

18-83-27

Species: PIPING PLOVER
(Vernacular name)Charadrius melodus
(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): July 24, 1983 Time Bird Seen: approx 3 pm to (bird well observed for several minutes)
Locality: Red Lion State Wildlife Area
Creek, Logan County, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: binoculars spotting scopesIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: not photographedNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Transitional between breeding & winterLight conditions: excellent (bright, clear day)Distance from bird, and how measured: 150'-200' estimate

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Nothing special noted. Bird was standing and walking along water's edge.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

edge of shallow pond

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

Jack Reddell, 4450 So. Alton, Englewood, Co

Warren Finch, 455 Dover St., Lakewood, Co

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.

Bird's upper parts were very light tan (sandy color); underparts were white. Had a dark gray complete ring around neck. There was a black bar across forehead above the eyes that contrasted with the very light colored head and back.
* The legs were yellowish-orange (this field mark was well seen by all 3 observers).
Bill appeared mostly dark, but with a lighter base.

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

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

1. Semipalmated Plover (one nearby at some time) - has much darker brown upper parts. Does not have contrasting black bar across forehead.
2. Snowy Plover - has black (or at least dark colored) legs. Also usually does not have complete ring around neck. Has a dark patch behind the eye, which observed bird did not have.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

All 3 observers have previous experience with all 3 species of Small plover.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after 1 observation; from memory ✓.

NAME (print): Dick Schottler

Mailing address: 1748 S. Van Gordon Ct., Lakewood, CO 80228

Signature: Dick Schottler

Return to:

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