

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 unknown sex juvenile molting into first basic plumage
3. Parish: Caddo
Specific Locality: Cross Lake
4. Date(s) when observed: 29 October 2024

5. Time(s) of day when observed:
Approximately 5:45 PM

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Jack Rogers
City: Kingsville
State: Texas

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Charles Lyons, David Booth, J.D. and Allison Flores, Nick Ramsey

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s):

Caleb Persia

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Moving around a lot in flight between beautiful frontal golden hour lighting and horribly backlit

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Leica 10x42 binoculars in good condition

11. Distance to bird(s):

20 feet at closest

12. Duration of observation:

10-15 minutes, approximately

13. Habitat: large freshwater reservoir surrounded by developments and I-220. Sticking to the middle of the lake where it was very difficult to observe from land (but possible to ID while in flight)

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): Flying for duration of encounter; stiff and shallow wingbeats

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

A tiny, mostly pale overall gull. Black bill short and thin; underneath, essentially solid white overall except for black tail band, black P10, black tips to P5-9, and black "ear" patch. Dorsal with striking black "M" formed by outer primaries, coverts, and scapulars. Rump solid white. Black nape and cap contrasting heavily with light gray back feathering; secondaries largely light gray with some faint black on inner webs just below feather tips. Legs never visible.

16. Voice: Silent

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

HY BLKI: eliminated by much daintier size and proportions, presence of black cap, and presence of black scapulars

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

By me attached

19. Previous experience with this species:

Several individuals offshore Dare County, NC; this is my first time seeing this age/plumage

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: n/a

b. after observation: n/a

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?	https://ebird.org/checklist/S200744032
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation. At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images	

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes

23. Date: 4 November 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

_____yes_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _yes_____







