

COMMON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - STATE RECORD REPORT
☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE NO. 18-77-20

☒ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED *12/6/77*

Species: Piping Plover (Vernacular Name) Charadrius melodus (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 23, 1977 Time Bird Seen: 11:25 AM to 11:55 AM

Locality: Benny Reservoir

Nearest Town: Yuma, Colorado County: Yuma

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Mike Moulton</u>	<u>1328 S. Coffman Ave. 3 Longmont</u>	<u>772-0283</u>

Optical Equipment: 20x telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: direct sunlight

Distance from bird (how measured): 300' farthest 60' closest estimated

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: ? Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

I saw them on a sandbar. They were picking at the beach.
Walking slowly.

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:

Smaller than a killdeer. "Rounder" than a killdeer.
Black eye. Light gray back. White breast and belly. Black dot on top of head with white in front of it. Black band on the neck. It goes all the way around but doesn't meet on the back.
(see picture)

Black bill. Light gray wings with some black on the lower part of wing. Light gray tail with black stripes down the middle. Legs were yellowish brown.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: Did not hear it

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

On a sandbar.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Semipalmated - dark cheek, dark crown.

Snowy Plover - Dark legs, no complete breast band.

Killdeer - Two bands on breast.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

None.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America

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

PRINT NAME: Julie Puckham SIGNATURE: Julie Puckham DATE: April 12, 1977
Street Address: Box 16 Town and State: Hale, Colorado ZIP: 80730

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

18-77-20

☐ STATE OR TERRITORY RECORD☐ NEW STATE RECORD☒ ACCEPTED☐ REJECTED

2/24/77

PIPING PLOVER

Species: CHARADRIUS MELODUS

Charadrius melodus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 23, 1977 Time Bird Seen: 4:25 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.Locality: SAND FLATS; EXTREME WEST END BONNY RESEVOIRNearest Town: HALE County: YUMA

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME
JEFF SHERMANADDRESS
Box 194 WASILLA, ALA. 99687TELEPHONE
494-5113Optical Equipment: BUSHNELL SPORTVIEW BINOC. 7X35; BUSHNELL SENTRY II SCOPE 20X, 48X

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: AFTERNOON LOW ANGLE SUN AT OUR BACKS; EXCELLENT LIGHTDistance from bird (how measured): 25-40 YARDS (ESTIMATED)Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: NOT KNOWN Plumage: ADULT BREEDING (SUMMER)

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The two birds stayed close together; ran along sandy flats at water's edge but only infrequently stepped in the water; not particularly "nervous" acting—rather deliberate; did not fly even on close approach by us; fed by picking at small objects on surface of the sand; held bodies in horizontal posture. Stayed apart from, and did not mingle with other shore-birds.

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:

At a distance — a small (about 6" long) pale plover with a complete dark neckband.

Close up — yellow-orange legs; dusky bill; black eye. Crown, nape, side of face, back and folded wings light sandy color. Portion of tail showing under folded wings was black. Forehead, chin & underparts were white. There was a black narrow black band across the forehead, joining the upper edges of both eyes. Both birds had a complete, single band around nape, shoulders and joining across the breast. This encircling black band was narrow at the nape (and narrowly bordered by white above it at the nape), much wider at the lower "shoulders" or sides of the breast, but narrowing where it met at the middle of the breast.

Legs were short (~2"); bill very short and straight.

(OVER)

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

Did not call while we observed.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

General area - several shallow river channels entering lake through cattail marsh, entering lake through extensive areas of flat sandy, or mud-and-sand flats with shallow pools of water.
These birds stayed exclusively on the sandiest area.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Small sandpipers have longer bills; lack neck bands.

Snowy Plover has dark, gray legs (not yellow); a less complete black forehead band; neck band is not complete, does not meet at nape nor across breast.

Semipalmated plover has brown crown, sides of face and back (not sandy colored); has a black band in front of eyes extending over the bill (lacking in observed birds that we observed).

Wilson's Plover has longer bill, flesh colored legs (not yellow), black face mask and wider neck-band, brown crown and back (not sandy).

Killdeer is larger, darker, has two neckbands (not one) and behaves differently.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No prior experience with Piping or Semipalmated Plover. I saw large flocks of Snowy Plovers on Pacific shore of Calif. south of San Francisco in the summer of 1973. I saw small groups of Wilson's Plovers on three occasions in January and June 1975. I have seen Killdeers hundreds of times.
in Costa Rica.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

A Field Guide to Western Birds, Birds of North America, A Birder's Guide to Eastern Colo. & Birds of Colorado (Bailey & Niedrach). I based the identification entirely on information in Birds of Colo. and on illustrations in the two field guides.

