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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL | LARUS MARINUS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 3/12/1988Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: 1ST WINTERLocality: WALDEN POND & TELLER LAKE #5, BOULDER Elevation: 5300'Nearest town: BOULDER County: BOULDERTime(s) observed: 10:50 - 11 am & 4 pm - 5 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 10 mins & 1 hour

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

DOUG WARD, DAVID MARTIN, DUANE NELSON

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

BILL BROCKNER DICK SCHOTTLEK

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

OVERCAST DAY, NO SUNOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): TELESCOPE 20x-40x BINOCULARS 10xDistance, and how measured: 50 yds WALDEN - 100 yds TELLER 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):

Flying, standing & feeding on fish. At dead fish, it displaced all other gulls when it approached.

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:

Size - same as Glaucous Gulls. 3" larger and noticeably longer wingspan than Herring Gulls. The bill was large and all dark. The head was all white except for a dark line behind the eye. The breast was also mostly white with diffuse marking on the flanks and on the hind neck. The ^{upper} wings and back were spotted with dark brown giving

Description (continued):

a spotted appearance: it looked VERY like the 1st winter bird on page 155 of National Geographic guide. The best field mark was in flight. The tail had a dark terminal band and the upper tail and rump were white. In between was thin banding which increased towards the terminal band and was strongest in the middle of the upper tail. This is diagnostic of a 1st winter Great Black Backed gull and is well illustrated on page 157 of the European guide listed below. The underwings were all dark and the legs and feet were pink.

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:

On ice of the two ponds.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The tail pattern eliminates Herring, Thayers, California and Lesser Black-backed gulls. The last 3 are also eliminated on larger size. Glaucous, Glaucous-winged and Iceland are eliminated by black primaries. The 1st winter Herring gulls nearly had head, breast and upper tail & rump all dark brown. These birds appeared all dark and did not have the spotted appearance. Their bills were also only dark tipped and not all dark.

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

Seen Great Black-backed Gull extensively in Europe and East Coast.

Lots of experience in Colorado with Herring and California gulls.

Have seen immature Lesser Black-backed gulls in Europe.

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

a) at time of observation:

National Geographic Field Guide. The Birds of Britain & Europe by Hengeford, Fitter & Parslow.

b) after observation:

Published by Collins in 1972.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: 5:30 - 6 pm 3/12/88

Reporting observer: PETER 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