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Second Record of Little Gull In South Carolina

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On the morning of 23 March 1989 I observed an adult, winter-plumaged Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) in a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) foraging along the jetty at Huntington Beach State Park, S. C. First spotted at a distance of about 50 m., the birds passed within 7 m of me as I stood on the jetty, Total viewing time was 4 - 5 min. Observations were made with 7x binoculars. The following field marks were noted: black wing linings; pale gray back and dorsal wing surface with narrow white trailing edge on wing, including the outer primaries; white head with dark smudge on crown and small black spot behind eye; small, pointed black bill; white belly and tail; reddish feet. In addition, the bird was slightly smaller than the Bonaparte's Gulls and had rounded wing tips. The day was cool (40°F), windy, and overcast with intermittent light rain.

Johnstone (*Chat* 52:56, 1988) reported the first record of Little Gull in South Carolina on 14 March 1987 at sea off Charleston. LeGrand (*Chat* 53:47, 1989) states that "This gull appears regularly among the large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls along the Outer Banks in late winter and early spring." Although Huntington Beach is about 400 km SW of Cape Hatteras on North Carolina's Outer Banks it would seem reasonable to expect more records of Little Gull in this area, especially in March.