

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Greater Black-backed Gull | Larus marinus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): NOVEMBER 25, 1987

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: 1st winter

Locality: Prewitt Reservoir Elevation: —

Nearest town: MERINO County: Washington ^{Washington} ~~Local~~ ^{County}

Time(s) observed: OFFERON from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): Totally probably 20 minutes

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

BILL Prather 13810 West 6th Ave Longmont, Co. 80501 (303-776-2191)

Joe Himmel 14th St. Greeley Co. 80632 (303-352-0288)

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

NONE

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

Great Light, saw at our backs mostly, sunny day.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x35 Binoculars 20 to 35x Scope

Distance, and how measured: from 200 to 400 yards

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):

Flying about greatly feeding and resting. When it would alight on the water it was usually hard to find and very far away and we would lose track of it sometimes for hours then it started flying about, a labored slow wingbeat.

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 Large Gull, much larger than nearby Herring Gulls with very large looking dark bill. ~~It~~ It had a white head that contrasted with a checkered ^{BACK} ~~back~~. This black and white checkered ~~back~~ ^{back} blended into back

the primaries which at that point was very dark
the edges of both the primaries and secondaries
were also dark and seemed to blend into the checkered
pattern of the middle part of the secondaries. It
had a whitish rump and has a dark wide subterminal
band that was somewhat diffused looking. This Gull had
slow wingbeats also. The huge size which was →

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

NONE

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

open Dan (water)

st How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

ear Herring Gull - overall smaller, doesn't have checkered pattern on the back,
doesn't have the white head (that contrasts with the back). Has less of
contrast between rump and subterminal band and band more complete.
also smaller bill. about the same for 2nd year Herring. Lesser
~~Black-backed Gull~~ - way too small -

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

I've seen thousands of Herring Gulls and hundreds to thousands of
Greater Black-backed Gulls (all plumages) on the Great Lakes.

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

a) at time of observation: Geographic field guide to the birds.

b) after observation: —

This report was written from reports made during ☒, after observation ☒ from me:

Date and time report was written: November 25, 1987

Reporting observer: Jerry Cairo Signature: Jerry Cairo

Address: 2621 23rd Avenue #36 Greeley, Co. 80631

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CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

even bigger than a nearby GLAUCOUS GULL and its bill were the first clues then the white head (unmarked) contrasting with the checkered back and wings was the second clue and then the diffused band on the subterminal part of the tail with a whitish rump was the final clue. It looked just like the first year GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS that I use to see along Lake Erie when I lived in Ohio. Underwings of this bird appeared mainly gray-brown.

