



13. Habitat: beach at low tide
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation):  
standing on beach with other gulls
15. Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species. Attach additional pages as necessary):  
seen within 10-15 ft. of 2 first-winter Herring Gulls, this bird was very noticeably larger & bulkier, also paler overall. head was dingy-white, back had salt-and-pepper checkering. folded wingtips dark. dingy-white below. legs pinkish. bill much thicker than Herring Gull bill, was mostly black with some bone-color ~~near~~ near base. when flushed - showed whitish rump, whitish tail with medium-width dark terminal band.
16. Voice: none noted
17. Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?):  
body & bill size comparison with Herring Gull eliminated other N. Am. gulls.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):  
none
19. Previous experience with this species: Very familiar with this species, mainly on N.C. Outer Banks.
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):  
a. at time of observation:  
none  
b. after observation:  
National Geographic Field Guide
21. This description is written from: \_\_\_ notes made during the observation; \_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_); X memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)?: Yes
23. Signature of reporter: Richard L. Knight 3-16-99  
(date)

Note - I am not familiar with imm. Relp Gull or Relp/Herring hybrids, which have been reported recently in U.S.; however, this bird looked like typical first-winter Great Black-back to me.