

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: LITTLE GULL

(Vernacular Name)

Larus minutus

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 13 September 1980Number of birds seen: 1Sex: ?Plumage: Apparently subadultLocality: Barr Lake State ParkElevation: 5100'Nearest town: BrightonCounty: AdamsTime(s) observed: ~1100Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): ~15 min.

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

Richard Bunn - 2727 Main, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80907Kim DuBois - 2090 Jay St., Edgewater, Colo. 80214Warren Finch - 455 Dover, Lakewood, Colo. 80226Bob Spencer - 4430 Gladiola, Golden, Colo. 80401Wayne Wathen - ?

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

Pete Moulton

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

bright sunlight shining on bird from behind observers backOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 15-60X telescope, 10X 50 binocularsDistance, and how measured: minimum estimated distance - ~75'

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):

First observed standing on the sandy lake-shore with 4-5 Ring-billed Gulls. We approached closer, causing no alarm and studied it at length. Finally we advanced closer, causing the bird to fly. It flew off to an island in the lake (alone); we did not observe it further.

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 observed in the field:

Very tiny gull with a minute (short, slight) black bill; head and underparts white; tail white; small, round black spot behind eye; rear-crown and nape gray; mantle pale gray; upperwing in flight completely pale gray with narrow white trailing edge, and no black, dark gray or white marks or spots on wingtip; underwing in flight medium-gray toward trailing edge, becoming slaty toward the leading edge; leg color not noted; flight delicate and tern-like but otherwise not described.

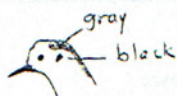


illustration shows head markings only; not intended to precisely show head, bill shape or proportions. redrawn from sketch made in the field

Description, (continued)

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

None heard

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

Plains irrigation reservoir

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Tiny size eliminates virtually all gulls. Gray to slaty underwings eliminates all but larger Black-headed Gull (and Ross' Gull?). Lack of white patch on primaries eliminates Bonaparte's Gull

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

I have seen Little Gulls 3-4 times in Colorado; considerable experience with all common Colorado gulls, and some experience with most rare Colorado gulls.

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

a) at time of observation: Standard field guides

b) after observation:

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

Date and time report was written: 25 October 1980

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 3260 W. 14th Ave. #144, Denver, Colorado 80204

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, COLORADO 80205

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NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Little Gull Larus minutus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 13 September 1980Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: _____Locality: Barr Lake State Park Elevation: 5100'Nearest town: Brighton County: AdamsTime(s) observed: about mid-morningDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15-20 min.

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

Richard Bunn
Kim DuBois
Bob Spencer

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

Pete MoultonLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
bright sun shining on bird from behind observerOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 X 50 binoculars, 15-60 X telescopeDistance, and how measured: minimum estimated distance - 75'

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):

Observed standing on shore of lake in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls, and then in flight.

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:

Very tiny gull with a minute (short and slight) black bill; head and underparts white with a small round black spot in the auricular area and dark gray rear crown and nape; tail white; mantle pale gray; upperwing in flight pale gray with narrow white trailing edge; underwing in flight medium-gray toward trailing edge, becoming slate along the leading edge; leg color not noted.

Description (continued):

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

None

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

Plains irrigation reservoir

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Very small size and dark underwings eliminate other species

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

I have seen many Bonaparte's Gulls, but only about 3 Little Gulls and no Black-headed Gulls

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

a) at time of observation: *None*

b) after observation: *Standard references*

This report was written from reports made during x, after observation from memory

Date and time report was written: 8 February 1982

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: Robert Andrews

Address: 3260 W. 14th Ave., # 144, Denver, Colorado 80204

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

Species: LITTLE GULLLARUS MINUTUS

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 14 SEPTEMBER 1980Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: _____

Plumage: BASIC, NOT QUITE FULLY ADULTLocality: BARR LAKE STATE PARKElevation: CA 1550 MNearest town: HUDSONCounty: ADAMSTime(s) observed: CA 11:30 AM - NOONDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) 30 MIN. CONTINUOUSLY

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

NONE

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

ROBERT ANDREWS 1390 S. IVY WAY, DENVER, COLO. AND MEMBERS OF THE DFO FALL COUNT GROUP OBSERVED THE BIRD ON 13 SEPTEMBER.

