

Species: Common Moorhen  
(Common Name)Gallinula chloropus

For Atlas Office Use

RC

Tech Cm

Atl Off

Topo Map--Name

Vineland

--Number Lat \_\_\_\_\_ Long \_\_\_\_\_ Latilong \_\_\_\_\_

--Sector SE  SW  CE  CW  NE  NW 

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, for research projects like the Atlas, a written description for unusual species is essential. The final atlas project must have a solid basis, and for unusual records, we require written documentation. By providing the verifying written description you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method. The Atlas Technical Committee will review the report and approve it for inclusion in the Atlas database.

This form will perpetuate your record for examination by others in the future. The Atlas requires this of every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date(s): 6-21-93 Time seen 6:20 P to 6:30 PLocality Avondale- Vineland, Atlas Block - Cattail Marsh near SE corner Huernano LcNearest town & county Avondale- Vineland - Pueblo County

Number seen	Gender	Ages	Plumage	Photos
1	Males	Adults <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Breeding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transition _____	Yes/No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
	Females	Juv/Imm <input type="checkbox"/>	Eclipse _____	Avail. _____
	Imm/O	2/3 yr _____	Dark phase _____	Encl. _____
	Unk	Unk	Winter _____ Light phase _____	
			Other _____	

Distance from bird(s) 50-40' Light conditions good Notes made: At time of sighting ✓

and

Optical Equip Zeiss 10x40 Binoculars + SWIFT 15-60X spotting scope After observation from memory ✓

Describe Habitat

Cattail Marsh near southeast corner of prairie lake.Surrounding area is short grass prairie

Atlas Breeding Code Overall behavior. Did it interact with any other birds? Describe.

Preened at edge of marsh. No other nearby birds were pres

Describe all field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc. Describe any unique features this bird had.

Like a coot in size & shape & color. Overall color was black. Undertail coverts were white bisected by dark line. A white flank extends the length of the wing was visible but not as ~~visible~~ prominent as on most moorhens I've seen. Bill was bright red with yellow tip. Bill extended into forehead forming red shield. Legs were dull yellow green excepting bright red upper thighs. Feet were same color as legs with long un-webbed toes.

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What song or sounds did it make?

None

Field marks not seen. Why not?

We had trouble distinguishing eye color.

Variation from expected field marks

White Flank patch was not as prominent as on typical moorhens

List similar species. Why and how did you eliminate them?

Young coots may have dull reddish bills - not bright red with yellow tip. Coots lack white flank & red upper thighs.

Purple gallinules have more bluish & green body color, lack red thighs, & have bluish forehead shield.

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What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I've seen many coots & moorhens though this bird was my first moorhen in Colorado. I've seen several purple gallinules in Florida.

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Name (print)

David Silverman

Signature

David Silverman

Street address, city & zip

PO Box 362 Rye CO 81069

Telephone

719 489 3565

Corroborating observers not reporting separately (but encourage them to provide a report):

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Name

Bob Dickson

Signature

Street address, city & zip

55 Villa Drive

Pueblo CO 81001

LATILONG 19  
DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PARC BIRD SIGHTING  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

17-93-26

A

Species: COMMON Moorhen  
(Vernacular name)

*Gallinula chloropus*  
(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.

Date (s): 21 JUNE 1993

Time Bird Seen: 6:20 PM to 6:30 PM

Locality: 100 yds EAST of Huertano Lake on edge of a reedy MARSH  
AVONDALE & VINELAND, PUEBLO CO.  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Zeiss 10x40 BINOCULARS, Swift scope 15-60

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ADULT BREEDING

Light conditions: full sunlight

Distance from bird, and how measured: 30-40 ft. ESTIMATED

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Bird WAS PREENING ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE  
reedy MARSH ADJACENT TO BUSH ROAD. AFTER 10 MIN.  
ENTERED THE REEDS & WAS LOST TO VISIBILITY.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:  
Marsh filled with reeds about 4 ft. tall  
Bird was on bank

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

Dave Silverman

P.O. Box 362

Rye, Co. 81069

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the 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.

COOT sized bird with bright red forehead shield, base of bill, and upper portion of legs adjacent to belly. Tip of bill-yellow. Legs greenish yellow, white lower extremity. STATE - GRAY overall with whitish strip along flanks which was difficult to see. There were occasional white streaks in some of the upper primaries & primary coverts. Outer undertail coverts white.

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

NO CALL'S

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

AM. COOT

Purple Gallinule  
Neither have a red forehead shield or red on upper legs adjacent to body  
Neither have a white flank stripe

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have observed many Moorhens, Purple Gallinules in Fla.,

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

NAME (print): Robert Dickson

Mailing address: 55 Villa Dr. Pueblo, Co. 81001

signature: RP Dickson

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205