

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

RE-SIGHTING ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, OF A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL BANDED IN FLORIDA

On 1 July 2017 I was doing my regular run through Heckscher State Park, Suffolk County, New York, when I spotted a banded Lesser Black-backed Gull in Field 7. The bird was marked with a bright green leg band which I photographed (see photos, p. 320). I submitted the information to the USGS North American Bird Banding Program at <https://www.Reportband.gov> and received responses from both the USGS and the bander.

Originally found in distress on a beach in Daytona, Florida, on 8 November 2015, this hatching-year gull had been brought to the Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation Sanctuary at the Marine Science Center in Ponce, Florida. It was banded by Jerome Barry and released on 9 December 2015, implying that it was in its third calendar year when I encountered it on 1 July 2017.

According to the USGS, this represents just the second recovery of a Lesser Black-backed Gull banded in the United States. The Science Center has two ongoing projects: assessing the fate of rehabilitated birds and identifying the breeding sites of the Lesser Black-backed Gulls that winter in the United States. The present re-sighting contributes to both projects, although this particular sub-adult individual was unlikely to have attempted breeding this year.

A cup of coffee, a quick ride in the park, and ten minutes to send an e-mail produced a lot of valuable information.

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