

(Vernacular Name)

--- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE --- RISSA tridactyla ---

DATE OF OBSERVATION	TIME OF OBSERVATION	NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN	SEX	PLUMAGE
11-12-97	1235 TO 1245	one	?	First winter
	TO			
	TO			

LOCALITY: Cherry Creek Res. - Between the sailboard launching point and the Dam just West of the Outlet Tower ELEVATION: 5350 ft COUNTY: Arapahoe

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD (Names, Addresses, Telephone Number)

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Kowa TSN-4 20 to 200x, 2-ess 10x40
 WEATHER CONDITIONS: Clear, cold (~28°), wind Light variable
 BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Observer facing NNE with ^{SUN} AT my back.
 DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: guess 300 yds

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: The bird was observed among a flock of gulls that were feeding ^{among} and harassing a flock of Diving Ducks (Goldeneyes, Ringneck Duck, Lesser Scaup, Canvasbacks) and C. Mergansers. The bird was flying in circles or figure 8's, momentarily hover or do a stiff wing, tail spread BANKED TURN AND DROP to the water to pick up something. After sitting on the water for 5-10 seconds it would take off and continue with its searching flight.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (EMPHASIS ON KEY FIELD MARKS): Relative size and shape; plumage and color pattern of head, upperparts and underparts; shape and color of bill, wings, tail, feet and legs; eye color.

The gull was first noticed in the flock because of the dark capel-bar and dark Primaries of the upper wing creating a distinct "W" or "M" pattern. The capel-bar was very obvious when the bird sat on the water. The gull was white except as follows -

- Bill - black, slender approx. 1/2 the length of head.
- Head - dark eye with a black spot behind the eye.
- A narrow (pencil width) collar on the base of neck extending toward the breast but terminating before the breast (Unlike the wide 1/2 collar seen in NBS).
- Mantle - Pale gray - NOT A GRAY AS Ring billed gull near by
- Upper wing - described above
- Legs - NOT seen clearly
- Tail - white with a black terminal band, slightly notched
- Size - About the size nearby R.B. Gulls, (difficult to judge). It was definitely smaller than the immature Herring gulls present

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued):

HABITAT: Reservoir

VOCALIZATION (call/song; how delivered-perched, in flight; frequency; duration):

None heard

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES: 1st Winter Birds

- (1) Bonaparte's gull - Although very close, Bonaparte's gull lacks the $\frac{1}{2}$ collar in the 1st winter plumage, the terminal tail band is not matched
- (2) Sabine's gull - Again lacks the well defined $\frac{1}{2}$ collar, the upper inner wing is a uniform pattern (no obvious carpal bar), neck and crown are usually dirty no well defined spot & collar
- (3) Little gull - 1st winter bird lacks the black $\frac{1}{2}$ collar
- (4) Franklin's gull - Lacks the "M" upper wing pattern, head ~~more~~ crown & face with dark coloring - no spot & collar pattern
- (5) Red Legged Kittiwake - Lacks carpal bar, NO Black Terminal tail band

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

This is the first time I have seen this plumage in a Black-Legged Kittiwake

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

NGS 2nd Edition

Gulls guide to Identification

PJ GRANT 2nd Edition

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY ☒

NAME: Rich Olson

SIGNATURE: RO

DATE: 11-19-97