

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD A

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

Species: Common Moorhen  
(Vernacular Name)Gallinula chloropus

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 12-13 June 1983Number of birds seen: 1Sex: unknown Plumage: adultLocality: Lowhill Pond

Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest town: BoulderCounty: BoulderTime(s) observed: on the 12th, 10:00pm; 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):

Dwane Nelson 3705 Quail St. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33083 (420-9770)David Martin 9614 W. 56th Place, APT. 1000, Miami, FL 33136 (422-9143)

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

Bob Gifford 310 Shady Way, Bonita, CA 90303 (499-4977)Harry Miller 6422 Bluebird Dr., Bonita, CA 91706 (530-1616)

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, 60 power spotting scopeDistance, and how measured: 50-100 ft, estimated

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird? Harry Miller also photographed it & he has

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

On first observation it spent most of the time foraging out of the water on a mat of dead, tall grass. It then flew a short distance (5-10 ft) to the water and swam out into the water. The second time it was feeding in algae which was on the surface of the water. When it was ready to take a new turn, it took off and flew directly to the water about 50 ft 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 (*Fulica americana*). Shape: Generally similar to the Coot, but lighter weight in build. The head also seemed smaller in proportion to the body than with the Coot. Bill: The bill was definitely smaller than a Coot, thinner than the Coot. 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 glossy olive-brown. Flanks: also of slate gray. The flank feathers along the wings were streaked with white, creating a line along the side. Underparts: 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 unwebbed.

Note: There were no bands of any sort on either leg. Its plumage was in perfect condition, including flight feathers. It showed no signs 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 spruce and pine trees with scattered willows and aspens. Small aspens grow along the base of the trees and are spreading. The forest is old and open in the NW corner of the state and is medium size. It has limestone, marl, stone and surface glaze and other surface How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? plants checked the drier.

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 have observed many of this species in the southwestern part of the country but that is the limit of my experience with the Northern American Coots are abundant in our area and are also common here at Denver.

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 Hand Book of Colorado and the Colorado Rockies. I took 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

Reporting observer: Wm. W. H. Signature: Wm. W. H.

Address: 9224 Broomer Rd, Lakewood, CO 80226

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DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205

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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 MARTHEN (Vernacular Name) | GALLINULA (Scientific Name) CHLOROPUSDate(s): 6/10/83Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ADULTLocality: SAWHILL PONDS 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):

NOME

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

"LARRY HALSEY" &amp; BARRY KNAPP

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

EXCELLENT

Optical 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):

Now

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:

NAME

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. 35<sup>th</sup> St., BOULDER, CO 80303.

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## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD A

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: undetermined Plumage: adultLocality: Sawhill Pond Refuge Elevation: ~5300'Nearest town: Boulder County: BoulderTime(s) observed: June 10 - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm; June 11 - 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM; June 12 - 7 AM toDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): total

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

Wallace L. and Jeanne HalseyBarry Knapp (494-8390)

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

Peter Gant (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 11, 12 - bird in shadows of cattails, sun to left & in front of observersOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7x50 Binoculars & 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 L. 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 its 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 illustrations 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~~ 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 a 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 <sup>notes</sup> ~~reports~~ made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation  from memory \_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time report was written: June 21, 1983 ; 5:00 PM.

Reporting observer: Laurens R. Halsey Signature: Laurens R. Halsey

Address: 6422 Bluebird Ave, Longmont, Colo. 80501

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