

23-89-19 A

Species: Little Gull, *Larus minutus*, juvenile plumage  
Date: 8/30/89, observed approximately 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Southwest corner of Cherry Creek Reservoir  
Other Observers: Another birdwatcher in the vicinity whom  
I called over to see was Sam Palmer, 3327 Xanthis  
Court, Denver, Co. 80231.

Optical Equipment: 7 x 42 binoculars, Questar scope

Distance: I viewed the bird while it was standing  
approximately 30 yards away.

Field Marks: I first saw the bird as it was standing in  
amongst some Black Terns, compared to which it was  
bigger, and some Ring-Bill and California Gulls, com-  
pared to which it was significantly smaller. A very  
noticeable dark patch on top of the head was highlighted  
by a very white forehead. The dark patch on top of  
the head spread to the upper hind neck region. It had  
a dark eye with a dark spot that was approximately twice  
as large as the eye, which was separate from the eye on  
the side of its white face. The mantle was dark, and  
the darkness spread to the sides of the upper breast  
region, appearing as a partial breast band. The black  
cap was separated from the dark mantle by a white hind  
neck. On the dark-appearing sides of the uppers (lower  
scapular middle wing covert region) there were some  
faint pale vertical lines seen from approximately 30  
yards away with the Questar. The wings were crossed  
and extended beyond the tail, and white could be seen  
on the outer part of the outer wing. When standing, a  
small, thin black tern-like bill was noticed, as well  
as pale reddish legs.

The bird flew frequently, and a dark leading edge to  
the upper outer wing was most noticeable. The dark  
upper inner wing coverts met on the lower back region.  
The trailing edge of the inner wing to the inner pri-  
maries did not have any dark trailing edge. This region  
appeared all white. The tail was white with a thin  
(approximately 25% of the tail) black terminal band.  
The underwings appeared all white.

Submitted by: Bob Righter, 2358 S. Fillmore, Denver, Co.  
80210