

23-93-35
ASPECIES: Mew Gull
(Vernacular Name)LARUS CANUS
(Scientific Name)DATE(S): 11-18-92 TIME OF OBSERVATION: 2:00 P.M. TO 2:15 P.M.EXACT LOCATION: SAND SPIT AT THE PRAIRIE LOOP AT CHERRY CREEK SPANEAREST TOWN: ENGLEWOOD COUNTY: ARAPAHOE

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

JACK PEDDALOPTICAL EQUIPMENT: BAUSCH & LOMB 15X60 ZOOM & BUSHNELL 8X40 BINOCULARSWEATHER CONDITIONS: SUNNY, CLEAR BREEZYBIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: SUN WAS BEHIND THE OBSERVER AS ⁽¹⁾ I LOOKED AT THE BIRD.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: _____

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: ? PLUMAGE: 1ST WINTERBEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: THE BIRD MAINLY STOOD ON THE SAND SPIT LOOKING OUT AT THE LAKE. IT OCCASIONALLY PREENED ITSELF, AND WOULD TURN TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT IF A GULL APPROACHED FROM THAT DIRECTION. THE ENTIRE TIME RING-BILL GULLS (LARUS DELAWARENSIS) STOOD NEXT TO, AND WALKED AROUND THE GULL.HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.): THE HEAD AND NECK WERE WHITE WITH FAIRLY HEAVY BROWNISH STRAKING. HEAVIER STRAKING ON THE BACK OF HEAD AND NECK, AND LIGHTER STRAKING ON CHIN AND FRONT OF NECK (THROAT)EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.): THE EYE WAS SOLID DARK (BLACK/BROWN). THE AREA IMMEDIATELY AROUND THE EYE HAD DARKER (HEAVIER) BROWN STRAKING.LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): THE BILL WAS FLESHY COLOR WITH A BLACK TIP. THE BILL APPEAR SHORTER, AND SLIGHTLY THINNER, THAN THAT OF A RING-BILL.LEGS & FEET: THE BIRD HAD FLESHY COLORED LEGS. THE LEGS SEEMED TO BE ABOUT 3/4 TO 1" SHORTER THAN THE RING-BILL GULLS. THE FEET WERE ALSO FLESHY COLORED.UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): THE MANTLE WAS GRAY COLOR. ABOUT THE SAME SHADE AS THE SURROUNDING RING-BILL GULLS. THE RUMP WAS WHITISH WITH BROWN STRAKING. THE UPPER TAIL COVERTS WERE HEAVILY STRAKED AS COMPARED TO THE RUMP. THE BIRD HAD A DARK BROWNISH/BLACK TERMINAL BAND THAT WAS FAIRLY THICK. IT EXTENDED A GOOD 1/3 OR MORE UP THE TAIL.UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): AS NOTED BEFORE THE CHIN AND THROAT WERE WHITE WITH BROWN STRAKES (SLIGHT). LIGHTER THAN BACK OF THE HEAD. THE BIRD NEVER FACED ME, SO I DID NOT GET GOOD LOOKS AT THE BELLY OR CHEST. I DID GET SOME GLIMPSES OF THE SIDES AS IT RAISED ITS WINGS A LITTLE THEY WERE MORE OF A BROWNISH WITH WHITE STRAKES.

RETRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

THE TAIL HAD A LARGER BROWNISH BLACK TERMINAL BAND. (AS NOTED EARLIER) THE REST OF THE TAIL WAS WHITE WITH BROWN STRIPING.

WINGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): I DID NOT SEE THE WINGS

FULLY EXTENDED. THE BIRD DID MOVE THEM AROUND AS IT PREENED. THE PRIMARIES WERE BROWNISH WITH BLACK EDGES, AND SHOWED NO WHITE. (THIS IS OF COURSE WHAT I COULD SEE OF THEM AS THE BIRD STOOD THERE) THE SECONDARIES APPEARED SLIGHTLY LIGHTER BROWN WITH SOME WHITE ON THE EDGES. THE GREATER COVERTS

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):

NONE

HABITAT: SAND SPIT OF A RESERVOIR.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

THIS BIRD PROBABLY MOST CLOSELY RESEMBLES A RING-BILL GULL. THIS BIRD WAS NOTICEABLY SMALLER IN SIZE THAN THE SURROUNDING RING BILLS, EVEN WITH BINOCULARS OR THE NAKED EYE. THE LEGS WERE SHORTER, THE OVERALL BODY SIZE WAS SMALLER, AND THE BILL WAS SMALLER. THOUGH I HAVE NOT EXTENSIVELY STUDIED 1ST WINTER PLUMAGE OF EITHER SPECIES OF THESE GULLS, THE TERMINAL BAND SEEMED LARGER THAN I HAVE NOTICED IN THE PAST.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A MEW GULL, AND PROBABLY SEE A RING-BILL GULL EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. (WELL, DAN WISEY NOT TO THAT EXTENT DURING THE SUMMER, BUT THEY FLY BY MY OFFICE WINDOW TOWARDS CHERRY CREEK ALL THE TIME (S))

WINGS: (CONTINUED) WERE A GRAYISH COLOR WITH BROWN MIXED IN TO THE FEATHERS CLOSEST TO THE BODY. THE UPPER COVERTS WERE BROWN WITH WHITE (SLIGHT) EDGING.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

I LOOKED AT THE NATIONAL GEO GUIDE THE DAY BEFORE I WROTE THIS, AFTER I RETURNED HOME FROM VIEWING THE BIRD.

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING AFTER OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY

NAME: STIVE STACHOWIAK SIGNATURE: Stive Stachowiak DATE: 11-21-97