

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

A

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: MEW GULL / LARUS CANUS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): APRIL 28, 1991Number of birds seen: 01 Sex: X Plumage: 2ND WINTERLatilong: 4 Distribution Code: M Habitat Code: LLocality: UNION RESERVOIR Elevation: 5000 FT ±Nearest town: LONGMONT County: WELDTime(s) observed: 4:00 P.M. 6:30 P.M. (BRIEFLY)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 4-5 MINUTES

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

BILL PROTHER, JIM PROTHER, DAVE LEATHERMAN (BRIEFLY)

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):

OVERCAST, STRONG NORTH WIND, INTERMITTANT RAINOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): ZEISS 8X20 BINOCULARS | KOWA 40X SCOPDistance and how measured: 50-200 FT 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):

FLYING AND STANDING ON SHORE ALONG SOUTH SHORE OF RESERVOIR

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 observed in the field:

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

Description (continued): _____

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

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

EXPOSED MUDFLAT, SURF, AND OPEN WATER ALONG SOUTH
SHORE OF VICTOR RESERVOIR.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

BILL AND LEG COLOR, SIZE COMPARISONS, OTHER PLUMAGE
FACTORS (WINGTIP COLOR, BACK COLOR, TAIL PATTERN)

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

HAVE SEEN MCV GULL ONLY ONCE BEFORE IN JUVENILE PLUMAGE
VERY FAMILIAR WITH ALL COMMON GULLS IN COLORADO.

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

a) At time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

b) After observation: _____

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____, from memory X

Date and time report was written: 10, 09, 91

Reporting observer: JOHN PRATHER Signature: John Prather

Address: 13810 WELD COUNTY ROAD # 1, LONGMONT CO, 80504

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

A medium-sized, white-headed gull, similar in appearance to Ring-Billed Gull. This bird was quite a bit larger and longer winged than the Franklin's Gull with which it was seen most of the time. It was slightly smaller than several Ring-Billed Gulls with which it was compared briefly on two occasions and had longer and thinner proportions. For a gull its size it seemed very long-winged and small headed. Its head and underparts were almost entirely white, with a few brown feathers in the neck and crown. The eye seemed large and appeared to be all dark dark but it was difficult to tell under the light conditions at the time. Its tail was white with a narrow, irregular black band near the terminal end, and was squared like that of a ring billed gull. Its bill was larger than that of a Franklin's Gull, but obviously smaller and thinner than that of a Ring-Billed Gull. The bill color was quite odd, and is best described as a washed out fleshy gray with an incomplete dark tip. Back and wing color was similar to that of a Franklin's Gull, but had extensive brown feathering remaining in the wing coverts and scapulars. The wingtips were dark brownish with two or three small white spots present near the tip. All of the feathers in the wingtips seemed faded and showed extensive wear. The legs were a pale gray-green in color and quite unlike the leg color of any gull which I had seen before.