

rec'd 6/25/04

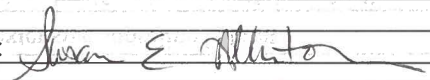
Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

2004-30

7-0 (A)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Black Skimmer		(Scientific Name) Rynchops niger
Date(s) of occurrence: 4/29/04		
Number of birds seen: one	Sex: Probable male	Plumage: Breeding
Exact location: Pastorius Reservoir on CR 304 (~ 5 miles southeast of Durango).		
County: La Plata	Nearest town: Durango	Elevation: 6,800 feet
Length of observation: 2.25 hours		Time(s) of observation: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, 6:15 PM
<p>Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Beatty responded to my phone call & arrived about ½ hour later.</p> <p>*** Jenny Winegardner actually saw the bird earlier in the day. She initially saw the bird at 9:30 or 10:00 before returning at ~ noon. I was first to report the sighting & (at the time) unaware that anyone else had seen it.</p> <p>Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Dr. Joseph Ortega, Catherine Ortega, John Rees, Jan Rees, Rich Donley</p> <p>Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Light conditions excellent with the sun behind me.</p> <p>Optical equipment used: Swarovski 8 x 42 binoculars and Kowa spotting scope</p> <p>Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 125 meters to 260 meters (measured with range finder).</p> <p>Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes If so, are you submitting photos? Yes</p> <p>Who took the photograph(s)? I took photos with a 35 mm camera held up to spotting scope. Jim Beatty took photos with a digital camera.</p> <p>Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Reservoir with extensive shoreline habitat.</p> <p>Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The bird was primarily resting on the shoreline. He did fly out over the reservoir and circle back several times. The proportionally long wings were particularly apparent in flight.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report.</p> <p>The bird was a black & white larid, similar in size to the Ring-billed Gulls and American Avocets in close proximity. The bird had a two-toned bill (red at the base and black for the remaining 2/3 of the bill). The upper mandible was about 2/3 the length of the lower mandible. The forehead, face, throat and underparts of the bird were white. A black crown angled downward on the posterior portion of the head. The eye was concealed within this black area. The black color extended to the nape and back of the neck, joining the black back. The upperside of the wing was also black, except for a white trailing edge which was easily seen on the bird in flight. The underside of the wing was white at the base but dark on the wing tips. Legs were red. The tail was white with black inner tail feathers.</p> <p>Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Vocalizations not heard.</p> <p>SIMILAR SPECIES – This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The striking black and white plumage of the Black Skimmer, in combination with the two-toned bill & uneven mandible lengths eliminated any similar species from consideration.</p> <p>What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I recently (10/03) saw many Black Skimmers in Cape May, New Jersey.</p> <p>List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): I compared the field marks that I was seeing to those emphasized in <i>The Sibley Guide to Birds</i> and <i>National Geographic's Field Guide to North American Birds</i>.</p> <p>This report was made from (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> notes made during observation <input type="checkbox"/> notes made after observation <input type="checkbox"/> later from memory.</p> <p>Date and time of written report: 5/6/04</p> <p>Reporting observer: Susan E. Allerton Signature: </p> <p>Reporting observer's address: 61 Newland Circle</p> <p>City: Durango State: Colorado Zip: 81301</p>		



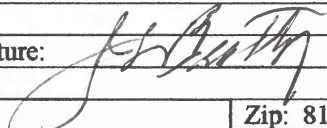
rec'd 6/19/04

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

2004-30

7-0 (A)

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CBRC FILE #:		
RESULTS:		
Species: (Common Name) Black Skimmer		(Scientific Name) Rynchops niger
Date(s) of occurrence: April 29, 2004		
Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: Probable male	Plumage: Adult alternate
Exact location: Pastorius Reservoir		
County: LaPlata	Nearest town: Durango	Elevation: 7000 feet
Length of observation: 30 minutes and then one hour		Time(s) of observation: 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Susan Allerton		
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Jennie Winegardner first discovered the bird at 9:30 AM		
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Overcast in morning; beginning to storm in PM		
Optical equipment used: Elite 10x42; Kowa 823 20-60X		
Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): Closest was 50 yards		
Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? Yes		If so, are you submitting photos? Yes
Who took the photograph(s)? I did. Susan Allerton also took photos.		
Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Shoreline of Pastorius Res.		
Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Most of the time the bird stood in shallow water next to the shore. On several occasions it "skimmed" the surface of the water with the lower bill extended into the water as it flew.		
DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. The bird was unmistakably an adult Black Skimmer. Its size was about the same as a large tern. The back was black as were the wings when folded and the wings extended far beyond the tail. The black back extended up the hind neck and onto the crown, but the forehead was white. The underparts were a clean white extending from the forehead and throat to the undertail coverts. The bill was two-toned with the base a bright red with a tinge of orange and the outer two-thirds of the bill was black. The lower mandible was about 30% longer than the upper mandible. The bill was thick at the base and quite long, which would seem to identify this as a male. When the bird flew the wings were very long, pointed and fairly wide. Also, the wings had a white tailing edge from the inner primaries to the secondaries. The tail was medium length, but looked short on this bird, and slightly forked. The inner tail feathers were black and the outer feathers were white when seen from above. The legs were a dark red with a tint of orange.		
Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: Not heard		
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: This bird can not be confused with any other NA species, because of its unique bill and very long, pointed wings.		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen this bird several times on the East Coast and in California.		
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): I consulted Sibley to help determine sex and to see if there were any subspecies with plumage variations.		
This report was made later from memory.		
Date and time of written report: June 6, 2004 at 5:00 PM		
Reporting observer: James D. Beatty		Signature: 
Reporting observer's address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail		
City: Durango	State: CO	Zip: 81301

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601



