

accepted

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

(Vernacular Name)

Rissa tridactyla

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): November 2, 1991Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: _____

Plumage: _____

Locality: Fountain Creek Regional ParkElevation: 5,600'Nearest town: Fountain, ColoradoCounty: El PasoTime(s) observed: 1Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 5-6 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

George Maentz

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

N/A

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

It was 2:30 in the afternoon and the sun was shining.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): B&W Film 8x42Distance, and how measured: first seen about 500', when below me about 25' (estimate from map)If photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

I first saw this gull flying from North to South on the far side of Rice Pond #2 and was immediately drawn to study it closely by its flight which seemed quite different from other gulls. It seemed to be floating along just below the tops of the trees then the gull disappeared briefly. When it returned it flew South to North along the west side of Rice Pond #2 below my eye level and about 25' feet from me.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

When I first saw this gull it appeared pale with dark wing tips and the bill appeared yellowish. When the gull returned and was flying below my eye level I saw the following:

Bill: was yellowish

Head: clean white

Nape: had a darkish crescent

Mantle: pale silvery gray unmarked

Wings: Primaries - very black tips with no white in the black - above the dark tips there elliptical shaped

Description (continued): gray back faintly outlined by dark edges. The remainder of the wing was pale unmarked grey. The leading edge of the wing was perhaps paler than the wing and the trailing edge of the wing was definitely paler than the grey of the of the wings and mantle. The rump was white as was the tail. The tail did not appear to be forked to any degree that is it was even across the tip. I never did see the legs of this gull.



Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: This gull was seen over ponds and marsh area and to the east of Fountain Creek.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Sabine's gull: has a dark bill more extensive black and white on wings also the tail forked

Ross's gull: has a black bill and wedged shape tail and when it has dark in the nape the dark continues to form a collar and there would perhaps be a darkish tip to the tail

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I saw hundreds of adult Black-legged Kittiwakes in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland the summer of 1991, but I don't recall seeing any in this particular plumage.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: National Geographic 2nd Edition
gulls P.J. Grant
Seabirds Peter Harrison

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation ☒ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: November 2, 1991 5:00pm. This report done Jan 4, 1992 from a previous report not done on this form.

Reporting observer: Toni Breuillier Signature: Toni Breuillier

Address: 2616 Ashgrove Street, Colorado Springs CO 80906

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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