

3-95-6

species: Brown Pelican  
(Vernacular name)Accepted (7-0)  
*Pelecanus occidentalis*  
(Scientific name)PHOT

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): July 9, 1995 to July 18, 1995 Time Bird Seen: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Daily

Locality: Sweitzer Lake, State Recreation Area

Sweitzer Lake SRA 1735 E ROAD Delta Colorado 81416  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Binoculars, Also seen with naked eye, as close as Ten feet distance

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: 35 mm Camera / 200 ASA SLIDE  
Kodachrome

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Dark head of Immature - some  
whirish under parts

Light conditions: Varied (Mostly under clear sunny skies)

Distance from bird, and how measured: We got in close to the bird with in estimated Ten  
Feet. The bird would regularly go into areas of human activity, mixing with people.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The Pelican was quite gregarious with people, in the sense you could often find the bird in areas of human activity. We also noted the bird would use two areas of his embankment on which to perch above the lake. The bird would also frequent two peninsulas on the lake. And as a final note the bird often hid in shore line vegetation.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: I observed bird in all of above  
habitats. Also observed bird swimming on lake.

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

Kay L. Konitor, P.O. Box 206, Crawford, CO, 81415 (Senior Range  
Chair Werner); 1735 E Road, Delta, CO 81416 (Senior Range

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Use, if necessary, the standard 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. The bird was a dark to dusky plumbed bird. Dark plunging bill rather than the orange yellow bill of the American white Pelican. The Bird I suspect is an immature. has dark head; dark eyes and whitish to beige under parts of the immature Brown Pelican.

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

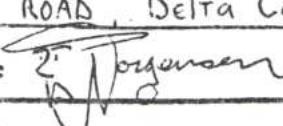
List similar species and how you eliminated them: American White Pelican. This Pelican was not white didn't have yellow bill, and over all plumage was brown, like that of Brown Pelican.

Prior experience with this and similar species: Having worked as a Park Ranger at this Lake for several years I've seen a good many American White Pelicans and waterfowl. I knew this was not an American White Pelican. Also I've had ornithology classes at Mesa State College and spend a good deal of time observing birds.

• This report was written from notes made during  after  observation; from memory  (all of the above)

NAME (print): Scott Jorgensen (Ranger:Switzer Lake State Recreation Area)

Mailing address: Switzer Lake SRA 1735 E ROAD, Delta Colorado 81416

Signature: 

Return to:

Hugh E. Kingery  
869 Milwaukee Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206

3-95-6



4/19/55  
CHENNAI 72 APR 31 1955

10-24-95

Carl Hugit

PAUSADE

I'VE OFTEN SAID 'I DON'T WANT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A NAME BIRD'. IF I DON'T A NAME BIRD LET IT BE HIGHLY VISIBLE, EASILY IDENTIFIABLE AND SEEN BY MANY OBSERVERS, WHAT BETTER BIRD TO FIND THAN A BROWN PERICOU.

FIRST SEEN 8-5-95 CONFLUENCE PARK, DEXTER, DELTA County Colorado.

IT WAS STILL THERE ON OUR LAST VISIT TO DELTA. 10-2-95

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Robert & Nancy Gustafson  
679 Brentwood Dr #14  
PAUSADE Co, 81526  
(970) 464-0372

P.S. - WE LOVE IT HERE!

STARTING A NEW YARD LIST IS BEING BORN-AGAIN.

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

3-95-6

NEW STATE RECORD  UNUSUAL RECORD 

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

Species: Brown Pelican, Pelecanus Occidentalis  
(vernacular name) (scientific name)Date(s): Aug 5-18, 95 - Bird was reported earlier  
than the Aug. 5th dateNumber of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: imma.Latilong: 15 Distribution Code: M Habitat Code: OWLLocality: Confluence Park Elevation: 5200'Nearest town: Delta County: DeltaTime(s) observed: 6:00 PM - 8:00 AM & 7:30 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 30 min then 30 min

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

Rich Head, Brenda Wright, Bob & Nancy Gustafson

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

Bob & Nancy Gustafson & M.O.B.

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

Great -Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 45 power scope + 8X40,Distance and how measured: 100 ft - CameraIf photographed, type of equipment and film: 500 mm MirrorWho else photographed the bird: ?

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

Sitting on log in lake, swimming or flying over lake

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:

See Pictures

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:

- Lake -

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

None similar except  
the American white Pelican and it's white

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

Lots - many places

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

a) At time of observation: Nat. Geo.

b) After observation: Several

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

Date and time report was written: Aug 18, 1995

Reporting observer: Tom Dexter Signature: Tom Dexter

Address: 175 Soccer Set Circle Palisade, CO

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below: 81526

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

