

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 | LARUS MINUTUS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 13th NOVEMBER 1988Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: 1ST WINTERLocality: CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR Elevation: 5200'Nearest town: DENVER County: ARAPAHOETime(s) observed: 8-45 am → 10-45 amDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 2 HOURS

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

COEN DEXTER GRAND JUNCTION. DIETER KAMM EVERGREEN

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

WADE LEITNER

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

BRIGHT SUNSHINEOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): TELESCOPE 20x → 60x BINOCLARS 10xDistance, and how measured: 150 yds → 500 yds, 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):

MOSTLY FLYING LOW OVER THE WATER, OCCASIONALLY DIVING INTO THE WATER.ALSO RESTED ON THE WATER 3 TIMES FOR A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME.

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:

ONCE WHEN THIS BIRD SAT ON THE WATER IT WAS NEXT TO AN ADULT BONAPARTE'S GULL. IT WAS VERY NOTICEABLY SMALLER IN SIZE, SEEMED SLIGHTLY MORE BUOYANT, AND ITS WINGS REACHED FARTHER BEYOND THE TAIL THAN IN THE OTHER GULL. WHEN SITTING, BESIDES THE AURICULAR SPOT, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF BLACK ON THE HEAD AND GOING DOWN TOWARDS THE

Description (continued):

NECK WAS VERY NOTICEABLE. THE FOREHEAD WAS WHITE. THE BILL WAS BLACK AND VERY SHORT, NOTICEABLY SHORTER THAN IN THE BONAPARTE'S GULL. WHEN SITTING THE DARK CARPAL BAR AND BLACK PRIMARIES ALSO STOOD OUT. IN FLIGHT THE 'W' PATTERN ACROSS THE UPPER WINGS WAS VERY DARK AND STRIKING. I THOUGHT IT AS DARK AS IN BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AND CONSIDERABLY DARKER THAN IN 1ST WINTER BONAPARTE'S GULL. ALSO SEEN IN FLIGHT WAS A DARK TIP TO THE OTHERWISE WHITE TAIL, AND THE UPPER PRIMARIES WERE TOTALLY DARK WITH NO WHITE PATCH, UNLIKE THE PATCH IN BONAPARTE'S GULL.

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

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

FLYING OVER AND SITTING ON RESERVOIR.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

1ST WINTER BONAPARTE'S GULL WAS ELIMINATED BY 1) SMALLER OVERALL SIZE 2) SMALLER BILL
3) EXTENSIVE BLACK ON CROWN 4) VERY DARK 'W' WING PATTERN 5) NO WHITE IN UPPER PRIMARIES
1ST WINTER KITTIWAKE WAS ELIMINATED BY 1) SMALLER SIZE 2) NO DARK HAND NECK 3) SMALLER DARK TAIL BAND.

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

HAVE SEEN LITTLE GULL IN CALIFORNIA, AND QUITE FREQUENTLY IN EUROPE.

SEE BONAPARTE'S GULLS ANNUALLY SEVERAL TIMES.

HAVE SEEN BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE SEVERAL TIMES IN COLORADO, ALSO ELSEWHERE.

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

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL FIELD GUIDE, GOLDEN FIELD GUIDE
GUIDE TO BIRDS OF BRITAIN & EUROPE by HEINTZEL et al.

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 5pm 13th NOVEMBER 1988

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S 35th St, BOULDER, CO 80303.

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, CO 80205