edge. No  pattern as pictured for immature

Tail: Entirely white, slightly rounded.

Bill: Black

Head: Blackish ear patch suffused into dark of winter hood. Crown, nape and neck sooty gray (strongest between crown and nape). White forehead

Fe: Reddish-orange

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Open water

Shoreline - resting with Bonaparte's

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Black-headed Gull - too large, underwing not black enough for Little Gull

No other bird has jet black underwings

or

is this small.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Color slides - Alan M Craig ¹⁹⁶⁸ Salton Sea Little gull.

Black-headed Gull - Alicante June 1972

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Verified the sighting for some observers present

Clarified Adult plumage.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: BRUCE WEBB

SIGNATURE: Bruce Webb ^{1 hour} DATE: _____

Street Address: 1090 A 11th St

Town and State: Boulder Colo

ZIP: 80302

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 2, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M., -MST

Locality: Union Reservoir

Nearest Town: Longmont

County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bruce Webb	1090 A 11th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302	
Robert Andrews	1390 South Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80222	
Steve Larson	2955 Glenwood Drive, #211, Boulder, Colorado 80301	

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X-60X Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used: Harold Holt obtained a number of color photographs.

Light Conditions: Sky, overcast; visibility about three miles. Fair conditions.

Distance from bird (how measured): First observed about 1/2 mile away; later 100' (camera rang

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Nearly complete winter plumage-adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

I first noticed the bird flying out over Union Reservoir at a distance of about one-half mile. It was flying in the company of several Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) and a number of Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*). Its flight was strong and swift on rather quick wing beats which were noticeably tern-like. It wheeled and turned often in typical gull fashion never rising more than one hundred feet or so above the surface of the reservoir. Several times after wheeling in flight it would hover several feet above the water much like terns do. Later observed on mud flat at rest and preening self.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Extremely small size, about 11 inches. Noticeably smaller than nearby Bonaparte's Gulls particularly when at rest. Bill, small pointed, black. Forehead, most of face, throat and chin white. Top of head dark (grayish brown or brown) along with the hindneck. Black ear-patch directly behind eye. Eye, black. Sides of neck appeared smokey. Rest of underparts were white. Tail, white above and below. Wings (which were rounded at tips) were light gray above with obvious white trailing edge. There were no black wing tips. Underwings were very dark, black in the primaries and secondaries and very dark gray in linings. The black underwings were very obvious when bird was in flight; however, we were able to see the black underwings when bird was preening itself. Back, light gray as in wings. Feet, pink.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

No call or cry was heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Fresh-water reservoir on high plains. Very few trees (cottonwood and willow) lining reservoir. Mudflats and cattail marshes here and there.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Bonaparte's Gull: larger; has silver primaries tipped with black on upper wing; light gray on underwing.

Black-headed Gull: larger still; also has silver primaries tipped with black on upper-wing; smokey underwings.

Franklin's Gull: Wings slate-gray with black wing-tips. Large white area between black wing-tips and rest of gray wing. Does not have ear spot.

Sabine's Gull: Upper-wing pattern striking with bold triangles of black, white and gray. Tail, forked. No ear spot.

Laughing Gull: Larger. Wings entirely dark on upper surface with very dark primaries and white trailing edge. No ear spot.

All other gulls: Much larger.

Terns: Most terns have long, pointed wings, long tails.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen all similarly appearing species except Black-headed Gull during past thirty years throughout the country. Observed one Little Gull in winter plumage (adult) on March 1 of this year (1974) off Moriches Inlet, Long Island, New York in flight over the Atlantic Ocean.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America, Robbins, Bruun, Zim and Singer

A Field Guide to the Birds, Peterson

Substantiated observation.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: JACK REDDALL

SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: 11/3/1974

Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street

Town and State: Englewood, Colorado ZIP: 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 2, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.-MST

Locality: Union Reservoir

Nearest Town: Longmont

County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 7X50 binoculars and B & L 15-60X Zoom telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: Overcast

Distance from bird (how measured): A minimum of an estimated 250 feet

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Adult, nonbreeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

A small gull, with elegant, tern-like flight. The bird was quite active, spending most of its time in flight, but also sitting on the water and preening on a beach.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird was quite small, smaller than the Bonaparte's Gull with which it sat on the beach and water while preening, and very much smaller than the Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls also present. Shape was similar to the Bonaparte's Gulls, with a fairly small head, moderate-length and thin bill, wings of moderate length and width, tail fairly short and wide and with a rounded edge. Head and underparts pure white except for a black spot in the auricular area behind the eye and a gray nape. Back gray. Rump and tail white. Upperside of wing light gray with no white spots or black marks except for a white trailing edge. Underside of wing black with a white trailing edge. Legs pinkish. Bill black. and rear portion of cap.

