

23-88-34

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## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Great Black-backed Gull ; Larus marinus  
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

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): 9-03-88 Time Bird Seen: 10 AM to \_\_\_\_\_Locality: Nee So Pah Res. , se. of EadsKiowa Co., Colorado Lat/long # 21

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Zeiss 8x30 , Bushnell 7x50 , Bushnell 20x Scope

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

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: 2nd Summer?Light conditions: SunnyDistance from bird, and how measured: At one point as little as 100' estimate.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The bird was first seen in low flight coming to Nee So Pah from the northeast. It made two passes past observers, then disappeared to the southwest.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Shallow 100 acre pond.

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

Diane SeltmanThis bird was seen but not studied by David Martin.

Great Black-backed Gull

9-03-88 Seltman

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.

What was apparently a 2nd year bird was seen in flight as close as 100 feet. Huge, eagle-sized gull, with very slow wing beats. Primaries jet black both top and bottom. Mantle dark gray with mottled back. Tail marked much like Rough-legged Hawk's - white at base with black subterminal band and white tips. Bill gray and massive with black tip. Breast coarsely mottled. Head white with some streaking on crown and nape. Feet pale flesh color. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Other large dark-winged gulls eliminated largely by size. At one point this gull flew right next to a Ring-billed Gull and seemed almost twice as large. California, Herring, and Lesser Black-Backed immatures would not dwarf Ring-bill in size. Western Gull also too small - extremely unlikely in e. Colorado. Prior experience with this and similar species:

This is the first Great Black-backed I have seen. I am quite familiar with all large gulls from the western U.S.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after X observation;  
from memory \_\_\_\_\_.

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Signature: Scott Seltman

Return Form To:

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c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
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