

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

19-82-12

A

Species: Audubon's Gull; *Larus auduboni*
(Vernacular name) (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.

Dates (s): 5/1/82 Time Bird Seen: 9⁰⁰A to 10⁰⁰ALocality: Lake Meredith
Silver City, Colorado Cherokee County
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 4x20 binoculars, 24, 22, & 15-45 spotting scopes
BUSHNELLIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: N/ANumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: summerLight conditions: overcast - low, thin cloudsDistance from bird, and how measured: approx 125 ft - estimatedDescribe the bird's overall behavior: Standing in shallow water along
side of Lake Meredith. Feeding by probing underwater. Occasionally would
fly a short distance (50-100 ft) along another part of the shore.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

See previous answer.

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

AND OTHER (1st to spot it - address unknown) Richard Budd - 2727 Maple Street,BILL & TONY MURRAYTOM LARCHE

APPENDIX II Continued

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.

Rather lg. shorebird - approx 12" tall. Long legs, neck & bill; bill appeared slightly upturned. White eye ring & line through eye, with dark cap. Underparts (neck & belly) cinnamon-red, with fine black barring on belly. Back - mottled brown. Unable to tell much about tail when feeding, but in flight saw distinct black tail with broad white stripe near base, also whitish-black wings with distinct white wing stripe. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery - i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: N/A (Barrin seed underneath tail when bent over feeding)

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Mottled godwits & long-billed dowitchers - many of each feeding along shore. At one point, watched H. godwit between 1 mottled godwit & 1 L-b dowitcher (through 30° scope). " " smaller than " " & larger than " " Bill longer & curved upward (instead of drooping tip of L-b dowitcher). Bill spotted than m. godwit.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Mottled godwits & long-billed dowitchers seen on many occasions. First sighting of Hudsonian godwit.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; ~~some~~ day from memory _____.

Name (print) : ROSE M. WATTS & JAMES E. WATTS

Mailing address: 611 31st ST COLO SPRS COLO 80904

Signature: Rose M. Watts

Return Form To:

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

19-82-121

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HUDSONIAN GODWIT
UNUSUAL RECORD

LIMOSA HAEMASTICA

DATE 1 MAY 1982

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 BREEDING PLUMAGE

LOCALITY: LAKE MERIDITH, CROWLEY COUNTY
LAT/LONG 20 (LAS ANIMAS)

NEAREST TOWN: OROWAY

TIME OBSERVED: 8¹⁵ AM - 10¹⁵ AM

DURATION OF OBSERVATION: 2 HOURS

OTHER OBSERVERS:

TOM LARCHER

JIM & ROSIE WATTS

ANN GERBER

LIGHT CONDITIONS: FOG FOR AWHILE WITH INTERMITTENT
BRIGHT INDIRECT SUNLIGHT.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 32X50 BUSHNELL TELESCOPE.
10X50 BUSHNELL BINOCULAR

DISTANCE: 75-150 FEET (22-46 METERS)

BEHAVIOR: OBSERVED FEEDING IN SHALLOW WATER WITH
OTHER WADERS (MARBLED GODIT, LBDOWITCHER,
WILLET, BNSTILT) OBSERVED FLYING ALONG
SHORELINE A FEW FEET ABOVE SURFACE
SEVERAL TIMES.

DESCRIPTION:

RELATIVE SIZE AND SHAPE: A MEDIUM SIZED WADER
WITH LONG LEGS AND BILL. THIS BIRD WAS
SMALLER THAN A MARBLED GODIT, SHORTER-
LEGGED THAN A BNSTILT AND LARGER THAN
A LONG BILLED DOWITCHER. IT WAS OBSERVED

VERY NEAR EACH OF THESE SPECIES.

COLOR PATTERN: OVERALL COLOR PATTERN WHEN NOT FLYING WAS RUFOUS VENTRALLY AND MOTILED GRAY AND WHITE DORSALLY. IN FLIGHT A BOLD BLACK AND WHITE TAIL PATTERN AND A FAIRLY BROAD WHITE WING STRIPE WERE OBSERVABLE. THE TERMINAL $\frac{2}{3}$ OF THE TAIL PATTERN BEING BLACK AND THE BASAL $\frac{1}{3}$ WHITE. THE WHITE WING STRIPE WAS PROMINENT ABOVE THE SECONDARIES AND LESS SO ABOVE THE PRIMARIES.

THE SIDES AND FLANKS WERE EXTENSIVELY BLACK-BARRED. THE UNDERTAIL COVERTS ALSO APPEARED TO BE BARRED.

THE HEAD WAS DARKEST ON CROWN WHICH WAS BROWN AND FINELY ~~IS~~ STREAKED WITH BLACK. A WHITISH LINE WAS OVER THE EYE. THERE WERE NO PROMINENT HEAD MARKINGS. THE BILL WAS LONG, SLENDER AND SOMEWHAT UPTURNED. THE CULMEN AND MOST OF BOTH MANDIBLES WERE DARK, THE COLOR NOT DISCERNIBLE. THE BASAL $\frac{1}{3}$ OF BOTH MANDIBLES WERE FLESH COLORED. THE CONTRASTING COLORS OF THE BILL SEEMED TO BE LESS THAN THAT OF THE MARBLED GODWIT.

THE LEG LENGTH WAS SHORTER THAN THAT OF THE MARBLED GODWIT. WHILE FEEDING IN SHALLOW WATER THE HUDSONIAN GODWIT'S BELLY WAS OBSERVED TO BE AT THE WATER'S SURFACE.

FEEDING NEXT TO THE HUDSONIAN
THE MARBLED GODWIT WAS STANDING
WELL OUT OF THE WATER, ITS ANKLE
(OR TARSALS) ~~WAS~~ WAS AT THE SURFACE.
I WATCHED THE TWO BIRDS FOR A WHILE
TO BE SURE THAT THE HUDSONIAN WAS NOT
STANDING IN A HOLE.

LEG COLOR WAS GRAY.

HABITAT: LARGE RESERVOIR WITH EXTENSIVE MUD
AND SAND SHORE. OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE
PERIMETER OF THE LAKE WAS SHORT GRASS
PRAIRIE.

SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES WERE ELIMINATED
BY THE TAIL PATTERN AS DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT.

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES.

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING
OBSERVATION.

DATE REPORT WRITTEN: MAY 25, 1982

REPORTING OBSERVER

RICHARD BUNN

2727 MAIN

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO. 80907

Richard Bunn