I observed the bird again, and saw all the above major field marks again on November 3 and 9, 1974 at the same location.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

No calls heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

A medium-sized lake with sandy shore and some marsh along one side, situated in an agricultural area of the plains.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Bonaparte's Gull eliminated by the gray upperwings with white trailing edge (no white triangle on primaries) and the black underwings and smaller size when compared directly. Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls eliminated by small size and the wing pattern. Black-headed Gull eliminated by lack of white triangle on primaries of upperwings, black rather than red bill and very small size.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No prior experience with Little Gull. I have seen Bonaparte's, Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls very frequently, in all plumages in Colorado. No experience with Black-headed Gull.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

The Peterson and Robbins field guides for North America and Europe were used in the identification in the field and at home after the identification, and this report was made from field notes in my records made after the observation.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after X observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: Nov. 15, 197
Street Address: 1390 So. Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colorado ZIP: 80222

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 2, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 1:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.-MST

Locality: Union Reservoir

Nearest Town: Longmont

County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Jack Reddell	4450 S. Alton St. Englewood Colo.	
John and Joyce Cooper	1041 Field St. Lakewood Colo.	
Steve Larson	410 S. 43 rd St Boulder Colo.	

Optical Equipment: 7 x 50 binoculars 25x scope

If photographed, type of equipment used: Exakta with 800 mm telephoto lens

Light Conditions: very good but no sun

Distance from bird (how measured): 100 feet. measured through telephoto lens.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: adult winter

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird was sitting in shallow water along with Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls. It was resting and preening its feathers. Several times it raised its wings showing its underwing linings. Finally it flew out into the center of the lake.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Bird was gull-shaped sitting on the water and flying. It was resting on water along with Bonaparte's Gulls whereon it showed its size to be somewhat smaller than its companions. When flying the bird was more tern-like, but wingtips were more rounded. Bird had light gray mantle and upper surface of wings including wingtips. Tail was white. Head was white with black spot behind eye, and the nape was dark. Bill black and legs pinkish. Several times while sitting on the water the bird raised its wings and showed blackish underwing linings to wingtips.

I was able to take a series of 18 photographs using a 800 mm telephoto lens from distances ranging from 300 feet to as close as 100 feet.

These photos will be submitted with this report upon their being returned to me from the developer.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I did not hear any sound.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Bird was at a good size prairie reservoir. During the time I watched it it was sitting in shallow water near a mud flat and at times standing in shallow water. A marsh was near by.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

From Bonaparte's by smaller size and lack of black on wing tips. Also by the blackish underwing linings and the presence of a dark nape.

From Black-headed by small size and presence of dark nape.

From Black-legged Kittawake by small size and presence of black spot behind eye and lack of black wing tips plus pinkish legs and black bill.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Never had observed this species before but am familiar with winter plumage Bonaparte's and immature Black-legged Kittawakes.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

As I was not the first to find this bird I was told via telephone what it was. Upon observing it for myself I was further convinced by observing personally all field marks.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after x observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: HAROLD R. HOLT SIGNATURE: Harold R. Holt DATE: 11-4-79
Street Address: 444 S. XAVIER ST Town and State: DENVER, CO ZIP: 80219

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: Little Gull Larus minutus
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 11-2 + 9-74 Time Bird Seen: 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM, MST

Locality: Union Reservoir

Nearest Town: Longmont County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	Englewood	TELEPHONE
<u>Jack Reddall</u>	<u>4450 South Arton St.</u>	<u>Denver</u>	<u>971-5308</u>
<u>Hugh Kinyery</u>	<u>869 Milwaukee St</u>	<u>Denver</u>	
<u>Bruce Webb</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>?</u>

