

from Hilton Head Island on 17 October 1984 by Haney (Chat 50:44). This slide is on file at the Charleston Museum (ChM 1986.46). Leach's Storm-Petrels are occasionally seen off the coast of South Carolina (for example, see Chat 50:44-46). However, ours is the first inland record for either North Carolina or South Carolina.

We thank R.C. Laybourne of the Smithsonian Institution for examining the Leach's Storm-Petrel wing mentioned above.

## Hudsonian Godwit Added to South Carolina State List

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On November 1985 at 1100, I collected a female Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) on the east side of the Ashley River in Charleston, Charleston County, S.C. The bird (WP 85-001) was feeding in a shallow puddle on an extensive lawn (ca. 1 ha) adjacent to Brittlebank Park.

The specimen weighed 248.4 g; chord of wing, 208.5 mm; tarsus, 55.0 mm; total length, 360 mm; bill depth, 8.5 mm; total length of culmen, 84.8 mm; culmen from nares, 69.6 mm. Its stomach was empty except for a small amount of grit and mud.

This species was included on the South Carolina State List by Sprunt and Chamberlain (Contr. Charleston Museum XI, 1949), but its inclusion was based only on a 1941 sight record. Since that time, there have been several other sightings, notably a report of a flock of 49 on 1 September 1961 at Hunting Island, Beaufort County (Chat 26:41). This record was apparently not accepted as it was not included in the supplement to *South Carolina Bird Life* (Suppl. to Contr. Charleston Museum XI, 1970). With the publication of the present record, the species may be removed from the hypothetical list.

## Documentation of Lesser Black-backed Gull in South Carolina

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A subadult Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) was discovered on the north beach of Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., on 12 August 1985 by David Milson of Ottawa, Canada, and Julie Finlayson, the park's seasonal naturalist. Milson, who had previous experience with this species in England, recognized the bird immediately and photographed it. The bird's dark mantle and slightly larger size distinguished it from nearby Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*) and Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*), and the yellowish legs and black-tipped bill were readily visible with 7 x 35 mm binoculars at approximately 50 m.

On 24 August 1985 Frank Spivey and I observed and photographed a Lesser Black-backed Gull at the same location where Milson and Finlayson had found the bird



Fig. 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull, Huntington Beach State Park, S.C., 24 August 1985. (Photo by C. Marsh)

12 days earlier. The bird was slightly larger than a Ring-billed Gull, but noticeably smaller than a nearby adult Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*). Its small head size relative to its body made its profile more similar to a Ring-billed Gull's than a Herring Gull's. The black-tipped bill, mottled nape, uniformly dark gray mantle, and orangish-yellow legs indicated the bird was in subadult 3-year-old plumage. Its dark gray, rather than black, mantle further suggests that this bird was the British subspecies, *L. f. graellsii*, rather than *L. f. fuscus*, the Scandinavian subspecies (Bruun, Birds of Europe, p. 144).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been reported in South Carolina on at least three previous occasions (Chat 44:42, Chat 44:78, Chat 46:89), but this is the first documented sighting. Two of the photographs I took of this bird, along with a duplicate of Milson's photograph, are now on file at the Charleston Museum (ChM 1986.42.1 and 1986.42.2). With the deposition of these photographs at the Charleston Museum, the Lesser Black-backed Gull has now been placed on the official South Carolina State List.

### **A Specimen of the White Phase of *Ardea herodias* from South Carolina**

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A white-phase individual of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was collected by Post on 22 February 1986 on Minim Creek, Rochelle Plantation, Georgetown County, S.C. This individual was first seen by Graham on 18 February 1986. It stayed in the same locality until it was shot. The bird, a female (ChM 1986.38), was emaciated and weighed