

2001-145

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

ACCEPTED

Rec'd 1/10/02

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL  
Larus fuscus

Date(s) of Observation: December 24th &amp; 25th, 2001

Number of birds seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Second winter

Exact location: Cherry Creek Reservoir

County: Arapahoe Nearest town: Cherry Hills (?) Elevation:

Length of observation: Brief (less than 5 min) on 24th Time(s) of observation: 10:20 - 10:40 AM

Approximately 20 min on 25th

Note: most of the following relates to the latter

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None known

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position):

Light was excellent as the sun was largely behind me shining on to the bird

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x24 Dialyt binoculars

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 200 feet

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? No If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Standing and sitting on the ice at the water's edge - on the reservoir

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: Picked at some unidentified item on the ice briefly, otherwise mostly loafed on the ice.

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### page 2

**DESCRIPTION** -- This is the **most important** part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

Fairly large gull (slightly smaller than an accompanying Herring Gull) with a fairly white head, which had some streaks and smudges, especially behind the eye. The mantle was fairly dark gray (nearly as dark as that of the HERG with it), while the wings were largely brownish. The wing tips were black without any apparent mirrors. The breast, belly and flanks were off-white with brownish streaking, especially adjacent to the wings. The wings protruded well beyond the tail, proportionately much more so than the HERG's did. The bill was slender and was mostly dark with some lighter color near the base. The eye color was light. The head was slightly more domed (i.e. less flat) than the HERG's. The base of the tail was fairly white, with a dark band at the tip. The leg color was hard to discern, but appeared to be dull pink/orange.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: The bird was silent.

**SIMILAR SPECIES** -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration. Fortunately, there was a Herring Gull beside it for an excellent comparison. It was similar in size, but discernably smaller. The mantle color was too dark for a HERG. The head was more rounded than the HERG's. The light-colored eyes rule out California Gull in all plumages. Its bill was too slender for a Western Gull. It was too small for a Great Black-backed Gull. I have no experience with Slaty-backed Gull, but I think the bill was too slender. The bill's slenderness also rules out Yellow-footed Gull.

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

I have seen this species at Niagara Falls, in Florida, and <sup>elsewhere</sup> Texas, and consider myself familiar with the species.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

I consulted Grunt's Gulls (and ed); the Nat'l Geog (3rd ed).

At the Sibley Guide and all of them had illustrations which looked like the bird.

This report is from notes made from (check one)  noted made during observation  noted made after observation  later from memory.

Date and time of written report: Dec 30, 2001 10:28 P.M.

Reporting observer: Robert J. Parsons

Signature: Robert Parsons

Address: 68 Thotcher Dr.

Winnipeg, MB R3T 2L3  
CANADA

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601  
<http://www.cfo-link.org/reportform2.html> 2001-12-30