

CFO-RC-FILE

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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Rcd 1/6/00 wpl

Results: ACCEPT 70Species: Great Black-backed Gull
(Common Name)Larus marinus
(Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: February 18, 1999.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: unknown.

Plumage: adult basic.

Exact location: South side of Nee Noshe Reservoir, Colorado.

County: Kiowa.

Nearest town: Lamar or Eads.

Length of Observation: seven minutes.

Time(s) of Observation: 1049am to 1056am.

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Todd Dilley.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None that I know of.

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]: Good, sunny.

Optical equipment used: 10x40 Bausch & Lomb Binoculars. Did not get the scope on the bird. It was very windy and bird was mostly seen in flight, though it briefly landed on the shore and island twice.

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted): About 50 feet to 80 yards.

Was the bird photographed: no. If so, have you submitted photos? n/a.

Who took the photographs? n/a.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was observed on the lake shore of Nee Noshe Reservoir, near Herring Gulls.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): I first noticed the bird in flight, then it landed for a minute, then flew around giving good views, then it landed on a sand bar about 80 yards out on the lake, again with other Herring Gulls. Then it flew off again after a minute.

Describe the bird in detail: This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the (bird(s). Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. That were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted: you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes):

The size was large, about five inches larger than the nearby Herring Gulls, while sitting. About 30 inches in length. The shape was of a large gull. The bird was a gull because of size, colors, and shape. The bird was an adult in basic plumage. The head was all white and very blocky shaped (not round headed), with no noticeable streaks. The throat was white. The under sides of the bird were all white. The nape was white. The mantle (back) and wings were dark black, not slate gray. The tail was all white with out any other color markings. The bill was yellow with a red spot on the lower mandible at the angle part of the lower mandible, the bill was large and thick (like other large gulls). The legs and feet were dull pink. The legs were very long. The eyes were light. While the gull was sitting, I noticed the four or five white primary tips on each wing that seems quite large. In flight, I saw the white trailing edge to the wings going to the primaries. The first primaries on each wing were all white. The other primaries were not as white, most had some black on them. The bird was a Great Black-backed Gull because of its size, shape of the head, and black mantle and wings. No gull is this dark backed and had pink legs.

Describe the bird's song and calls if heard: None heard.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Adult Lesser Black-backed and Slaty-backed Gulls are slate gray, not black.

Adult Yellow-footed Gulls have yellow legs.

Adult Western Gulls might be as dark, though the species would be about the same size as Herring Gull, or at least, only an inch or two bigger, not five inches bigger. Also, the primary tips smaller.

Adult Kelp Gulls would have gray or greenish colored legs, not pink.

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

Great Black-backed Gull: I have seen one adult bird at Pueblo Reservoir, Colorado many times in recent years, and once at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Colorado. It would not surprise me if this Great Black-backed Gull at Nee Noshe Res., wasn't the Pueblo Reservoir bird last reported on Jan. 31, 1999.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: I have seen several adults in recent years in Colorado.

Slaty-backed Gull: I have not seen.

Yellow-footed Gull: I have seen about six of them at the Salton Sea in California during the winter of 1993. Most of those birds were adults or near adults.

Western Gull: I have seen thousands in California, during trips there in 1989, 1993 (twice; summer and winter), and in 1998.

Kelp Gull: I have not seen.

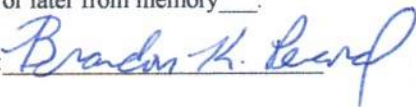
List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced you identification (during and after observation):

None needed. I have seen adult Great Black-backed Gulls (or the same bird) many times in recent years.

This report was made from notes taken during X , or after X observation, or later from memory__.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival.

Signature:



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