

## 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 (GALLINULE) / GALLINULA CHLOROPUS  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 7-1-92Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNK Plumage: ADULTLatilong: 22 Distribution Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Habitat Code: MS (RESE)Locality: TOTTEN RESERVOIR Elevation: 6200Nearest town: CORTEZ County: MONTEZUMATime(s) observed: 7:15 - 7:30 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 MINUTES

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

NONE EXCEPT 3-YR-OLD SON (NOT MUCH HELP!)

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

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

DIRECT MORNING SUNLIGHT ON BIRDOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BUSHNELL SPACEMASTER 60 MM SPOTTING SCOPE, 22X EYEPieceDistance and how measured: 50 YARDS, ESTIMATED

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):

THE BIRD WAS WALKING AND PICKING ALONG THE EDGE OF THE CATTAILS AND IN THE WATER AS DEEP AS ITS BELLY

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 observed in the field:

SEVERAL AMERICAN COOTS NEARBY, VERY CLOSE TO SAME SIZE.  
BIRD'S BILL WAS ENTIRELY RED EXCEPT FOR YELLOW TIP.Brownish BACK AND CHARCOAL-GRAY/BLUE BELLY. YELLOW



Description (continued): LEGS WHICH HAD A VERY SMALL RED AREA AT THE TOP. BENEATH TAIL THERE WERE TWO TRIANGULAR WHITE PATCHES SEPARATED BY BLACK (SEE DRAWING TO LEFT)

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

N/A

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

AT THE EDGE OF A SUBSTANTIAL CATTAIL AREA & INTO THE WATER

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

AM. COOT - ELIMINATED BY RED BILL, BROWN BACK, RED ON LEGS, BLUISH CAST ON BELLY

PURPLE GALLINULE - ELIMINATED BY LACK OF LIGHT AREA ON FOREHEAD, BLACKISH HEAD, RED ON LEGS. NO GREENISH OR PURPLISH CAST

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

1<sup>ST</sup> SIGHTINGS OF COMMON MOORHEN. COOTS ARE, OF COURSE, AS COMMON AS DIRT AROUND HERE. I HAVE NEVER SEEN A PURPLE GALLINULE

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

a) At time of observation: GOLDEN GUIDE / I KNEW RIGHT AWAY I WAS NOT LOOKING AT A COOT. I JUST HAD TO SEPARATE C. MOORHEN & P. GALLINULE

b) After observation: NATL. GEO., PETERSON'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ED

This report was written from reports made during \_\_\_\_\_, after observation 7/1, from memory \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time report was written: 8:45 AM 7/1/92

Reporting observer: ALAN VERSAW Signature: Alan Versaw

Address: 619 COLFAX, CORTEZ, CO 81321

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205

I DO NOT KNOW IF THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENCE OF THIS BIRD OR NOT, BUT WE HAVE HAD STRONG WINDS OUT OF THE SW FOR TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THIS.