

SPECIES: LITTLE GULL
(Vernacular Name)

LARUS MINUTUS. 23-95-39

(Scientific Name)

DATE(S): 9-24-95 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 2:45 A.M. TO 4:00 A.M.

EXACT LOCATION: UNION RESERVOIR

NEAREST TOWN: LONGMONT COUNTY: BOULDER

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

DAVE LEATHERMAN

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: BAUSCH 5' LONG 8x36 BINOCULARS; SPACEMASTER 15-95x50

WEATHER CONDITIONS: PARTIALLY CLOUDY BUT BRIGHT

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: BIRD IN FRONT, SUN ALMOST DIRECTLY TO RIGHT

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: APPROXIMATED AT 125 FEET

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: JUVENILE

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: THE BIRD WOULD FLUTTER AND DIVE REPEATEDLY SIMILAR TO BLACK TERNS IN AREA. IT WOULD THEN FLY IN A CIRCULAR PATTERN AND PERFORM THE SAME ANTIKS. AFTER 45 MIN IT FLEW TO THE NORTH SHORE OF THE RESERVOIR AND LANDED WITH FRANKLINS GULLS.

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.): THE BIRD HAD A BLACKISH-BROWN CROWN THAT EXTENDED ONTO THE NAPE. THERE WAS A DARK SPOT BEHIND AND SLIGHTLY BELOW THE EYE. THE DARK CROWN GAVE THE BIRD A CAPPED LOOK.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): THE EYE WAS DARK. THE AREA AROUND THE EYE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE DARK SPOT, WAS WHITE

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): THE BILL WAS BLACK

LEGS & FEET: THE UPPER LEG WAS FLESHY-PINK. WE NEVER SAW THE FEET

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): THERE WAS A BLACK BROWN COLLAR THAT EXTENDED AROUND THE SIDES OF THE NECK AND CONTINUED DOWN THE UPPER BACK; THE LOWER BACK AND UPPERTAIL COVERTS LOOKED LIGHT BROWNISH-GRAY.

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): FROM THE BILL TO THE DARK TIP OF THE TAIL, THE UNDERPARTS WERE A CLEAN WHITE; NO SMUDGES OR DARK AREAS ANYWHERE

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):
THE TAIL HAD A BLACK TIP THAT EXTENDED ONLY 15-20% OF
THE TAIL; OTHERWISE THE REMAINDER OF THE TAIL WAS WHITE;
THE TAIL LOOKED SQUARE-TIPPED OR VERY SLIGHTLY ROUNDED.

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): THE WINGS HAD A DARK
"M" PATTERN AS THE BIRD WAS FLYING AWAY. THE LEADING EDGE OF THE
PRIMARIES WAS DARK AS WELL AS A DARK LINE FROM THE WRIST
TOWARDS THE TRAILING EDGE AT THE SCAPULARS. THE SECONDARIES LOOKED GRAYISH-

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

HABITAT: LAKE AREAS (AS IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF UNION RES.)

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

THE GULL WAS SMALL, APPEARING ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN A KILLDEER.
THE OVERALL DARKNESS OF THE SITTING BIRD ALONG WITH THE DARK CROWN
AND WING PATTERN WOULD RULE OUT BONAPARTES. THE DARK HEAD
AND BACK AND THE SMALL SIZE WOULD RULE OUT COMMON BLACK HEADED
GULL. THE SQUARE TAIL AND DINGIER SECONDARIES AND LIGHTER LOWER
BACK WOULD RULE OUT SABINES GULL. THE SMALL SIZE AND SQUARE
TAIL AND DARK CROWN WOULD RULE OUT BLACK-LEGGED KITWAKE. ALL
OTHER GULLS ARE LARGER AND HAVE DIFFERENT WING PATTERNS AND
DIFFERENT OVERALL COLORATION.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

I HAVE SEEN TWO IMMATURE LITTLE GULLS PRIOR TO THIS ONE.
I HAVE OBSERVED NINE SABINES GULL, INCLUDING FIVE IMMATURES
AND THREE BLACK-LEGGED KITWAKES INCLUDING TWO IMMATURES, THIS
BIRD WAS NOTICEABLY SMALLER THAN THE FRANKLINS GULL WITH WHICH
IT ROOSTED AND APPEARED SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE BLACK TERNS WITH IT.

WINGS: ALL OF THE WING COVERTS HAD A LIGHT TIP TO THE FEATHERS,
GIVING A BARRED EFFECT ON THE SITTING BIRD.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC "FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA"
AUBOONS "MASTER GUIDE SERIES"
GRANT "GULLS"

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☐ OBSERVATION; ☐ FROM MEMORY

NAME: JOSEPH MAMMOSER SIGNATURE: *Joseph Mammoser* DATE: 9-26-95