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

PRINT NAME: MARK JANOS SIGNATURE: Mark Janos DATE: 4-24-77
Street Address: 1106 McHUGH St. Town and State: Ft Collins Colo. ZIP: 80521

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: Piping Plover
(Vernacular Name)Charadrius melodus
(Scientific Name-use binomial)Date(s): April 23 1977 Time Bird Seen: 4:25 to 4:35Locality: Bonny Reservoir / mud flats West EndNearest Town: Hale, Colo County: YUMA

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Mark Jnos	1106 McHugh St. / Ft Collins / Colo / 80521	482-9361

Optical Equipment: Bushnell 7x35 binos and Bushnell Sparemaster II spotting scope 40x obj. lens

If photographed, type of equipment used: _____

Light Conditions: late afternoon sun / at our backs / good color / absolutely perfect light conditionsDistance from bird (how measured): 40 yards at first then 25 yards (estimate)Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: unknown Plumage: adult breeding (summer) plumage

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Overall behaviour / demeanor of a small shorebird. Always active - running & feeding while we saw it.

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:

Bird was a small, general appearance (outline, body shape) of a plover. Very short neck; tail-wings horizontal to ground (when not bent over). Yellow legs and feet. Standard plover-type bill, slightly "swollen" at tip. For a short time bill appeared yellow; at other times it looked dark. White underparts. Front of face (from eyes forward) white. Dark stripe running from eye to eye across crown - (complete and unbroken - about width of eye). Eye was dark. From crown band to nape was light sandy or tan color. Back of neck white. Ear patch behind eye was pale sandy color. Chin & throat white. Dark band running from in front of wing around neck and also across ~~back~~ back (below white nape). Complete and unbroken. However the ~~band~~ portion of band across back best seen when the bird bent over to feed. With head up the white nape feathers almost totally cover the band. Wings and back (behind band) were light tan or sandy color. We could ~~see~~ see that the end of the tail was dark. (We did not make the birds fly to see wing pattern as we did not want to scare them away from the area.)

widest in side of bird
↓ narrowest in front

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

No song or call heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Sandy flats. (Birds appeared to be feeding) → stayed in wet sand adjacent to water's edge. Never in the water.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Snowy Plover eliminated because: ^{dark} dark legs, no ^{dark} band around neck & over back, no dark band across forehead from eye to eye. "ear patch" too dark.

~~Piping Plover~~
Semipalmated plover: too dark; markings on head completely wrong. band across face, too dark around the eye; Neck band too wide. Color too dark (brn instead of sand)

Wilson's Plover: Again too dark, too big, band too wide, head markings wrong.
Killdeer: no way!

All I can say is that we got such a good look, there is no doubt in my mind.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No experience with this sp. nor with Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover
Very familiar w/ Semipalmated Plover (winter & summer plumage) in Alaska

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Field Guide to W. Birds/by RT Peterson } All field marks from these books used to identify the bird
Birds of N. America/by Robbins et al } except we thought the bill was darkish (did not see black primaries of wings)

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

PRINT NAME: Jeff Sherman SIGNATURE: Jeffrey M. Sherman DATE: 4/23/77
Street Address: Box 194 Town and State: Wasilla, Alaska ZIP: 99687

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 1450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: Piping Plover
 (Vernacular Name)

Charadrius melodus
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 23, 1977

Time Bird Seen: 10:25 am to 10:40 am & 11:25 am to 11:55 am

Locality: Bonnie Reservoir

Nearest Town: Telluride

County: Yuma

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME Julie Pinkham

ADDRESS Box 16 Hale, Colo.

TELEPHONE 354-7305

Optical Equipment: 20X Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Excellent, we saw the bird in direct sunlight

Distance from bird (how measured): 300' at farthest & 60' at closest (estimated)

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: ? Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

I first saw the birds on a sandbar. They were "picking" along at a casual pace. They would walk along, stop, pick at the ground and then walk some more.

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 bird was smaller than a killdeer and somewhat blockier. It had a very small bill that looked dark. It had a very light gray back, white cheek, & white completely below except for a ^{single} dark (black) band around the upper breast. This band was fairly narrow. It had a very light cheek and the area above the bill, was also light. There were two dark bars that ran from the top of the eyes over the head (see drawing) but these did not meet at the crown. The legs were a light orange color.

(OVER)

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

not heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

On a sandbar in the lake at Bonny Dam.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Semipalmated Plover has a much darker back and a dark cheek.

Killdeer is bigger, darker, and has two bands across the breast. It also has a darker cheek.

Snowy Plover has dark legs, and there is not a complete breast band.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen only one Piping Plover before these two, but I have seen several Snowy Plovers, Killdeer, & semipalmated Plovers.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America (Zim, Robbins, Singer, Brown) was consulted and it supported my identification.

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

PRINT NAME: Mike Moulton SIGNATURE: Michael Moulton DATE: April 23, 1977
Street Address: 1328 S. Coffman #3 Town and State: Longmont, Colo. ZIP: 80501

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110