

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: Lesser Black-backed Gull
(Vernacular Name)Larus fuscus
(Scientific Name)Date(s): September 12, 1993Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: 2nd yearLocality: Blue Lake Elevation: 4000 feetNearest town: Las Animas County: BentTime(s) observed: 3:30 - 3:45 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 minutes

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

Bob Dickson 55 Villa Drive Pueblo CO 542-5847
Pearle + Clif Sandstrom-Smith 2823 5th Ave Pueblo, CO 543-6427
Dave Smith 808 Sirius Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80906

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

None

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

Bright sun was west of us.Gull was south of usOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Questar Scope 40X & 80X lensesDistance, and how measured: 100 yards estimated

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

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

Bird seemed more nervous than Calif. Ring-billed Gulls. It flew more frequently & often raised wings while swimming or standing.

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 observed in the field: This bird was slightly larger than Ring-billed Gulls

& about same size as California Gulls. Head was grayish white with a few gray streaks on neck & nape. Underparts were white with some streaks especially in belly. Back was medium gray. Eye was dark. Bill was light gray with

When bird was standing, wings extended noticeably beyond tail. Description (continued): Wings were long & showed a distinct crook, pointed at tips. Primaries were dark brownish back on upper and underwing. Mantle was gray. Secondaries & wing coverts were brownish gray with light feather edging, giving wings a scaly appearance excepting solid dark primaries. Rump was whitish with a few speckles. Upper tail was white abruptly changing to broad black terminal band. Legs & webbed feet were gray with a slight pinkish cast.

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

No call could be distinguished

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Prairie lake with few trees in vicinity where Gull was observed
Shallow cove with sandy beaches & very sparse low-growing vegetation.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Highly variable 2nd year Herring Gulls usually show light feathers at base of primaries, lighter primaries on underside of wing, pinker legs, more diffused dark tail, and noticeably larger than California Gulls.

California Gull, and winter, has dark secondary bar, all dark tail excepting white outer edges, wings are not as long & do not project beyond tail as much as Lesser Black-back.

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

I have seen many young California & Herring Gulls.

I have seen 2 first years, 1-2nd year, & 2 adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls prior to this sighting.

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic

b) after observation: P. J. Grant Gulls

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

Date and time report was written: 8 PM 9-13-93

Reporting observer: Dave Silverman Signature: David Silverman

Address: P O Box 362

Rye CO 81069

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504

xc Hugh Kingery