



howard county
BIRD CLUB
50th ANNIVERSARY • 1972 - 2022

MEMBERS' MEMORIES

Howard Patterson

Little Gull - First County Record: Kevin Heffernan suggested that he, Karen, and I meet at Centennial Park on 6 April 2014, to photograph the Horned Grebes and Red-necked Grebes that were on the lake. As it turned out, my checklist [eBird Checklist - 6 Apr 2014 - Centennial Park - 20 species](#) has no grebe photos. About 10:30 a.m., a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls arrived at the lake. As Kevin and I were photographing the gulls, Karen said something like, "That one has very dark underwings!" Kevin and I simultaneously exclaimed "Little Gull!" We took some documentation photos, then immediately notified the HCBC and Maryland birding communities via phone calls and email/message lists. After she arrived and had a good look at the bird, Jo Solem told me that she had long anticipated this species appearing in the county. The flock remained at the lake until 6:30 p.m., allowing many Howard County and Maryland birders to see this special bird. The following year, on 12 April 2015, Joe Hanfman and Russell Hillsley spotted a Little Gull (the same one?) at Centennial Park, again with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. That is the last day Little Gull has been seen in the county.