

Species: BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
(Vernacular name)RISSA tridactyla [A]
(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.

Date (s): DEC. 1, 1983 Time Bird Seen: 11:00AM - 12:30PM ^{later}
1:05PM to 1:15PM
Locality: PUEBLO RES. (1. m. ^{East} of Turkey Creek inlet)
PUEBLO PUEBLO CO. COLO.
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7X35 BUSHWELL BINOCULARS 30-45X BUSHWELL SCOPEIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Not successful!Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: U Plumage: immatureLight conditions: Sun-overhead - bird west of point of observation, no glare - easily seenDistance from bird, and how measured: 30 to 50 yardsDescribe the bird's overall behavior: FLYING AMONG RING-BILLED + BONAPARTE'S GULLS
WHILE FEEDING ON SHAD. SEEN SITTING ON WATER + FLYING OCCASIONALLY DIVING
(FLYING TO WATER) AFTER SHAD. SEEN CHASING COMMON GOLDFEYE FOR THEIR SHAD.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

LAKE (WITHIN PRAIRIE + SEMI-ARID AREAS SURROUNDING)

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

DAVE GRIFFITHS ? next day or so? Rare Bird alert notified Dec 1, 83 (2PM)

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.

SIZE - Slightly smaller than ring-billed gull & slightly larger than the Bonaparte's gull (directly compared sizes)

HEAD - white, plain - (except a dark spot "grail" just above a curicular) eye - dark nape - dark-slate

BILL - black, thicker & shorter than Bonaparte's Back - plain, gray rump - light gray, plain

upper tail coverts - plain, white Tail - white-black band at tip (see drawing) Throat, BREAST, BELLY - plain, white

under tail coverts - plain, white legs - black

Wings folded - brownish-gray down to black at tips (primaries)

Wings open upperside - gray (inner wing coverts & secondaries) with brown stripe from mid-base of wing to the anterior bend of the wrist area (see drawing) gray (inner 5 primaries & primary coverts) black (outer primaries & primary coverts)

Wings open underside - same as upper side but lighter gray without stripes and dark outer primaries

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: All adult & immature black-headed type gulls by no (distinct black nape line, black wing tips, black legs) OTHER gulls - white wing tips, large sizes, light, pink or yellow legs, no black nape.

Laugh. gull - 1st winter - dark head 2nd winter - no auricular spot, black nape, rounded tail - (I've seen them in N.J., Fla., Tex., Cal. - many times)

Franklin's gull - dark top & back of head, reddish legs, & rounded tail (I've seen lots each year in Colo.)

Bonaparte's gull - imm. - white-wing wedges - no dark nape, pink legs, rounded tail, smaller size - (I've seen many throughout USA)

Sabine's gull - imm. dark back & back of head, no dark nape - I've seen them in Colo., Cal. & Mass.

black-headed gull - imm. light colored legs, no dark nape (I've yet to see one)

little gull - small size, no dark nape, lighter legs - (I've seen it in Colo.)

Ross' gull - no dark nape, wedge shaped tail (I've yet to see one) Red-legged Kittiwake - red legs

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen black-legged Kittiwakes in Cal., Wash & B.C. in all usual plumages

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☐.

NAME (print): VAN A. TRUAN

Mailing address: 833 HARMONY DR. PUEBLO WEST, COLO. 81007

Signature: Van A. Truan

Return to:

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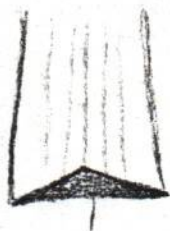
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

23-84-20

PUEBLO RES. DEC, 1, 85

VAN TRUEN

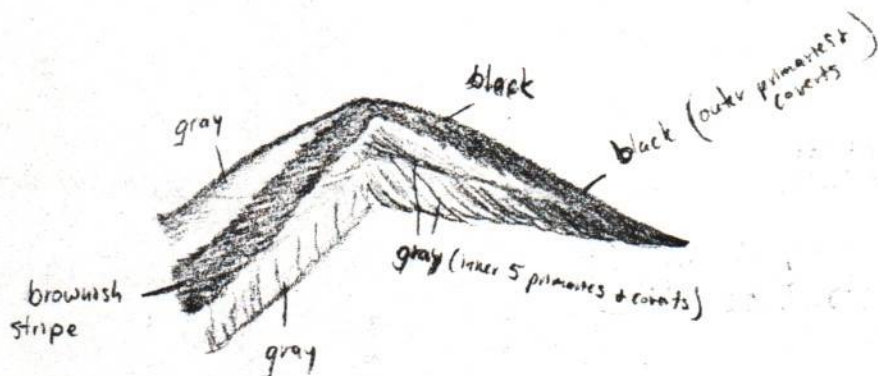
TAIL (white)



