

[] STATE OR CIRCULAR RECORD

[] NEW STATE RECORD

[X] ACCEPTED [] REJECTED

Species: LITTLE GULLLarus minutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): June 7 thru 11, 1976*Time Bird Seen: 9:00 AM (4/7) to 3:00 PM (4/12)Locality: Union ReservoirNearest Town: LongmontCounty: Weld

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>SCOTT SERESTA</u>	<u>1973 S. LEYDEN ST. DENVER, COLO.</u>	<u>756-0253</u>
* <u>BRUCE WEBB</u>	<u>BOULDER, COLO.</u>	<u>447-2614</u>
* <u>STEVE LARSON</u>	<u>BOULDER COLO.</u>	<u>442-3752</u>

Optical Equipment: 7X35 BINOCULARS; 20-45X60 TELESCOPEIf photographed, type of equipment used: 400MM TELEPHOTOLight Conditions: VERY GOOD - EXCELLENT (WEATHER - SLIGHTLY HAZY TO FULL SUNLIGHT)Distance from bird (how measured): 50-300 FT CAMERA RANGEFINDER* One bird remained until June 27, 1976Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: _____ Plumage: IMMATURE

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

BIRDS WERE SEEN TOGETHER EVERY OBSERVATION PERIOD (15 HR TOTAL OVER 5 DAYS) USUALLY STANDING ON SHORE, OCCASIONALLY WADING, RARELY SWIMMING AND OCCASIONALLY IN FLIGHT. FLIGHT TERMLIKE OR PIGEONLIKE - RAPID, BUT SOMEWHAT FLUTTERING AND NOT VERY DIRECT. ON SHORE THEY WERE ALERT AND FORAGED CONTINUALLY FOR FOOD; THEY ACTED LIKE BONAPARTE'S GULLS WHEN ON LAND. ON THE 12TH ONE BIRD WAS SEEN SWIMMING AT A DISTANCE FROM SHORE (300 FT), BUT THIS WAS THE ONLY TIME ONE WAS SEEN ON THE WATER AT ANY REAL DISTANCE.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

SIZE AND SHAPE - LENGTH OF BLACK TERN, SHAPE OF RING-BILLED GULL. HEAD WITH SMALL BLACKISH SPOT BEHIND EYE AND DARK GRAY CROWN PATCH. REST OF HEAD, NAPE, UNDERPARTS, RUMP AND TAIL WHITE. TAIL SQUARISH WITH BLACKISH TERMINAL BAND. WING LINES WHITE. MANTLE - PEARL GRAY WITH BLACKISH OUTER PRIMARIES AND BLACKISH BAND FROM WRIST TO TRAILING EDGE OF WING-BODY JOINT.

BILL - SMALL, BLACK, SLIGHTLY DECURVED

EYE - BLACKISH

LEGS AND FEET - BRIGHT RED

IN COMPARISON WITH THE BIRD OBSERVED IN MAY THESE DIFFERENCES WERE NOTED:

MAY BIRD - STRONG HEAD AND WING PATTERN

BIRD 2 (JUNE) - STRONG WING PATTERN (STRONGER THAN MAY BIRD) BUT VERY WEAK HEAD PATTERN. THIS BIRD WAS SEEN SWIMMING ALONE ON 6/12.

BIRD 3 (JUNE) - WEAK WING PATTERN, DARK BAND, ALMOST NOT OBSERVABLE BUT HEAD PATTERN WELL DEFINED. THIS BIRD NOT OBSERVED AFTER 6/11.

20 HRS OF OBSERVATION OF ALL THREE BIRDS LEADS ME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT 3 INDIVIDUALS WERE INVOLVED.

* I BELIEVE THAT STEVE LARSON AND BRUCE WEBB DISCOVERED THESE BIRDS ON 6/6/76 BUT AM NOT CERTAIN OF THAT FACT. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FIRST LITTLE GULL - IT WAS EVIDENTLY DISCOVERED 5/15/76 ON THE LOAHEM SPRING COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH STEVE LARSON AND I FAILED TO OBSERVE IT ON 5/17/76

23-77-60

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: NOT HEARD

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: SHORELINE OF SHALLOW PRAIRIE RESERVOIR, MOSTLY MUDFLAT.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

SIZE ELIMINATES ALL GULLS; SHAPE, ALL TERNS. NO OTHER BLACK-HEADED GULL HAS HEAD WITH DARK CIRCULAR CAP AND CHEEK SPOT. KITTIWAKES LACK DARK CROWN, HAVE DARK BAR ON NAPE, MORE OBVIOUS WING PATTERN, LARGER SIZE.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

PREVIOUS TO THE OBSERVATIONS DETAILED HEREIN, SOME 10-15 YRS WITH A SIMILARLY PLUMAGED BIRD. AT THE TIME OF SIGHTING, NONE WITH SABINE'S GULL OR KITTIWAKE; MUCH WITH BONAPARTE'S, FRANKLIN'S GULLS, LAUGHING GULL.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

DETAILS NOTED IN FIELD. PETERSON GUIDE TO BIRDS OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE HAS THE ONLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF THIS PLUMAGE THAT I HAVE SEEN.

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

PRINT NAME: PETER J. Moulton SIGNATURE: Peter J. Moulton DATE: 12/4/76

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