

18-84-9

## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

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Species: lesser golden-plover ; Pluvialis dominica  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)The hyphen is unclear, wouldn't you say? Without it would the plover be less golden?

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): Sept. 21, '83 Time Bird Seen: 10:30am. to 10:45Locality: 3.5 mi. west of Grand Jct.Mesa County, CO  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7 X 35

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: basicLight conditions: mix of sun + cloudsDistance from bird, and how measured: 40 ft. estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

searching among rocks, mud and scattered salt cedar seedlings, much just walking about, flushed with other waders and landed alone 150 yds. away (saw rump + tail well as it turned in flight)  
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
edge of old gravel quarry lake (Walker Lake)

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

none (one tried)

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Larger than killdeer (which were there, with lesser yellowlegs)

Plover plump rather than yellowlegs slim, head relatively larger than typical sandpiper types (relative to body) [this from memory, not notes]

Light brown bird, back with tiny yellowish flecks, brown extends through rump and tail, auricular spot looks like black-bellied plover's; breast brown, too

Bill size relative to head size appears larger than killdeer's and smaller than black-b. plover's

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

none heard (none recorded)

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Black-bellied plover: Sept. 27 (6 days later) saw a very much lighter plover with white rump (tho tail seemed dark), bill size slightly larger (although for b-b plover I thought it a bit small), spots on back had no hint of yellow

An even more accidental plover; Can't say it wasn't a greater golden plover - didn't notice underwing back pattern eliminates Oriental plover & other dotterels

other shorebirds: it was a plover or I'll eat crow! bill not tapered to a point like sandpiper bills are, head relatively large; back pattern eliminates mtn. plover.

Prior experience with this and similar species: I have seen this golden p. sp. in bas

plumes in Michigan + twice in Samoa. The black-bellied plover in basic plumage is seen just about every year three or four times.

This report was written from notes made during immediately after ✓ observation; from memory           .

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Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
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