

Species: Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): Sept. 13-14, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 9:00 to 9:10 AM (1) and to 4:00 to 4:05 AM (1) bird

Locality: LAKE MEREDITH (north end)

Nearest Town: CROWLEY

County: CROWLEY

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

None to my knowledge

Optical Equipment: in hand

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: car light & 5 Luffy flash light

Distance from bird (how measured): in hand

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: ? Plumage: changing to winter (adult)

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Caught both in mist nets during banding operation.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The birds were both a little smaller than semipalmated plovers (I had 7 that night also). Very light body color throughout. I noted the same field marks for both birds. The head was white with a slightly darker crown. The eye was dark with a reddish ring around it. There was no definite cheek patch. The bills were orangish with a black tip and thick. The back and wings were a darker wash of white than the white breast. The throat down to the under tail coverts were white. The breasts had faint band marks (darker white wash) pointing toward the breast. The wings (open) had wing strips. The rump was lighter than back but not as white as the breast (this confused me, since all of the pipings I've seen had a definite white rump.) The legs were a yellowish color. The tail was dark with white edges.

Banded nos: 1141-75871 - Banded Sept. 13
1141-75884 " " 14

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

none!

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

lake shore - mudflats

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

snowy plover - thin black bill, black legs, brownish (light) ear patch, and incomplete band pointing back to under belly,

semipalmated plover - complete breast band in all plumages, dark back & crown, dark ear patch

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I've seen them in Kansas and Colorado several times. (piping plovers)

Semipalmated & snowy plovers I've seen in Kansas, Ariz. and Colo. many times.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?
I used West. Field Guide & Birds of N. America in the hand when banding them.

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

PRINT NAME: VAN A. TRUHN SIGNATURE: Van A. Truhn DATE: Nov 3, 1975

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