

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake ; Rissa tridactyla
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 22 Nov. 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~10:30 to 13:00 p.m.

Locality: Jumbo Res.
Sedgewick Creek, Colo.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binos. ; KOWA 20-60x Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: 1st winter

Light conditions: Good, sunny; sun from back or side.

Distance from bird, and how measured: Estimated 200 yds to 1/4 mile.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Flocking with Ring-billed Gulls. In a tight group, either floating on water (rarely) or wheeling in air and picking at water's surface

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains Res.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Discovered by Bill Prather

Dan Bridges

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Smaller than Ring-billed Gulls in flight and on water; with smallish black bill. Above light gray & white with black "W" across upper surface of wing (black chord bar in floating bird). Whitehead with pale gray slope and black spot behind dark eye. Black hind collar. Tail short, white, notched, with black terminal band.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bonaparte's Gull has weaker black "W" on wing, lacks notched tail & black collar on hindneck.
Red-L. Kittiwake lacks black tail band and wing stripe.
Little, Sabine's, Com Black-headed Gull lack black hind collar.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen 1st year Bonap., Black-L. Kittiwake, Little & Sabine's Gulls.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

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Signature: Mark Jands

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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