Optical Equipment: 20x Bushnell Scope

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: 11-2 overcast 11-9 clear, sunny

Distance from bird (how measured): 11-2 200 ft est 11-7 40 yd. est.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: adult, nonbreeding, winter

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Flight very tern-like wheeling in sky dropping occasionally to water to feed seen preening on both occasions

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Size: about 10" long, noticeably smaller than Bonaparte's with which it was seen

Bill: straight, black

Feet: palmate, red

Eyes: dark

Crown: grayish

Forehead: white

Nape: grayish

Face: whitish, dark spot at ear

Breast, Sides, Belly, Flanks, Undertail Coverts, Rump, + Uppertail Coverts: white

Upper wing: Pearly gray, white trailing edge

Back: Pearly gray

Underwing: Charcoal black, white trailing edge

Tail: white, short, square

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: not heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Large prairie reservoir

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Black-headed Gull: has white primaries on upperwing not as dark on underwing also has black trailing edge on primaries + secondaries

Bonaparte's Gull: also has white primaries upper + lower also black trailing edge on primaries + secondaries underwing not charcoal black, lar.

Sabine's Gull: has striking pattern of light + dark triangles on back + upperwing, tail forked, feet dark, larger

Franklin's Gull: has black tips on primaries with white "mirrors", red bill, white underwing, larger

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

only experienced with Bonaparte's, Sabine's, + Franklin's

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: Steven Larson

SIGNATURE: Steven Larson DATE: 12-16-74

Street Address: 410 S 43rd St.

Town and State: Boulder Colo ZIP: 80303

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: LITTLE GULL Larus minutus
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): November 2, 1974 Time Bird Seen: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M.-MST
 Locality: Union Reservoir
 Nearest Town: Longmont County: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Bruce Webb</u>		
<u>Jack Riddell</u>		
<u>Steve Larson</u>		
<u>Bob Andrews</u>		

Optical Equipment: 8.5 x 44 Swift spotting scope (I believe on 20x)
 If photographed, type of equipment used: —
 Light Conditions: 1st day seen - fine, 2nd day (snowing) - O.K. / poor
 Distance from bird (how measured): maybe ~ 1/2 mi - 50' estimate

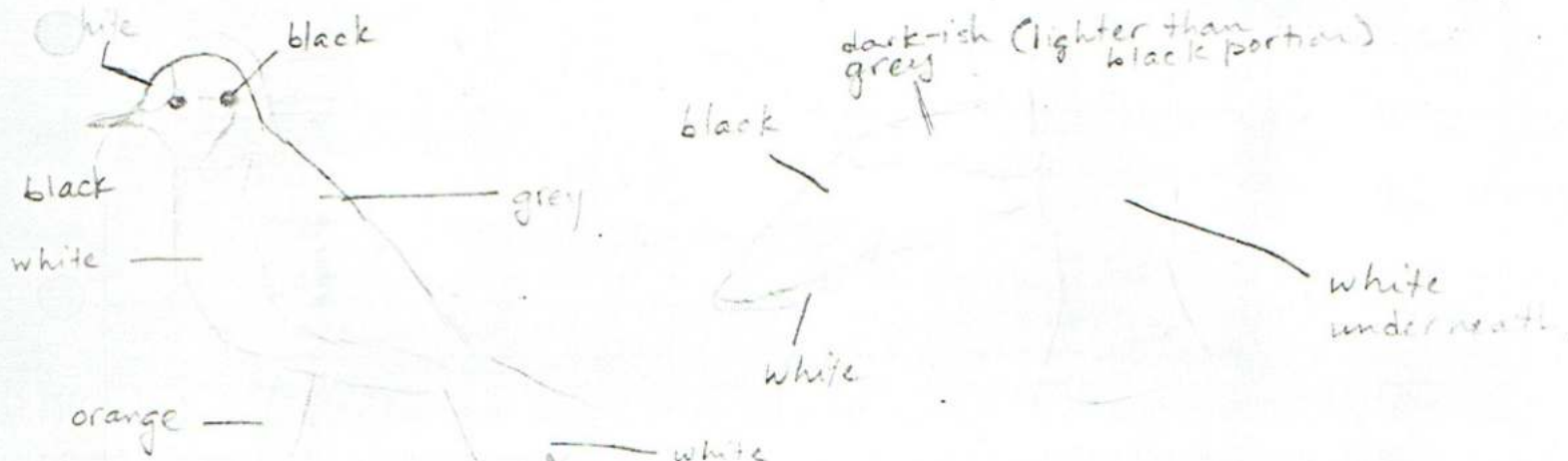
Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: —

