

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

rec'd 22 Sep 02

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: 2002-80

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Little Gull

(Scientific Name) *Larus minutus*

Date(s) of occurrence: Sept 17, 2002

Number of birds seen: TWO

Sex: ?

Plumage: Juvenal

Exact location: Cherry Creek Res.

County: Arapahoe

Nearest town: Greenwood Village

Elevation: ~ 4900 feet

Length of observation: on and off over one hour

Time(s) of observation: 15:30 to 16:30

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Tony Leukering, Nancy Gobris

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): MOB

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Partly cloudy, wind brisk out of the NE, 15 to 20 MPH

Optical equipment used: Kowa TSN4 20x60 zoom

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 1/4 to 1/2 mile

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Reservoir

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The birds were seen resting on the water and flying above the water.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings -- folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

The birds were seen in association with a Sabine's Gull and were smaller and shorter winged. The first bird was in Juvenal plumage and was darker than the other, which Tony pointed out was molting into 1st basic. The Juvenal plumage bird was dark almost black looking on top. The crown, mantle and wings were dark. The head had a small short dark bill, a white face with a dark post ocular spot and dark eye. The bird appeared to have a white nape and white under parts. In flight a prominent dark carpal bar was noticed on the upper wing. The tail was white with a dark terminal band. The under parts including the wings were light. The legs were not seen. The other bird appeared similar to the first, except that the mantle and wings appeared lighter in color.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: None heard

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The combination of carpal bar and size eliminates most gulls except Bonaparte's, Ross's and Black-legged Kittiwake. Black-legged Kittiwake has a black collar on the nape and is much lighter on the back. Ross's gull is browner on the back with a brownish nape. Bonaparte's Gull would also be much browner on the back with a brownish nape. Its size is much closer to the size of Sabine's Gull.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen six or seven before.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Sibley, Guide to birds, 2000.

This report was made from (check one) ☐ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: Sept., 22, 2002

Reporting observer: Ric Olson

Signature:

Reporting observer's address: 9450 N. Heather Dr. Castle Rock, 80108

City:

State:

Zip:

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