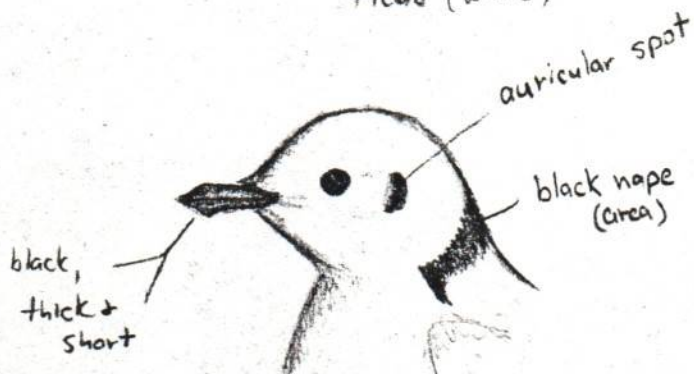
SQUARED

black V shaped wedge

upper open wing



Head (white)



Black-legged kittiwake

Rissa ~~tridactyla~~ ^{tridactyla}

23-89-20

A

1 - immature plumaged

1st Pueblo Area record?

December 1, 1983

11:00^{am} to 12:15 pm ^{later} 12:30 pm to 1240 pm

Pueblo Res. Pueblo Co., Colorado

observed by Van A. Truan (notified Rare Bird Alert in Pueblo, others?)

light: sun ^{over head} ~~straight up~~ - directly on bird - excellent!

distance: 30 to 75 yds equipment: 7x35 Binoculars - 30-45x scope

weather: the day after a low pressure front from N.W. -

partly clear - hazy when clear - wind 0-5 mph ESE 40°F

habitat: large Reservoir; like glass to slight ruffle; ~~in about 30 ft deep~~ ^{in about 30 ft deep}

behavior: ⁱⁿ with Bonaparte's ⁽¹⁰⁾ & ring-billed gulls ⁽⁸⁾. Eating shad.

seen flying, diving, sitting, also chasing Bonaparte's & common goldeneye for shad they had. - a very large population of shad at this reservoir has attracted lots of gulls this year.

description: Seen with and compared to ring-billed gulls & Bonaparte's gull.

Size: 1" to 2" larger than Bonaparte's and 1" to 2" smaller than ring-billed's

head: white, except a dark spot about 1" in diameter above the auricular (behind the eye.)

bill: black, thicker & shorter than (directly compared) Bonaparte's gull

nape: slate, very distinct contrast from head & back to nape

throat: white breast: white belly: white sides & flanks: white

under tail coverts: white upper tail coverts: light gray back: gray (darker than head)

tail: white, black band similar to Sabine's gull but squared not forked

wings folded: gray & brownish down to black tips (with splotches of black in the brown)

wings flying: gray, with brown stripes (from mid-base to wrist outwardly) with some black splotches in the brown stripes

black, from wrist to primaries to tips, no white spots or windows

on tip primaries. under wings - light gray, dark slate tips, no stripes or spots

legs: black, webbed feet

(see drawings)

also see drawings:

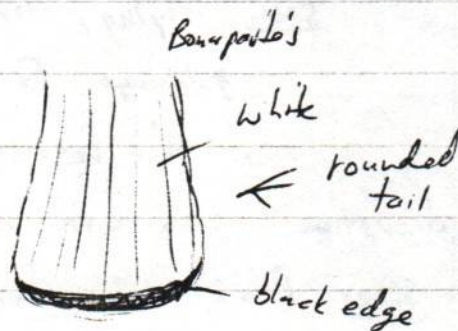
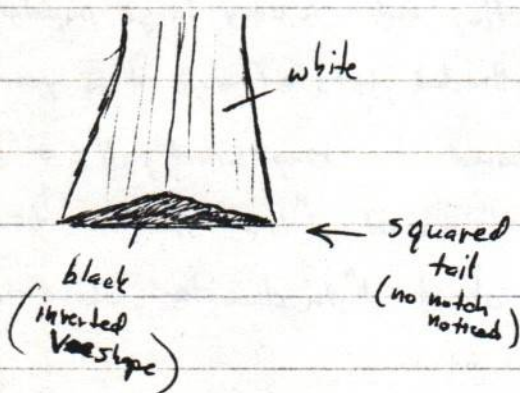
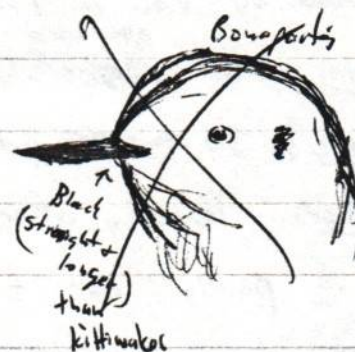
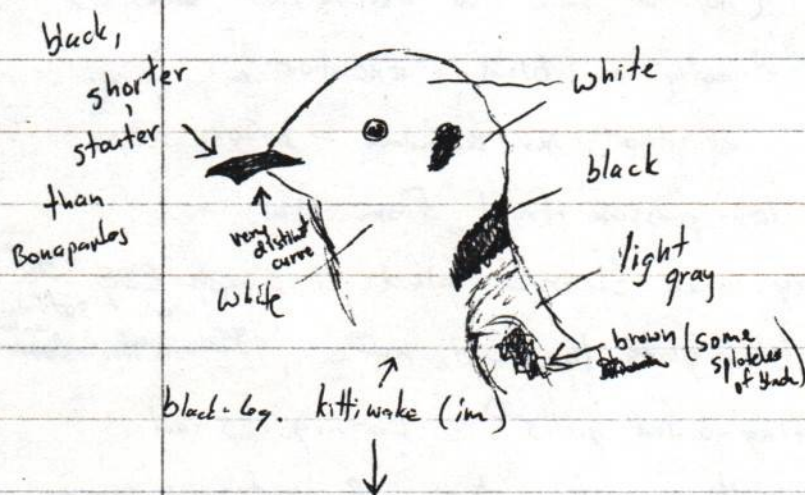
23-84-20

