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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: Black-legged Kittiwake | RISSA TRIDACTYLA
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 12/6/80 2 birds 12/14/80 1 birdNumber of birds seen: 2 Sex: ? Plumage: IMMATURELocality: VAL MONT RESERVIOR Elevation: 5300'Nearest town: BOULDER County: BOULDERTime(s) observed: 1st MORNING ~10 am BOTH TIMESDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 mins on 12/6 10 mins on 12/14

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

LARRY HALSEY on 12/6, BRUCE WEBB on 12/14.

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

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

SUN MOSTLY BEHIND THE VALMONT OVERLOOK.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): TELESCOPE 20-45 POWERDistance, and how measured: on 12/6 approx 1/2 mile, 12/14 ≈ 3/4 mile 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):

They would fly over the reservoir and then dive into it. On 12/6 they sat on the water for some time - their flight and posture on the water were buoyant compared to the mostly Ring billed Gulls that were also there.

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:

Both birds were very noticeably smaller than the many Ring billed Gulls present, they seemed more like the size of a Franklin's Gull (not present). Both birds were well marked as immatures. The first thing noticed was the distinct

Description (continued):

dark W pattern of the upper wings, with the outer primaries very dark. Then the solid black tip to the otherwise white tail was obvious, and more observation convinced me the tail were wedge shaped. The dark band across the back of the neck was also easy to see when the birds were in flight and was distinctive. When they were sitting this dark band and the spot behind the eye could both be clearly distinguished. The tops of their heads were white. No bright colour was seen underneath the birds. 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:

FLYING OVER AND DIVING INTO VALMONT RESERVOIR.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

and SABINE'S
Imm LITTLE GULL - larger size and no black cap. Imm FRANKLIN'S GULL - upper wing pattern.
Imm BONAPARTE'S GULL - by dark neck band and black reaching to end of tail.
Same applies to BLACK HEADED GULL. ROSS' GULL - wrong size and tail shape, dark neck band.
RED LEGGED KITTIWAKE - did not see any red legs when birds were in flight.
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Seen one immature before in Colorado, seen many adults and immatures on both coasts in U.S.A. and in England.

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

- a) at time of observation: Robbins et al Golden Field Guide - did not influence identification, which was made before I looked at the guide.
b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: 1/28/81

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35th STREET, BOULDER, COLORADO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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