

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD REPORT
☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE # 18-74-113

Accepted JR 12/26/74

Species: PIPING PLOVER

Charadrius melodus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 29, 1974

Time Bird Seen: _____ to _____

Locality: Jackson Reservoir

Nearest Town: Goodrich

County: Morgan

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Jack Reddall

4450 S. Alton St., Englewood

771-5308

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars; Bausch and Lomb 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

Light Conditions: Sunny, with sun coming from behind observers

Distance from Bird (how measured): _____

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: nonbreeding

Overall Appearance and Size: A small plover, with short bill, white underparts, pale brown upperparts, incomplete breast ring and orangish legs.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): short and stubby, black

Legs (shape and color): average in length, yellow or yellow-orange in color

Crown and Forehead: forehead whitish, crown pale brownish, dark mark on forehead (color): not seen

Neck: pale brown

Face: pale brownish-white

Throat: white

Breast and Sides: white, with incomplete pale brownish breast ring on the sides of breast

Belly and Flanks: white

Undertail Coverts: white

Back: pale brown

Wings: pale brown with whitish wing stripe

Underwings: not seen

Rump: pale brown

Uppertail Coverts: whitish

Upper Side of Tail: brown, becoming darker toward the end of the tail

Under Side of Tail: not seen

Shape of Tail: average in width, fairly short, rounded

Voice: no notes heard

Behavior: observed walking and feeding in mud flats at edge of the water, but not going into the water. Also seen preening and spreading wing, but not seen in flight

Habitat: muddy flats at edge of large plains reservoir

Prior Experience with this Species: Five observed on August 24, 1970 at Wilderness State Park in Emmet County, Michigan.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Sandpipers eliminated due to plover shape and bill. Killdeer, Black-bellied, Golden, Mountain Plover s eliminated due to small size. Snowy eliminated because of short and stubby bill instead of thin bill, yellow instead of black legs, whitish instead of brownish rump, dark band at end of the tail and the greater likelihood of a Piping at that locality at that season. Semipalmated eliminated by lack of strong breast band which Semipalmated usually has in fall, and much lighter brown upperparts.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during _____ after X observation; Memory _____

Signed: Robert Andreas

Street Address: 1390 S. Ivy Way, Denver

Date Prepared: October 25, 1974

Town and State Denver, Colorado

ZIP 80222

Return to: JACK REDDALL

Accepted JR 11/26/74

Species: PIPING PLOVER

Charadrius melodus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 29, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 1:45 P.M. to 2:15 P.M. - MDT

Locality: Jackson Reservoir

Nearest Town: Goodrich

County: Morgan

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME ADDRESS TELEPHONE
Robert Andrews - 1390 South Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80222

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X60X Zoom Telescope

Light Conditions: Bright, clear; Sunlight from behind observers; air still; slight heat

Distance from Bird (how measured): 100 feet to 250 feet, estimated. /// waves.

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Fall (non-breeding)

Overall Appearance and Size: Small, extremely pale plover-like bird approximately the same size as many nearby Baird's Sandpipers. Much smaller than many nearby Killdeer and much paler. Appeared more chunkier than the many "peeps" with which it was feeding.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): Small, stubby; dark appearing.

Legs (shape and color): Noticeably yellowish, short legs. Feet not noted.

Crown and Forehead: Forehead white; Crown very pale tan

Eye (color): Dark

Nape: Very pale tan

Face: White, slight ear patch Throat: White

Breast and Sides: White with incomplete, single neck band of pale tan in color.

Belly and Flanks: White

Undertail Coverts: White

Back: Pale tan

Wings: Tan with dark primaries

Underwings: Not observed as bird did not fly.

Rump: White, unmarked

Uppertail Coverts: Not noted

Upper Side of Tail: White, marked with dark brown on lower half

Under Side of Tail: Not seen

Shape of Tail: Short, rounded, un-notched

Voice: Silent

Behavior: Typical plover actions - running along mud flat in short spurts, pausing now and then, occasionally picking up bits of food.

Habitat: Mud flat along shore of fresh water reservoir on high plains.

Prior Experience with this Species: Have seen twice before in Colorado, both fall records from Jackson Reservoir. Over twenty years experience from Long Island, New York area where it breeds regularly and commonly on the outer beaches.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Snowy Plover has longer, thinner bill and black or dark legs. Snowy Plover has a rather conspicuous dark ear-patch not evident in the Piping Plover. Although the breast band on the fall Piping Plover that we saw was incomplete, it was far more prominent and reached considerably further down the sides than is evident in the Snowy Plover. Semipalmated Plover is much darker, even in the fall, on the upper parts and has prominent white forehead and eyeline. Wilson's Plover is much larger, darker with heavy bill (and has never been reported in the state). Killdeer is much larger still, darker and has two breast bands.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during X after observation; Memory

Signed: Jack Reddall Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street

Date Prepared: October 2, 1974 Town and State Englewood, Colorado ZIP 80110