Notes By/ as taken while)
observing bird,
VAN TRUAN

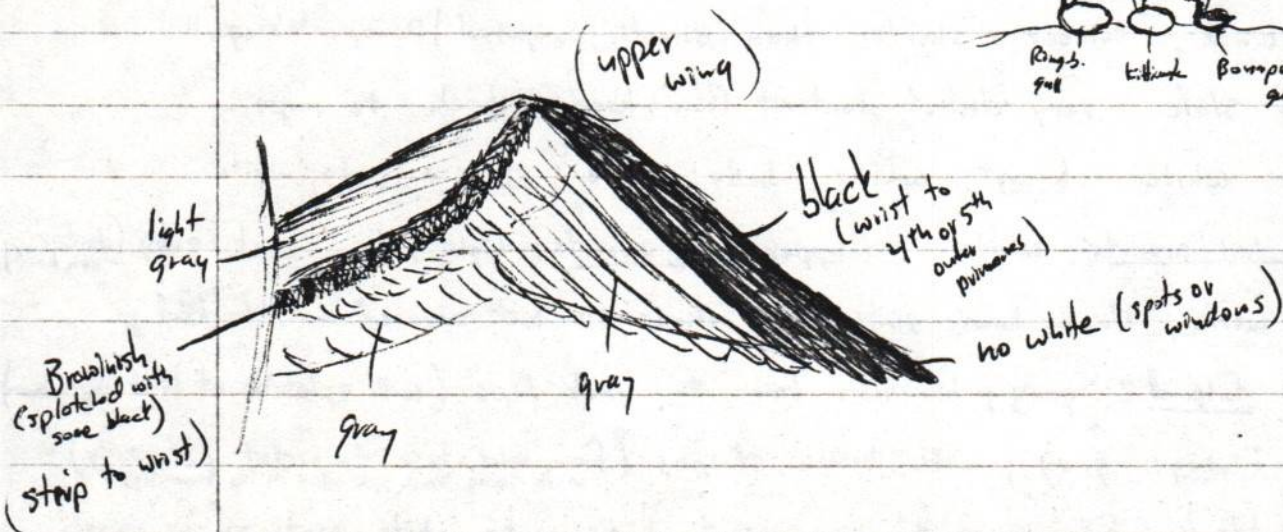
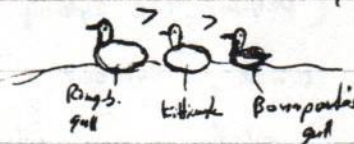
Black-legged Kittiwake

Dec. 1, 83

Puerto Ros, Puerto Co. Colo.
11:30 - 12: PM



sizes (sitting on H₂O)



experience with b.l. kittiwakes

This is my first Colo. record but have seen many in Cal.
Washington, and British Columbia 1975-80 in most usual ad & juv plumages

Similar species & eliminations of these species

All gulls larger than ring-billed gull eliminated by size

All black-headed type gulls by - leg color (except Sabine's) and black nape (distinct) ^{contrast head & back}

All other gulls by black nape, black wing-tips with no white spots.

Red-legged kittiwake - ^{by} red, legs

I've seen all of the similar gulls except black-headed & Ross' & Red-l. kittiwake

These notes were taken at the time of the observation but made to be more legible later. The drawing was done at the site

Birds of N.A., Peterson's Eastern & Western field guides were used when confirming my first suspicions (at 12:30 pm when I went to my residence (5 miles away) to get my camera)

All of the above is what I observed in the field Dec. 1, 83 at Pueblo Res.

Jan A. Truan Dec. 1, 1983

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Pueblo West, Colo.

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