

## APPENDIX III

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST—SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD \_\_\_\_\_ UNUSUAL RECORD XSpecies: Lesser Golden Plover / *Pluvius dominica fulva*  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

Date: 11/12/91

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: juvenile

Lat/long: 8 Distribution Code: M Habitat Code: W/OG

Locality: Orchard Mesa Elevation: approximately 4700'

Nearest town: Clifton, CO County: Mesa

Time(s) observed: 4:00-4:05 p.m. and 4:30-4:50 p.m.

Duration of observation: 5 min. and 20 min.

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Coen Dexter, 3227 D Rd.,  
Clifton, Co. 81526

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None

Light conditions: Good light, sun low in west, clear sky.

Optical equipment used: 7x35 Nikon binoculars

Distance and how measured: 30 feet. estimated

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Pentax K1000, Prospec 500mm  
mirror lens, Ektachrome 200 film.

Who else photographed the bird: Coen Dexter

## Describe the bird's behavior:

Bird was feeding slowly along the edge of a small pond. It flew 20 yards or so across the pond when it was flushed. The bird was relatively tame and approachable. It occasionally raised and lowered its head when it was not actively feeding.

Describe in detail the bird's size, shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape.

Notes taken at 4:00 during observation: Shorebird approximately 8-9" (barely larger than W. meadowlark which landed nearby.) Longish neck, small head. Very short, very black, glossy bill (shorter than length of head). Medium long legs, black, less glossy than the bill. Large black eye. Back nearly black, speckled with buff. Back of neck lighter, finely streaked. Top of head finely streaked. Foreneck, breast buffy and finely streaked with black. Broad, light buffy eyebrow stripe. Dark patch behind eye. Light buff on face at base of bill. Underparts whitish with light buffy tinge. Notes at

4:30: back and wings uniformly dark. No sign of white. Bird much yellower overall than Nat'l Geog paintings of Black-bellied Plover.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery:  
No vocalizations heard.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Muddy shore of a tiny pond in an agricultural area.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?  
Black-bellied plover is grayer, stouter bird showing a white rump and wing streak in flight.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?  
None with basic plumaged Pluvius plovers.

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

A) At time of observation:  
National Geographic Field Guide to North American Birds. Used to determine the marks separating Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plovers.

B) After observation:  
Used several books to determine the subspecies.

1. Nat'l Geog. (Scott). Streaking of the observed bird was most like that of the *fulva* wintering adult. Are these paintings labeled correctly?
2. Western Birds (Peterson, 1990). Observed bird was yellower, slimmer than either *dominica* or *fulva* paintings here.
3. North American Birds (Udvardy 1977). Bird was much buffier than the bird in photo 235. Streaking was much clearer and cleaner than on this bird.
4. Birds of Eastern NA (Peterson, 1980). Bird was not much like the winter lesser on p 119. Much yellower.
5. Encyclopedia of NA Birds (Terres). Photo on p 717 of American Golden Plover is close to the observed bird in general coloration. It is perhaps a bit plumper. (Is this bird correctly identified in the book?)
6. North Atlantic Shorebirds (Chandler). The observed bird was most like the photo on top of page 79. Supercilium definitely yellowish, breast streaked.
7. Shorebirds of the World. 82d and 82 on the bottom row are the best match to the observed bird. (Dexter picked 5 paintings from this page as resembling what he saw. All 5 were Pacific Golden Plovers. He had not seen the accompanying text before he made his selections.)

This report was written from reports made during observation X, and after observation x, from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

Date and time report was written: December 22, 1991.

Reporting observer: Richard Levad

Signature: *Richard Levad*

Address: 2924 Ronda Lee Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81503

NOTE: Routed through the Committee again in  
1994 for consideration as PACIFIC  
GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)..  
However. it was not accepted as this  
recent split from the Lesser Golden-  
Plover.

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒ A

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

Species: Lesser Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): Nov 12, 1991Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: WinterLatilong: 3 Distribution Code: M Habitat Code: V/OGLocality: Orencia Mesa Elevation: 4600'Nearest town: Grand Jet County: MesaTime(s) observed: 4:00 - 5:00Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 min

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

Rich Leoad

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

Rich Leoad

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

Sun opposite to birdOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8x30 binocsDistance and how measured: 30' with camera equipmentIf photographed, type of equipment and film: 60 ASA 500 mm MirrorWho else photographed the bird: Rich Leoad

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

walking on mud flat trying to avoid us,

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:

Bird was Killdeer size - longer legs, stimmer longer neck and smaller than black-bellied

Description (continued): Plouet. Bird was speckled on back, head and lightly on flanks. Neck was streaked lightly on sides and front.

Color behinds the speckles and streaks was very blue to gold on back. Belly was lighter. very noticeably  
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:

Mudflat - small drying up pond with weedy growth just past the shore line (20 ft)  
How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Black-bellied plouet - larger, heavier bird <sup>(was)</sup> black underwing - gold wing & wing stripe  
white rump

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

I have seen both species on several occasions. (Lesser Golden Plover in the Yukon)

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

a) At time of observation: National Geographic

b) After observation: all available sources

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation \_\_\_\_\_, from memory X

Date and time report was written: Dec 20, 1991

Reporting observer: Cam Dexter Signature: Cam Dexter

Address: 3227 D Rd Clifton, CO 81520

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