

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: PIPING PLOVER  
(Vernacular Name)CHARADRIUS MELODUS  
(Scientific Name)Date(s): AUGUST 7th, 1989Number of birds seen: FOUR Sex: 1 MALE, 1 FEMALE Plumage: 2 ADULT, 2 DOWNY YOUNGLocality: NEE NOSHE RESERVOIR, SOUTHEAST CORNER Elevation: 4000'?Nearest town: LAMAR County: KIOWATime(s) observed: AT RESERVOIR FROM 10 AM - 4 PMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): YOUNG FOR ABOUT 1 HOUR

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

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

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

OVERCASTOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 10X & TELESCOPE 20X-50XDistance, and how measured: 10 YARDS FROM YOUNG AT CLOSEST APPROACH.

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):

THE MALE WAS CONTINUALLY FLYING AND MOVING AROUND AND SEVERAL TIMES GAVE THE BROKEN WING DISTRACTION DISPLAY. FINALLY I FOUND OUT WHY, WHEN I SAW TWO DOWNY YOUNG THAT WERE IN THE MALE'S CARE. THE FEMALE WAS BRIEFLY SEEN AT SHORT DISTANCE AWAY.

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 observe in the field:

THE MALE ~~SAND~~ <sup>PIPING</sup> PLOVER HAD ORANGE LEGS AND BASE TO THE BILL. IT HAD A COMPLETE BROWN AND THIN BLACK LINE OVER THE UPPER FOREHEAD. IT WAS LIGHTER AND SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE SEVERAL SNOW PLOVERS THAT WERE CLOSE BY.



Description (continued):

THE YOUNG WERE CLEARLY PIPING PLOVERS AS THE MALE PIPING KEPT A VERY CLOSE WATCH ON THEM AND DROVE OFF SNOWY PLOVERS IF THEY CAME TOO CLOSE. THE YOUNG WERE ABOUT 20-25% OF THE VOLUME OF THE ADULT AND WERE STILL DOWNY. THEY HAD LONG ORANGE LEGS, SMALL WINGS AND WERE UNABLE TO FLY. THEY COULD RUN AND SWIM, AS ONE WENT INTO THE SHALLOW RESERVOIR WHEN I CORNERED IT. I ESTIMATE THEIR AGE AS 1 WEEK IS. BORN AT THE START OF AUGUST. THEIR INABILITY TO FLY MEANT THAT THEY WERE BORN AT NEE NISHE RESERVOIR.

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

CONTINUAL PEEP NOTE FROM MALE

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

SANDY BEACH OF RESERVOIR WITH SOME SCATTERED PLANTS HIGHER ON THE BEACH.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

SNOWY PLOVER - LEG COLOR, BACK COLOR, HEAD MARKINGS, BILL SIZE, OVERALL SIZE.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER - BACK COLOR, HEAD PATTERN, SIZE AND POSITION OF GREAT BAND.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER - SAME AS ABOVE.

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

HAVE SEEN PIPING PLOVER BEFORE ON EAST AND GULF COASTS.

SNOWY AND SEMPALMATED PLOVERS ARE QUITE COMMON IN COLORADO.

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

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation X from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: 14 AUGUST 1989

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:  
Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205



DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PARE BIRD SIGHTING  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

18-89-10

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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): 25, 27 July 1989 Time Bird Seen: Various times to

Locality: Nee Noshe Res. (S.E. Corner),  
Lamar Colo. Kiowa County  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binocs; KOWA TSX-4 20-60X SCOPE

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: 1

Number of birds seen: 6-7 Sex: ♂, ♀ Plumage: Breeding ♂, ♀ & young

Light conditions: Excellent; bright sun; high haze

Distance from bird, and how measured: Est. as close as 35 yds.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Sprinting, gliding over mud-flats. Silent except in flight when it gave a clear whistle 2-note call... "peep peep".  
Young birds stayed close to adults, running along with them.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Wet mud flats, edge of shallow plains reservoir with sandy upper edge.

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

Bob Dickson, Tony Breiville, Vic Zerbi,  
and others.



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.

Small plovers, about 6" long. White underneath, very light gray above. Adults have bright orange legs, bills 2-toned: orange w/ black tips; short & stout. ♂ w/ complete single black breast band. Black forehead band. Eye black & stands out clearly on pale face. ♀ with partial black breast band. Young bird (1 seen) smaller & bigger-headed proportionately than adults and have tan partial breast band, stout bill & dull orange legs.

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

2-noted piping call giving often & distinctly in flight.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Small plovers:

Semipalmated, Wilson's & Killdeer dark mud-brown above. Only Snowy Plover is similar but has thin black bill, dark gray legs & partial breast band as well as black face patch.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen all small plovers several times.

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

NAME (print): MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 902 Colorado Ave, La Junta, CO 81050

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205