

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|XX|

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

Species: **Black-legged Kittiwake**
(Vernacular Name)

Rissa tridactyla
(Scientific Name)

Date(s): **November 23 and 27, 1996**

Number of birds seen: **1**

Sex:

Plumage: **Immature, 1st winter**

Locality: **Douglas Reservoir**

Elevation: **4500'**

Nearest town: **Ft Collins**

County: **Larimer**

Time(s) observed: **10:00-11:00 am; 11:00-11:45 am**

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): **1hr; 45 min (though intermittent during that time)**

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): **Joe Mammoser, 2919 Worthington Ave, Ft Collins**

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): **David C. Ely, Ft Collins; Dave Leatherman, Ft Collins; Tony Leukering (Denver); John Barber, Ft Collins;**

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): **Cloudy but good light on first observation; Partly cloudy, sidelit and backlit on second; Heat waves were not a factor during either observation.**

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): **10X binoculars; 80X Questar**

Distance, and how measured: **75 yards; estimated**

If photographed, type of equipment and film: **No photos**

Who else photographed the bird? **Unknown**

Describe the birds behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): **First observed as it sat on the water in middle of lake. Then observed as it flew from area to area, often banking, flying low over the water except when going from one end of lake to the other when it flew much higher above lake. Sat on water several other times, often in vicinity of other gulls, and offering direct comparisons. Flight was buoyant and more graceful (smoother) than other gulls in area.**

Describe in detail 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. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

Gull; Overall upperparts were whitish gray, with some gray to black areas on wings as it sat on water. Dark black collar above, at base of neck. Black spot behind dark eye only other mark on face. Dark

Description (continued):

bill that was slender, not very large compared to other gulls in area; About the size of a Ring-billed Gull though sleeker and less bulky. In flight, dark "M" lines were obvious on grayish back, along with black collar and head marking. Black smudge visible on end of white tail.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):
None heard

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:
Open water reservoir.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Red-legged Kittiwake; Black on tail eliminates this species though an inland occurrence of this species would be unprecedented.

Bonaparte's Gull, et. al; Black collar on neck, relative size and black "M" are unique and eliminate any other gull species.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen this and similar species listed above many times.

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

a) at time of observation: **None**

b) after observation: **Western Peterson, National Geographic, Colorado Birds**

This report was written from reports made during after observation **XX** from memory

Date and time report was written: **November 28, 1996**

Reporting observer: **Bill Lisowsky**

Signature:



Address: **2919 Silverplume Drive Ft Collins, CO 80526**

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒**Species:** Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)**Date:** 24 November 1996**Number seen:** one**Sex:** ?**Plumage:** Basic I**Locality:** Douglas Reservoir**Elevation:** about 5400'**Nearest town:** Wellington**County:** Larimer**Time observed:** about 11:30 - 11:35 MST**Duration of observation:** about 5 minutes

Description: An immature Black-legged Kittiwake had been reported on Douglas Reservoir on 23 November, so I went up there to look for it. On the way up, I found an immature Black-legged Kittiwake at Long Pond (described on another form) and wondered if this was the bird that had been reported on Douglas Res. Shortly after I got to Douglas Res., I found an immature Black-legged Kittiwake swimming near the south end of the reservoir. It wasn't associated with the other gulls present (850+) which were mostly trying to kleptoparasitize the Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers. This bird looked almost exactly like the one I had just seen at Long Pond, at least like that one had when it was swimming, as I never saw the Douglas Res. bird fly.

The bird was a medium-sized gull, about the same length as the nearby Ring-bills. The head was white with an ill-defined black splotch behind the eye (this bird's spot was larger and extended higher up the head than did the spot on the Long Pond bird), which was black, as was the bill. There was a wide, black half-collar covering the back of the neck. The back was a darker gray than the back color of the Ring-bills. What I could see of the underparts was white. The folded left wing (I didn't see the right wing) showed the dark bar that forms part of the open wing's "M". This bar showed as an irregular, wide, black line parallel to the waterline from the wrist to the tertials. The outer primaries were black and mostly covered the tail, however, I could just discern some of the white of the tail and the terminal black band of the tail.

Similar species eliminated: Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes are at least somewhat similar in plumage to a number of other species in immature plumage. The wide, black half-collar eliminates all species with which it could be confused. In addition, size eliminates Bonaparte's, Little, and Ross' gulls and bill color and the color of the outer primaries eliminates Black-headed Gull.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): No vocalizations heard.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 100s of Black-legged Kittiwakes (a few on the Great Lakes and hundreds on the Atlantic Ocean -- both places where I have conducted waterbird counts). I have seen all the species that have occurred in North America with which one could confuse an immature Black-legged Kittiwake, except Ross' Gull. I have spent hundreds of hours studying and watching gulls, as they are one of my most favorite groups of birds (my license plate is GULLS).

Light conditions: sun mostly hidden by fairly dense fog, but was to my left

Optical equipment used: Kowa 30x

Distance, and how estimated: estimated at about 90 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: none

Other observers who saw the bird independently: William Lisowsky and others

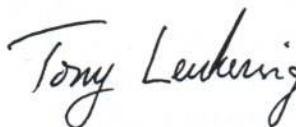
If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 7 December 1996 from notes written at the time of the sighting