

SPECIES Common Moorhen
(Vernacular name)Gallinula chloropus
(Scientific name)

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If you have seen something unusual, or out of season and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Computers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s) 6/4/84Time Bird Seen 3:40 pm To 3:52 pmLocality SE of 32 1/2 & DRdsClifton, Co. 14 NESEA CO
nearest town county stateOptical equipment: 7X35 binoculars and 15X-60x spotting scope at approx 40xIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: n/aNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: adult
Light conditions Excellent - looking ENE at 3:40 MDTDistance from bird, and how measured approx 75 yds - EST.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird was wading along edge of shallow marshy pond in about 2-3 inches of water. Head lower than tail. Observed for 5-10 seconds before it entered cover in tamarisk brush on shoreline. 10 min later bird was flushed. It flew directly away - legs dangling rail-like, about 200 yds and dropped into cover along shore of Colorado River.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Shallow marshy pond surrounded by tamarisk

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Tom Moran406 Country Club plGrand Junction CO 81503

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Hen shaped, short-tailed bird - Charcoal gray with bright red chicken-like bill & frontal plate.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None

*List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Coot - Bill conspicuously red rather than white

Sora - Bill red, not yellow; bird larger, darker

Prior experience with this and similar species:

McCarren - none
Coot, Sora both common in this area

This report was written from notes made during 1 hr. after observation; from memory .

NAME (print) Richard Levard

Mailing address; 2924 Renda Lee Rd, Grand Jct Co 81503

Signature Richard Levard

Mail to:

Hugh E. Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

APPENDIX II

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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Common Moorhen ; Gallinula chloropus
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 5/4/84 Time Bird Seen: approx. 3:40 pm ~~to~~ for approx 1 minLocality: approx. 150 yards SE of 32 1/2 & D Roads (Mesa Co.)
Near Clifton, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7X35 binoculars & 15X-60X spotting scope at about 40x

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: unk Plumage: AdultLight conditions: Excellent - looking ENE at 3:40 pm in full sunDistance from bird, and how measured: 75-100 yds est

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Bird was first sighted walking along edge of shallow marshy pond in about 3 inches of water. Walked head lower than hips for 20 ft before it disappeared in heavy shoreline cover. Ten minutes later bird was flushed. It flew low (est 20 ft) and directly away, legs dangling rail-like at first, approximately 200 yds. Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: To Colo. river where it dropped quickly into cover.

Shallow marsh pond surrounded by cattails & tamarisk

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Dr Thomas Moran406 Country Club Pk
Grand Junction, Co

APPENDIX II Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

A Hen or coot shaped bird, short-tailed and deep-bodied, charcoal gray with a bright red chicken-like bill and frontal plate. wings seemed somewhat short. At first glance bird appeared to be a coot, but when viewed through binoculars and spotting scope, the red bill became extremely conspicuous.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

No call heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Coot: Bill conspicuously red rather than white

Sora: Bill red rather than yellow, bird larger & uniformly dark gray (nearly black)

(Coots and Soras are common in this area)

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None with this species

This report was written from notes made ~~during~~ 1 hr. after observation; from memory.

Name (print) : Richard Levad

Mailing address: 2924 Linda Lee Road, Grand Tct co 81503

Signature: Richard Levad

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205