

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

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

**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

2-13 Dec 01

ACCEPTED

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) <b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>		(Scientific Name) <b>Larus fuscus</b>
Date(s) of occurrence: 12/1/01		
Number of birds seen: 1	Sex: ?	Plumage: Adult Basic (Britain/Iceland type)
Exact location: Thomas Reservoir (Viewed from 119 <sup>th</sup> street on the west side)		
County: Boulder	Nearest town: Lafayette	Elevation: ~ 4900 feet
Length of observation: approx. About 1/2 Hour		Time(s) of observation: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Bill Kaempfer, John Vanderpoel, Jim Schmoker, Karen Schmoker		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): None known at time report.		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Light conditions were good. The sun was out and to our right as we viewed the bird from the west side of the lake..		
Optical equipment used: Kowa 82mm fluorite scope, Nikon Coolpix 995 digital camera.		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): About 100 yards.		
Was bird(s) photographed? yes	If so, have you submitted photos? yes	
Who took the photographs? Bill Schmoker		
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Municipal water storage reservoir.		
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The gull was slowly swimming around and occasionally preening. After about 1/2 hour of observation the LBBG and hundreds of RBGUs flew off west in response to an unseen threat.		
Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the 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 important 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 field notes):		
As seen in the photographs, this was a gull with a back darker than Ring-billed, California, and Herring Gull adults. It had a small white patch behind the center of the back and a larger white band formed by the tips of the tertials, and black primaries with small white spots at the tips. The line between the dark back and the white sides appeared a bit jagged. The head was mostly white, with faint dark streaking on the nape and top of the head. The area around the eye appeared a bit smudged. The iris was yellow. The bill was yellow, with a large bright red spot at the gonydeal angle. As it flew off, the gull showed extensive black wingtips from above and below and slaty-gray wing tops that contrasted with the lighter wing tops of the Ring-billed Gulls it was flying with. A light trailing edge was also visible along the wing tops. The close association with these three common gulls also allowed a direct size comparison- this gull was about the size of a California Gull.		
Describe bird's call or song: Not heard.		
Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: The back of this gull was noticeably darker than any other gulls (Ring-billed, California, and Herring) on the lake. Additionally, the lack of any black on the bill and larger size differentiated it from the estimated 1200 Ring-billed gulls on the lake. It was about the same size as the approximately 100 California Gulls present, but the larger red spot and lack of any black on the more powerful bill also differentiated it from them. The gull was smaller than the approximately 15 Herring gulls present, and had a much larger red spot than the adult Herring Gulls. The size of this gull in comparison with the Ring-billed, California and Herring Gulls present also precluded identifying this individual as a Great Black-backed Gull or Slaty-backed Gull, which should appear obviously larger than a California Gull (which this gull basically matched in size.)		
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? This is the third LBBG I've seen in Colorado.		
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): While viewing the bird and later at home I consulted The Sibley Guide To Birds. Once home, I also consulted Seabirds of the World, by Jim Enticott and David Tipling. Additionally, while viewing the bird, John Vanderpoel and Bill Kaempfer were very helpful. John also reported seeing a 1 <sup>st</sup> year winter LBBG on the lake amidst all the other gulls, but I didn't observe this bird.		
This report is from notes made during and after observation.		
Date of written report: 12/01/01		
Reporting observer: William P. Schmoker		Signature:
Reporting Observer's Address: 2227 Canyon Blvd. #106		
City: Boulder	State: CO	Zip: 80302
Phone: 303/541-9372 email: bschmokr@bvsd.k12.co.us		



LBBG  
12/1/01

Thomas Reservoir  
photo by  
Bill Schmoker



LBBG

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Thomas Reservoir

Lafayette, CO

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