

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____

UNUSUAL RECORD XACCEPT 7-0**Species:** Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)Red 1/18/00 wpl**Date:** 3, 9, 31 January 1999**Number seen:** one**Sex:** ?**Plumage:** Def. Basic**Locality:** North Marina, Pueblo Reservoir**Elevation:** about 5000'**Nearest town:** Pueblo West**County:** Pueblo**Time observed:** 3rd - 17:05 - 17:15 MST; 9th - 09:00 - 09:20 MST; 13th - 08:45 - 09:05 MST**Duration of observation:** off and on for a total of about 5-10 minutes each day

Description: I found the returning Pueblo Reservoir Great Black-backed Gull (GBBG) three times in January 1999. This bird has been present each winter at this site since at least the winter of 1993-1994. The bird was a very large gull, dwarfing the nearby Ring-billed Gulls (RBGU). The head was white, with faint, dark streaks; at any distance, the bird looked white-headed. The eyes were very small for the bird's size, making the eye color difficult to discern at any distance. At closest approach, I could see that they were pale, but usually they looked dark. The bill was yellow, very large (with a strong gonydeal angle), and had a red gonydeal spot. The mantle and upperwing were nearly black - the black wingtips only contrasted with the upperwing color slightly. The primaries were all tipped with white. The tenth primary had the distal 1/6 of the feather entirely white and there was a large, white mirror on P9. The rump, tail, and underparts were all white. The legs were pale pink. Only a couple primary tips extended beyond the tail tip.

Similar species eliminated: The only truly similar species have never been recorded in Colorado and both are very rare in the U.S. Slaty-backed Gull (SBGU) is smaller, has distinct head streaking, larger eyes, brighter pink legs, a different pattern on P10, and a smaller bill. Kelp Gull (KEGU) has yellow legs and a different wingtip pattern.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): No vocalizations heard.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen 1000s of GBBGs, one SBGU, and no KEGUs. I have also seen >50 Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Light conditions: sun in various juxtapositions

Optical equipment used: Kowa 30x and Zeiss 7x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance at 35 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Brandon Percival (on the 3rd), Sue Bonfield and Peter Gaede (on the 9th), and Doug Faulkner (on the 31st)

Other observers who saw the bird independently: many, many others

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Canon rig with 420 mm lens setup and Ektachrome Lumiere 100 film, pushed to 200 ISO

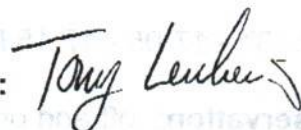
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:



Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 28 February 1999 from notes (written on the evening of the 9th) and from reviewing my photographs of the bird