

General Field Notes

General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, significant nesting records, or summaries of such items.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

First Specimen of Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) from North Carolina

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I found the remains of an adult Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) on North Topsail Beach, Onslow County, North Carolina on 31 March 2014. It consisted of both wings and the sternum. The remainder was heavily scavenged or depredated. It was salvaged as a specimen (intact wing and partial skeleton) at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCSM # 25336). This represents the first specimen from North Carolina.

The Little Gull was first observed in North Carolina in 1971 (Chat 36:22, Chat 36:30). Since then, there has been a significant number of Little Gull reports for North Carolina; however, there were no specimens.

After finding the specimen, I went through the published observations in the Briefs for the Files in *The Chat* and tabulated more than 300 individuals that were sighted between 1970 and 2015. This number is an estimate only because some birds may have been counted twice in slightly different locations along the Outer Banks on the same day or because the observer presented a range of the approximate number of birds seen. There are three recent photos of Little Gull posted in the Carolina Bird Club Photo Gallery: Jeff Lemons, 2014; Jeff Lewis, 2011; and Brian Patteson, 2004. (Carolina Bird Club, Web, 2016)

I would like to thank Ryan Bakelaar for transporting the specimen and preparing it for the museum. I also want to thank Brian O'Shea and John Gerwin for their help at the museum and advice on this note.