

SOUTHERNMOST HERRING GULL NESTLING?

By Robert Frohling

On July 8, 1962 my mother and I were banding Common Terns on an island off Surf City, New Jersey (some 20-odd miles northeast of Atlantic City.) We ran out of bands, unfortunately, so started back for Ship Bottom.

On the way, I decided to look over a smaller island to the west of the one on which we had been working. As we swung our boat around the south end of this small island, an adult Herring Gull flew up and three grayish, non-volant youngsters were seen milling around. We landed, caught, banded and photographed the three young while both parents berated us from the air overhead. One of these birds is pictured below.



This island is probably not over an acre in extent. It is entirely covered with salt marsh grasses. We made a quick survey but were unable to locate any nest.

This may be the southernmost banding record for nestling Herring Gulls on the east coast.

Belle Mead, New Jersey.