

1998-67

ACCEPTED (7-0)

PHOTOS

CFO-ORC FILE # 23-96-28

(failed by 3-4 vote in 1996)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

RECIRCULATE/ADDITIONAL REPORT

ORIG. # 23-96-28

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake | Rissa tridactyla
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 11/27 & 28/88Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: 1st - winterLocality: Hamilton Reservoir Elevation: 5500'Nearest town: Carr County: Time(s) observed: 1:30 - 3:30 PM (76% or as it flew widely & rested)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): ~ 45 minutes

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

Nobody

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

Joe Mannose William Howe

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

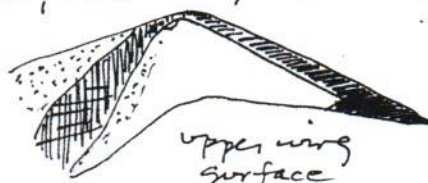
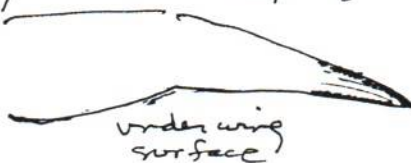
Sun behind meOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 Nikon binocularDistance, and how measured: 50 yards (closest)If photographed, type of equipment and film: Minolta @ 100-300 mm Tokina ZoomWho else photographed the bird? Nobody

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

Mostly flying about at a modest height above the water, strong strokes (not fluttery like Bonapartes) but flight lighter and faster than Ring-billed's. Also perched on concrete breakwater & sitting in water.

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:

medium-sized gull, long slender wings, longish forked tail, upper wing surface white except for thick black leading edge that extended from the bend & both darkened & widened toward the tip (& extending slightly around the tip). Also the shoulder portion of the upper wing was light gray and divided by a broad darkish area diagonally. (See drawing) Underwing mostly white except for black, thin edge to front & back of tip.



Head white with darkish eye, dark (black?) bill. Bill was of medium length & slender. Bird appeared to be wearing headphones (black, narrow stripe extended from directly behind the eye vertically up the crown and down the other side of the head), black collar light gray back/mantle. Rump white, tail white except for broad black edge to the upper & lower tail-fork. Legs pinkish-brown (beige). This latter feature was a source of much confusion (& excitement!). Size, black bill, dark "M" across the upper surface, collar & head band indicated kittiwake. Bill slightly decurved.

Description (continued):

At rest on concrete breakwaters. (See drawing made in the field.)

Also see photos in flight. (2)

[A Black-legged kittiwake (1st winter) was also reported on 11/27/88 from Horseshoe Res. in Loveland by Joe Himmel & verified by Wm. Howe. This bird reported to have yellowish legs & otherwise normal field marks.]

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

No vocalizations.

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

Power plant reservoir (warmed water)

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Size & collar separated it from Little Gull.
Lack of black on the upper wing secondary edges eliminated Red-legged Kittiwake.

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

I have seen ~5 on the Pacific Ocean prior to this. Only previous Colorado experience was a normal-plumaged (dark legs) bird at Hamilton Res 11/26/87.

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

a) at time of observation: Nat'l. Geo.

b) after observation: Nat'l. Geo, Harrison, Grant

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation X from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 12/5/1998

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St #7 Ft Collins, CO 80524

Head white with darkish eye, dark (black?) bill. Bill was of medium length & slender. Bird appeared to be wearing headphones (black, narrow stripe extended from directly behind the eye vertically up the crown and down the other side of the head), black collar, light gray back/mantle. Rump white, tail white except for broad black edge to the upper & lower tail-fork. Legs pinkish-brown (beige). This latter feature was a source of much confusion (& excitement!). Size, black bill, dark "M" across the upper surface, collar & head band indicated Kittiwake. Bill slightly decurved.

Description (continued):

At rest on concrete breakwater. (See drawing made in the field.)

Also see photos in flight. (2)

[A Black-legged Kittiwake (1st winter) was also reported on 11/27/88 from Horseshoe Res. in Loveland by Joe Himmel & verified by Wm. Howe. This bird reported to have yellowish legs & otherwise normal field marks.]