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird spent most of its time flying over the water. It had a very fluttery appearance. Its flight was very buoyant, often reminding me of a butterfly. It spent very little time actually on the water. It would drop down to the water surface for very brief moments, its wings raised above its head. It was very tern-like, but wings more rounded - not pointy.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

1. the bird was quite small, its size was obvious when it was observed standing next to a larger Bonapartes Gull.
2. the following picture is a copy of the one I made looking at it through the scope. The wing pattern was observed through binoculars & scope. (I'm a rotten artist)



(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

not heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: seen in very large reservoir on the plains. Very open.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

- could be confused w/ terns because of flight & size - but the black under wings was very apparent, as was dif. shaped tail (more rounded)
- w/ poor light, the Bonaparte's Gulls ~~looked~~ appeared dark under the wing, but the size & flight style of the Little Gull made it easy to separate. The bird was seen standing w/ Bonaparte's Gulls - smaller size was readily apparent

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I had seen slide of little gull seen at the Salton Sea, CA, ^{although} I'd never seen one before.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

I made drawings of the bird while looking at it through a spotting scope. The bird was about 50' away. These ~~me~~ drawings were consulted.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: Jeannie A. Conroy SIGNATURE: Jeannie Conroy DATE: 7 Nov 1991
Street Address: 1090 A 11th St. Town and State: Boulder, Colo ZIP: 80302

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' SIGHT RECORD REPORT
☐ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☒ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE # N-23-45

Accepted GPR 3/28/75

Species: Little Gull (Vernacular Name) Larus minutus (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): Nov. 4, 1974 & Nov. 10 Time Bird Seen: 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
10 a.m. 10:20 a.m.

Locality: Union Reservoir, Longmont

Nearest Town: Longmont, Colo. County: Weld

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Steve Carson	2955 Glenwood Dr., Boulder	
Jack Reddall	4450 S. Alton St., Englewood	777-5308
Allegra Collister	812 Park Lane, Longmont, CO	776-2699

Optical Equipment: Kowa spotting scope 25X ocular

Light Conditions: Excellent, Sunny

Distance from Bird (how measured): Estimated 40 yds

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: winter

Overall Appearance and Size: very small gull, similar to Bonaparte's

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): Black

Legs (shape and color): red

Crown and Forehead: white Eye (color): dark

Nape: dark gray Face: white with round dark spot behind eye Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white

Belly and Flanks: white

Undertail Coverts: white

Back: gray

Wings: gray, no black on wingtips above, white trailing edge

Underwings: dark gray, white trailing edge

Rump: white Uppertail Coverts: white

Upper Side of Tail: white

Under Side of Tail: white

Shape of Tail: rounded

Voice: —

Behavior: made quick dips into water; was preening when sitting on water

Habitat: reservoir

Prior Experience with this Species: none

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? No other gull has the solid dark underwing with white trailing edge. Bonaparte's is similar but it has the large white triangle on the wingtips and a black trailing edge.

This Report was written From: Notes made during ☒ after — observation; Memory —

Signed: Tara & Helloskin Street Address: 2636 4th St.

Date Prepared: Nov. 8, 1974 Town and State: Boulder, Co. ZIP: 80302

& Nov. 11

Other observers: Bruce Dasley } 1444 Folsom Apt 220A, Boulder
Cathy Cowles }
Bruce Webb 1090-11th St, Boulder
Dan & Kathy McLammon, 2303 Mapleton, Boulder, 449-8445
Dek Weppner 1421 High St, Boulder
Paul Koehler
Woody Keene

