

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Lesser Black-backed Gull
(Vernacular name)

Larus fuscus
(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.

Date (s): February 27, 1993. Time Bird Seen: 11:30A to 11:45A

Locality: Lake Henry near Ordway, Crowley County, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Sw. FT Spotting Scope 15-60x zoom + Zeiss 10-40 binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Light conditions: Good

Distance from bird, and how measured: 75 yards estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird was perched with Ring-billed & Herring Gulls. It then flew around lake amidst flocks of other gulls

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Prairie Lake with a few scattered trees

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

Found by Brandon Percival 835 S Harmony Pueblo West CO 81007

Pearle Sandstrom 2823 S Main Ave Pueblo, CO 81003

John Yaeger 3303 Morris Pueblo CO 81008

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.

This Gull was larger than Ring-billed Gulls but smaller than Herring Gulls which were nearby. A white-headed Gull, heavily streaked on nape which is typical of adult gulls in winter. Tail was also solid white. Bill was yellow with red spot on lower mandible. Legs were straw colored. Wings were long extending beyond Tail when bird was perched. Back & wings were dark slate gray becoming darker & blackish in primaries. No white windows in primaries observed. Trailing edge of wings were trimmed by narrow white line. Belly, Chest, & under tail coverts were white.

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

No sound uttered

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

All slaty backed gulls have pink legs except Yellow footed Gull which is larger than most Herring Gulls. The bird we saw was smaller.

The yellow-legged form of Herring Gull is also one of its larger subspecies. (P. J. Grant, Gulls p. 44) 2nd edition

Adult Slaty-backed Gull has much broader white trailing edge on wings; more white in primaries & pink legs. Western Gull also has pink legs. Legs on bird we saw were straw-colored.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I saw adult Lesser Black backed Gull at Hamilton Reservoir:

I have seen many Western Gulls, but have never seen Slaty-backed Gull nor Yellow-legged form of Herring Gull. I have seen Yellow-footed Gulls at Salton sea

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

NAME (print): Dave Silverman

Mailing address: PO Box 362 Rye CO 81069

Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

- New State Record ----------
- X - Rare bird in CO ----------
Lesser Black-backed Gull
(Species)-----
Larus fuscus
(Scientific name)

Date(s):

February 27, 1993 12:10- 12:25 PM 15 minutes

Locality:

Lake Henry, Crowley County, Ordway, Colorado.
Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment:

10X40 Bausch & Lomb Custom Binoculars
15-60 Zoom Bausch & Lomb Discoverer Spotting Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Not Photographed
-----Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: adult winter

Light Conditions:

excellent, sun at our backs.

Distance from bird and how measured:

75 feet to 150 yards.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The bird was standing with about 50 other gulls all which were Ring-billed. The bird flew to the middle of the lake to join many hundred gulls. The bird finally landed east of us near the east shore. Then it flew back toward the rest of the gulls in the middle of the lake. Then we did not see it again.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Lake, fresh water.
-----Other observers who independently identified the bird
(Please list names and address):

David Silverman	2/27	(with me)
George McKinnon	2/27	(with me)
Lynda McKinnon	2/27	(with me)
Joyce Bowles	2/27	(with me)
John Yaeger	2/27	(with me)
Pearle Sandstrom-Smith	2/27	(with me)
Lindsay Lilly Jr.	2/28	

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

I identified the bird by it's slaty gray colored back. By it's straw colored legs and it's bigger size then the near by Ring-billed Gulls. Also by it's gull shape.

The bird was about 4 inches larger then the near by Ring-billed Gulls. About 21 inches. The birds overall shape was typical gull shaped. The bird was in adult winter plumage. The color pattern. The bill was all yellow with a red spot on the lower mandible near the tip. The head and neck to the wings and back was white with brown smunging. I could not tell the eye color. The mantle and wings were slaty gray. The front of the bird was white except for the brown on the throat area. The underparts were white. Their was white between the mantle and the wings and between the wings and tail. The folded wings were black with four small dots. The tail was white. The legs and feet were straw colored. In flight the trailing edge of the wings had a white from the upper tail coverts to the black wing tips. The shape the the wings was typical gull shaped. The shape of the tail was squared typically of gulls. And the shape of the bill was medium-sized and not a long bill.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:
None heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

California Gull: Back is much lighter.
Herring Gull: Back is much lighter and the bird is larger.
Mew Gull: Back is much lighter and the bird is much smaller.
Ring-billed Gull: Back is much lighter and the bird is smaller.
Slaty-backed Gull: This bird has pink legs.
Great-Black-backed Gull: Much bigger bird and much blacker back.
Yellow-footed Gull: Bigger and darker back.
Western Gull: Bigger and darker back.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Lesser Black-backed Gull: I've seen three before this one all in Colorado.
California, Herring, Ring-billed, Mew: I've seen many of the first three and two of the later in Colorado.
Yellow-footed and Western: I've seen several in California.
Great Black-backed and Slaty-backed: I've never seen.

Field Guides used to determine sighting:

National Geographic Society's Birds of North America.

This report was written from notes made during X after X; from memory .

Name: Brandon K. Percival

Mailing address: 835 Harmony Dr.

Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604

(719)-547-2722

Signature: Brandon K. Percival