

17-74-24  
accepted JR 10/25/74

4450 South Alton Street  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

September 3, 1974

Mrs. Allegra Collister  
812-C Park Lane  
Longmont, Colorado 80501

Dear Allegra,

I am trying to run down all the Colorado reports for the Common Gallinule. As you know, there have been only a handful of sightings (no known specimens). I received a sketchy written report from Sylvia Brockner relative to the sighting of one Common Gallinule at Muir Springs Park near Fort Morgan on June 6, 1965. Mrs. Brockner indicated you were among the observers on this day and I am wondering if you could provide me with any definitive details to support this sighting. I realize that this was over nine years ago, but I am hopeful you may have taken some field notes which you could provide me.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



CHAIRMAN  
CFO Official Records Committee

Sent. 7, 1974

Dear Jack: My notes on that day's activities are limited to mention of some of the people present (including Sylvia Brockner and Don and Hazel Thatcher), and the out-standing find of the day, the Common Gallinule. There was no need at that time to describe it in detail, as we all saw it well at close range. We were walking east along the north side of the fish ponds, where American Coots were numerous. As usual, the coots were somewhat noisy, and I remember being somewhat incredulous when Sylvia said "I believe I hear a gallinule". We rounded a clump of bushes, and there on a shallow pond on our left was the Common Gallinule! It is my impression that the Brockners had just returned from a trip on which they had seen and heard gallinules, and the bird's voice was fresh in Sylvia's mind. Anyway, she recognized it there where we had no expectation of seeing one. Sorry I did not jot down "red bill and frontal shield, white side-stripe"!

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD REPORT  
 RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD  NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE # 17-74-24

Accepted JK 10/25/74

Species: COMMON GALLINULE Callimula chloropus  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): June 6, 1965 Time Bird Seen: a.m. to \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: Muir Springs

Nearest Town: Fort Morgan County: Morgan

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>Winston Wm. Brockner</u>		
<u>Donald Thatcher</u>		
<u>Allegra Collister</u>		

Optical Equipment: 7 x 35 binoculars

Light Conditions: good

Distance from Bird (how measured): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Birds Seen: one Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Plumage: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall Appearance and Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Please see reverse side for details.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): \_\_\_\_\_

Legs (shape and color): \_\_\_\_\_

Crown and Forehead: \_\_\_\_\_

Nape: \_\_\_\_\_

Breast and Sides: \_\_\_\_\_

Belly and Flanks: \_\_\_\_\_

Undertail Coverts: \_\_\_\_\_

Back: \_\_\_\_\_

Wings: \_\_\_\_\_

Underwings: \_\_\_\_\_

Rump: \_\_\_\_\_

Upper Side of Tail: \_\_\_\_\_

Under Side of Tail: \_\_\_\_\_

Shape of Tail: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior Experience with this Species: \_\_\_\_\_

How were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This Report was Written From: Notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ observation; Memory

Signed: Sylvia Ruth Brockner Street Address: Route No. 6 Box 140

Date Prepared: March 15, 1974 Town and State: Evergreen, col. ZIP 80439

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

On June 6, 1965 shortly after moving to Colorado, we participated in a D.F.O. Fieldtrip to Muir Springs. As I recall the trip, almost 9 years later, we were walking along the bank looking out into the swamp when someone asked what was making a noise in the cattails. Being unaware that they were unusual here and coming recently from western New York where they are common, I said, "Gallinule." As I recall, Allegra Collister and Merle Barbour were with me at the time and I think it was Allegra who said, "Can't be, they seldom occur here" and then as it swam into view. "My gosh, it is one!" I did not make any notes at the time as to me it was a common bird. However, several other members of the D.F.O. observed the bird including W.W.B. and all concurred on its being a Common Gallinule.