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

EXCELLENT; BIRD FRONTLIGHTED BY STRONG MIDDAY SUNOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 15-60X60MM RANSCH LOMB SCOPEDistance, and how measured: 100-150 M ESTIMATED

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):

RESTING ON BELLY WITH LEGS FOLDED - 60% OF OBSERVATIONSTANDING AND PREENING - 40% OF OBSERVATIONNOT OBSERVED TO FLY, FEED, CALL OR INTERACT WITH OTHER GULLS

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 observed in the field:

A TINY GULL, BULKING NO MORE THAN 50% OF NEARBY L. PIPIXCAN; CHUNKY-BODIED, RATHER SMALL-HEADED AND DEFINITELY SMALL-BILLED.

MANTEL - UNIFORMLY PALE PEARLY GRAY; SPREAD WING TIPS WITH NO BLACK VISIBLE; PRIMARIES TIPPED WITH WHITE.

UNDERPARTS - SNOWY WHITE; UNDERSIDE OF SPREAD WING DINGY WHITISH BASALLY, DEEPENING TO SLATE ON UNDERSIDE OF PRIMARIES.

TAIL - WHITE, RATHER SQUARE-TIPPED WHEN SEEN FOLDED (NOT SEEN SPREAD); A SMALL DARK GRAY CORNER AT EACH SIDE OF TIP WHEN SEEN FROM BENEATH - POSSIBLY A VESTIGIAL TAIL BAND.

HEAD - WHITE, WITH A PALE GRAY CAP EXTENDING FROM MIDCROWN TO NAPE; A SMALL, NEARLY CIRCULAR, BLACKISH AURICULAR SPOT BEHIND AND SOMEWHAT BELOW EACH EYE.

(OVER)

Description, (continued)

BILL - SMALL, SHORTER THAN LENGTH OF HEAD, AND SLENDER;
SLIGHTLY DECURVED; BLACK.

TARSI, TOES, WEBS - CORAL PINK

NOTE: I HAVE NEVER OBSERVED THIS SPECIES IN ANY DEFINITIVE PLUMAGE STATE, BUT THE DARK TAIL CORNERS AND RATHER PALE WING LININGS LEAD ME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE BIRD WAS SLIGHTLY SHORT OF DEFINITIVE BASIC PLUMAGE. ALL LITERATURE STUDIED INDICATES THAT THE TAIL IS QUITE WHITE AND THE UNDERWINGS QUITE BLACK IN ALL ADULT PLUMAGES; AS THE IMMATURE HAS WHITE WING LININGS, THE SUBJECT SEEMED TO BE IN AN INTERMEDIATE STAGE. ALL OTHER CHARACTERS SUGGEST A DEFINITIVE BASIC STATE, SO PERHAPS THE BIRD WAS STILL UNDERGOING THE LAST STAGES OF PREBASIC MOLT.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): NONE HEARD

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

WARM-WATER RESERVOIR SPECIFICALLY ON BARREN SANDY ISLAND; MOSTLY IN COMPANY WITH LARUS PIPIXCAN, THOUGH SEVERAL OTHER SPECIES PRESENT.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

NO OTHER VERY SMALL GULL HAS UNIFORMLY GRAY WINGTIPS (DORSIDE); ALL HAVE MORE OR LESS DISTINCTIVE BLACK AND WHITE PATTERNS, EXCEPT RHODOSTETHIA ROSEA WHICH IS DISCOUNTED AS AN UNREASONABLE POSSIBILITY (IT LACKS AURICULAR SPOTS IN ANY CASE).

LARUS PHILADELPHIA - THIS, THE ONLY REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE, LACKS THE GRAY CAP, IS LARGER AND ALWAYS DISPLAYS SOME KIND OF STRIKING BLACK AND WHITE WING PATTERN.

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

3 L. MINUTUS IMMATURES OBSERVED AT UNION RESERVOIR, WELD COUNTY IN MAY-JUNE OF 1976; CA 40 HRS TOTAL OBSERVATION TIME.

COMMONLY OBSERVE L. PHILADELPHIA DURING SPRING AND FALL (ESPECIALLY) MIGRATIONS.

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

- a) at time of observation: NO FIELD GUIDE AVAILABLE; HAD BEEN ALERTED TO THE BIRD'S PRESENCE ON 13 SEPTEMBER BY ONE OF THE DFO FALL COUNT OBSERVERS.
- b) after observation: COMPARISONS WITH STANDARD AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FIELD GUIDES, AS WELL AS AC BENT'S LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GULLS AND TERNS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE BIRD'S AGE. NO REAL INFLUENCE.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ observation; from memory ☐.

Date and time report was written: 14 SEPTEMBER 1980; 4:00 PM

Reporting observer: PETER MAULTON Signature: Peter J. Maulton

Address: 8050 NIWOT RD. #35 LONGMONT, COLORADO 80501

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