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## APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Black-legged Kittiwake; Rissa tridactyla  
(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): 1/13/86 - 1/22/86 Time Bird Seen: mornings & afternoons to \_\_\_\_\_Locality: Pueblo Reservoir State Recreation Area  
Pueblo, Pueblo County, CO  
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Bushnell Sparrow II w/ 20-45x 2 eye piece

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

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: 1st WinterLight conditions: Fair through very goodDistance from bird, and how measured: at least 100 yds. just recognizable w/ binoculars, 9x

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Most days of observation, the gull could be seen to join w/ Bonaparte's (as many as 13) and Ring-billed Gulls (>200) feeding on the surface of Pueblo Reservoir near the dam area. The Kittiwake would occasionally dive below the surface of the water.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Flying above and sitting on Pueblo Reservoir

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

Laurens Halsey - BoulderWade Leitner - Denver

I also showed this bird on several different occasions to 5 other people

(David Blue,  
J+R Watts &  
Va Maynard)



20-86-32

## 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.

The key field marks used to I.D. this gull were: all black bill, dark ear coverts, dark nuchal collar, "M" or "W" pattern on wings & the black terminal band on tail.

Size = a little smaller than Ring-billed Gulls, noticeably larger than Bonaparte's, Bill = all black; Head eye dark w/ some dark feathering around it, dark ear coverts w/ the rest being light gray Neck = dark nuchal collar Back = medium gray being darker than trailing edge of wings & darker than tail base, & darker than head Wings black leading edge & carpal bars forming the "M" or "W", trail edge except outer 4 primaries light gray, forming light gray wedge. Tail - same color as trailing edge but w/ black band on distal end - noticeably worn. did not show forked look but squared off

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery - i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: did not hear

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Sabine's Gull - has brown not gray back, head crown & nape same color as back; w/out nuchal collar & dark bar across secondaries matches color of tail & is wider than B.L. Kittiwake dark ear coverts tail band usually wider, black leading edge of primaries wider & included 5-6 primaries

Bonaparte's gull - much smaller, faster turn-like flight - has light not dark leading edge on primaries, darker, nuchal collar

Sw. Red-tailed Kittiwake - darker mantle, con color with secondary coverts, black black terminal band on tail

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen this bird frequently in Alaska & once before in Colorado (photos report sent to Records Committee)

I have seen it in 1st winter plumage & as an adult & also in 1st summer plumage.

I've also seen Red-tailed Kittiwake, Sw. Sabine's Gull, & Sw. Bonaparte Gull

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

Name (print) : William R Maynard

Mailing address: 372 Blue Windsor Ln. Colo Spgs 80906

Signature: William R Maynard

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205



## 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): January 16, 1986Number of birds seen: one Sex: undetermined Plumage: First winterLocality: Pueblo Reservoir Elevation: 6600' (?)Nearest town: Pueblo, Colorado County: PuebloTime(s) observed: 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM (off & on)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): total 2 hours

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

Wade LeithnerBill MaynardOther observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
many (?)Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
good, full filtered sun, at backs or to left side of observersOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 Binocs; 20x, 30x Spotting ScopeDistance, and how measured: ~200 meters; estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: N/AWho else photographed the bird? N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Flight very similar to Bonaparte's Gull, more diving, several times went completely undersurface, very buoyant on surface and in flight, appeared heavier in flight than Bonaparte's.

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:

Shape: Small gull, long pointed wings (compared to Sabine's Gull), not as narrow as ~~leg~~ Bonaparte's Gull. Tail slightly wedge shaped (worn feathers).Plumage: Predominate black "W" visible on upperwings, four outer primaries black; rest of primaries and tips of secondaries white, forming a white wedge appearance; rest of upperwing gray; black terminal band on tail, tail feathers ragged and looked worn, rest of tail white as was uppertail coverts and

## Description (continued):

rump, black nape band present but somewhat diffused with white flaking, black ear spot present; rest of body white.

Flesh Parts: Legs black.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): N/A

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Large Open Reservoir, no ice present

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Combination of dark nape and wing pattern eliminate all species of gulls.

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

Seen Black-legged Kittiwakes in similar plumage on several occasions

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

a) at time of observation: Wade Leitner

b) after observation: none

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: August 29, 1986 - 19:45

Reporting observer: Laurens R. Halsey

Signature: Laurens R. Halsey

Address: 2305 Village Cr # 213 Bedford, TX 76022

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205



## 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  
(Vernacular Name)Rissa tridactyla  
(Scientific Name)Date(s): February 2, 1986Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: 1st WinterLocality: Pueblo Reservoir (Lat Long area 19) Elevation: 4800 ft?Nearest town: Pueblo County: PuebloTime(s) observed: 10:30 A.M. & 12:00 P.M.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 minutes and 10 minutes

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

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):

Observed from east at 10:30, NW at noon - clear and sunny  
backlit.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Bushnell Senterly II 20x50 scope & 8x20 binocularsDistance, and how measured: 1/4 ~ 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):

seen swimming in water, flying and feeding. When diving to feed, the Kittiwake first pulls up  
then dives - pattern similar to this:  not a straight plunge into the water. Bird submerges  
completely into water in dive then emerges with wings partially unfolded.Rested in water with other gulls.

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:

Kittiwake gull shaped. Smaller than Ring-billed Gulls when in water. Bird has white body.Head is white with black spot behind eye. There is a black bar on upper back that extends  
to edge of breast. When sitting on water, there is a dark ~~bar~~ horizontal bar on bolded wings  
mantle is grey. In flight primaries and secondary coverts are dark on upper ~~part~~ wing.  
Upper wings ~~bar~~ forming a shallow M on upper wings. Behind M, feathers are white.Tail white with black bar at end - tail bar is broken in the middle.

23-86-5  
Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

none given

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open water in reservoir. Mostly in deeper water.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Dark collar and wing pattern white head with spot behind eye. Bar on golded wing. eliminate any other immature gulls i.e. Sabine's, Bonaparte's, Little Gulls.

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

Prior experience with adult Black-legged Kittiwakes in Alaska for feeding habits. Familiar with Bonaparte's Gull

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

a) at time of observation: National Geographic - Field Guide to Birds of North America used to be sure I had seen all necessary field marks.

b) after observation: Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding Shells Guide to Birds of Britain and Ireland. To make sure any similar species could be counted out.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: March 1, 1986 8: P.M.

Reporting observer: Richard A. Hale Signature: Richard A. Hale

Address: 809 Mercury Circle, Littleton, CO 80124 (303) 790-4097

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