

A Reid 1-14

CFO-ORC FILE # 23-93-7

APPENDIX III

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST--SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: Mew Gull Larus canus
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

Date: 11/15/92

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: winter adult

Latilong: 8 Distribution Code: M Habitat Code: L

Locality: 1 mi E. Mack, CO Elevation: approximately 4700'

Nearest town: Mack, CO County: Mesa

Time(s) observed: 8:15-8:30 am

Duration of observation: 15 min.

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Tom Moran, 406 Country Club Pk, Grand Junction Co 81503

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None

Light conditions: Excellent. Sun bright and directly behind observers

Optical equipment used: 7x35 binoculars and 15-60 spotting scope

Distance and how measured: 200-250 feet. Estimated

If photographed, type of equipment and film: n/a.

Who else photographed the bird:

Describe the bird's behavior:

The bird sat on the water surface throughout the observation, except for a few seconds when it flew in a small circle, returning to the point it left, affording a good look at its wings.

Describe in detail the bird's size, shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape.

The bird was a winter plumaged adult white-headed gull. It was much smaller than the Herring Gull that it was associating with, approximately the size of a Ring-billed Gull. The head, tail and underparts were white, the head and hind neck being marked lightly with grayish-brown. The mantle was gray. The eye was dark. (The light and distance was good enough to clearly see the yellow eye of the Herring Gull.) The bill was a clean greenish yellow, void of any black or red marking. The wing tips showed rather extensive white windows in the black tips.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery:

No vocalizations heard.

23-93-7

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:
On the surface of a small (approximately 6-7 acre) farm pond.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

No other adult white-headed gull has an unmarked yellow bill.

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

None with the Mew Gull. Ring-billed and California Gulls are regular migrants through the area. Herring Gulls are rarer.

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

A) At time of observation:

Peterson's Western Birds, National Geographic Birds of North America, and Kaufman's Advanced Birding were consulted to eliminate other possibilities.

B) After observation:

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

Date and time report was written: November 19, 1992.

Reporting observer: Richard Levad

Signature: *Richard Levad*

Address: 2924 Ronda Lee Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81503

Return to Curator, Department of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205