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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Common Moorhen 1 Gallinula chloropus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 12-13 June 1983Number of birds seen: 1Sex: unknownPlumage: adultLocality: Smith's PondElevation: Nearest town: BoulderCounty: BoulderTime(s) observed: on the 12th, 10:00 AM; on the 13th, 9:30 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): first time 15 min, second 5 min

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

Dorine Nelson 3705 Quail St. Ft. Collins, CO. 80503 (420-9770)David Martin 9614 W. 56th Place, Aurora, CO. 80002 (422-9143)

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Dot Guckler 310 Shiloh Way, Boulder, CO. 80303 (499-4977)Henry Halber 6432 Bluebird Dr., Boulder, CO. (530-1626)Light conditions (position of bird to light, and shade, direction and strength of light):
Very good lighting, direct sunlight overhead.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X40 binoculars, 6X power spotting scopeDistance, and how measured: 50-100 feet, estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: Who else photographed the bird? Henry Halber photographed it & he is

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

On first observation it spent most of the time feeding out of the water on a mat of dead cattails. It then flew a short distance (5-10 feet) to the water and again spent the afternoon. The second time it was feeding in algae which was on the surface of the water. When it approached to take a bite of the algae, it took off and flew directly to the cattails about 50 feet away. This bird was not tame and gave no indication of captivity.

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 observe in the field:

Size: It was slightly smaller than an American Coot (*Fulca americana*). Shape: Generally same as the Coot, but lighter weight in build. The head also seemed smaller in proportion to the body than in the Coot. Bill: The bill was definitely smaller than a Coot's, thinner than is. The frontal shield was wider but lighter weight. The coloration of the bill and frontal shield was bright red except for a yellow tip.

Description (continued):

Plumage: head, neck and underparts: All were a uniform slate gray. Back and wings: the back and wings were a glossy olive-brown. Flank: also of slate gray. The flank feathers along the wings were edged with white, creating a line along the side. Undertail coverts: they were white with a black bar running from the belly to the tail. Legs: yellowish-green. Red where legs enter the body. The toes were very long and webbed.

Notes: There was no band of any sort on either leg. Its plumage was in perfect condition, including flight feathers. It showed no sign of wear.

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: The general area is a group of old growth wet forests with cottonwoods and willows. Boulder Creek runs along the back of the area and is a popular recreation. The pond at the end of the NW corner of the refuge and is medium sized. It has a large cattail marsh at one end, and some other plants checked this area.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? The American Coot was eliminated by the red bill, olive-brown back and white line along the side.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I've observed many of this species in the southwestern part of the country but that is the extent of my experience with the Mottled American Coots are abundant in our area and are also common breeder at Swains.

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

a) at time of observation: Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds (second ed.) was consulted during observation.

b) after observation: later consulted Field Guide to the Birds of Colorado and the Colorado-Latham Study in regard to occurrence of this species in Colorado.

This report was written from reports made during ☒ after observation ☐ from memory ☐

Date and time report was written: ~~13 June 1983~~ 13 June 1983

Reporting observer: Wing Walk Signature: Wing Walk

Address: 9224 Franklin Rd, Lafayette, CO 80026

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CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

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

Species: COMMON MORTEN GALLINULA CHLOROPUS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 6/10/83Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ADULTLocality: SAWHILL POND Elevation: 5200'Nearest town: BOULDER County: BOULDERTime(s) observed: 5.50 - 6.05 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 min.

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

NONE

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

"LARRY HALSEY & BARRY KNAPP

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

EXCELLENTOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 7x50Distance, and how measured: 20 feet.

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):

FEEDING IN EDGE OF MARSH.

I MADE THE BIRD FLY: IT HAD NO LEGS RINGS OR ANY OTHER MARKS, AND
COULD FLY WELL. I HAD NO REASON TO THINK IT WAS AN ESCAPE.

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 observe in the field:

IT WAS OBVIOUSLY A GALLINACEOUS BIRD: IT WASN'T A COOT, AND WAS DARK AND NOT PURPLE. THE FRONTAL SHIELD WAS ALL RED AND NOT BICOLORED. THE WHITE STRIPE ALONG THE SIDE OF THE BIRD WAS VERY CLEAR.

Description (continued):

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

NONE

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

FRESHWATER MARSH.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

COME ON!!

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

SEEN A FEW IN MY TIME. IS VERY COMMON IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE.

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

a) at time of observation:

NONE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: _____

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S. 35th St, BOULDER, CO 80303.

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

Species: Common Moorhen - Gallinula chloropus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): June 10, 11, 12, 1983Number of birds seen: 1 (one)Sex: undeterminedPlumage: adultLocality: Sawhill Pond RefugeElevation: ~5300'Nearest town: BoulderCounty: BoulderTime(s) observed: June 10 - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm; June 11 - 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM; June 12 - 7 AM + 0PDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): total

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

Wallace R. and Jeanne Halsey
Barry Knapp (494-8390)

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Peter Gent (494-1750)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

June 10 - bird in full sun, sun behind observers; June ~~10~~ 11, 12 - bird in shadows
of cattails, sun to left & in front of observersOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 Binocs & 20X and 30X spotting scopeDistance, and how measured: 20 m - 100 m; estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: 2 Pentax ME's and YashikaWho else photographed the bird? Wallace R. Halsey

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

When the bird was not in the water its behavior was similar to a Sora, feeding at the
edge of the water, walking on hummocks & falling cattails. It was constantly flicking
it tail. When the bird was in the water it fed & swam similar to a coot.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 il-
lustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:The bird was the shape of a coot but slightly smaller. The shield and most of
the bill was red. The tip of the bill was yellow. There was no fading in the
transition between the red and the yellow. The eye was a very dark red
(noticeable only when the eye would reflect direct sunlight). The head,
neck, breast, and belly were ~~iridescent~~ iridescent black. The back &
wings were ~~only~~ very dark brown, where the wings folded to the body

Description (continued):

there was a thick but broken white line, The undertail covert was two white patches separated by black, The legs were greenish yellow changing to red above the knee

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

none given

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

edge of cattail marsh bordering a 2 acre pond

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The red shield & white flank/side stripe eliminate the American Coot

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

this was my first experience with the Moorhen.

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

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: Birds of North America ; Robbins

This report was written from ^{notes} ~~reports~~ made during _____, after observation ☒ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: June 21, 1983 ; 5:00 PM.

Reporting observer: ^{this} Laurens R. Halsey Signature: Laurens R. Halsey
Address: 6422 Bluebird Ave. Longmont, Colo. 80501

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