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

No vocalizations.

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

Power plant reservoir (warmed water)

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

- Size & collar separated it from Little Gull.
- Lack of black on the upper wing secondary edges eliminated Bonaparte's Gull.
- Black on tail tip and across upper inner wing eliminated R-I Kittiwake.

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

I have seen ~5 on the Pacific Ocean prior to this. Only previous Colorado experience was a normal-plumaged (dark legs) bird at Hamilton Res 11/26/87.

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

a) at time of observation: Nat'l. Geo.

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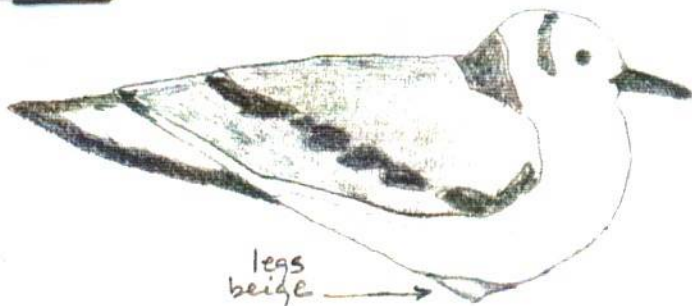
Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Storer St #7 Ft Collins, CO 80524



1st-winter
Black-legged
Kittiwake

11-27-88



Drawn on site at Hamilton Res. as bird sat
on concrete breakwater at north end of dam.
~ 4:15 PM

D. Leatherman

Gull first reported to me by Dr. Lammeyer. He took it this date.

Kittiwake description: Bird seen along the dam, flying. Smallish with black eye, black back behind eye running up to top of head, black collar, rest of head white; mantle's base wing color light gray, dark diagonal band running from bend in forewing to base of hind wing, wing tip black, trailing edge of secondaries white; tail white with black tips to feathers, breast, belly & under tail white; bill small, narrow, pointed & slightly decurved, all black; legs pale (flesh-colored, I think). At times in flight, tail looked distinctly notched, wings rather pointed. Not a lot of difference in color of upper & lower wing (except for big dark band). Spent most of time sitting on water, last seen sitting on breakwater where it presumably spent the night. If black-legged Kittiwake can have pale legs (what gull id book by Grant says they can) then only different feature would be size, prominent neck collar (which unlike L.L. Kittiwakes have), and perhaps extent of black on underwing tip.

As far as behavior, sitting on water colony was the most part. Would get up & fly along dam. Flight lighter, more rapid than ring-bills but not grossly different. Bird occasionally seen to dip down in & delicately pluck food off water. Once jumped down off the breakwater, ate something & back up.

Black-legged Kittiwake (1st winter) seen at
Horsehoe Reservoir in Loveland this week. I
found by himself this bird was seen on 11/27
by Hume and described as having pale yellowish
legs in combo with normal field marks.

5 Dec '98

Mark,

Please replace pg 2 of the B-1 Kittiwake reports you should have received very recently from me with the enclosed revisions. I made an inadvertent error on the "Similar Species" section.

There never was a report submitted on this gull and this report should clear up any doubt.

I appreciate your work with the committee. You all are doing a great job.

I feel out of the loop, not being in COBIRDS (my choice) and not calling the tape (my choice). I hear things from Bill, Joe, & Dave and then Brandon emails me his Field Notes report as he builds it & revises it thru the quarter. It is too bad Dr. Dick persists. He is right up there with Monica, AIDS & Saddam Hussein as bothersome issues in the news.

Do you know if anyone saw the Saw-whet at Ft. Lyon this summer? Do you have anything on separating E & W Screech-owls that goes beyond Kaufman? (I had a bird on the bike trail in FC today that appeared to have a black bill, short tufts and breast feathers with vertical marks much wider & more prominent than the horizontal marks).

Take care,

Dave Leatherman

P.S.

I went back & checked on 6 Dec and it was an eastern (bill horn-colored in good light).