

1999 - 8

CFO-RC-FILE#: 403

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: ACCEPT 7-0

Species: Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of occurrence: July 2, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: Unknown

Plumage: subadult (second year?)

Exact location: Blue Lake SWA (Adobe Creek Reservoir, south end)

Elevation: Approx. 4500 feet

County: Bent

Nearest town: Fort Lyon, CO

Length of Observation: 30 min.

Time(s) of Observation: 8:30 – 9:00 am

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Family members

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Duane Nelson, 7/1/99; Bill Maynard 7/3/99

Light conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s) position]:

Excellent light (sunny sky). Observed briefly with mid-morning sun behind me.

Optical equipment used: Swift Panther telescope, 15-45x zoom.

Distance from bird (estimated unless otherwise noted):

300m

Was the bird photographed? Yes.

If so, have you submitted photos? ~~Yes~~ No.

Who took the photographs? I did (NK)

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Lake/Reservoir, sitting and swimming at sandy shore with emergent grassy vegetation.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

Seen standing in shallow water, swimming in water, flying low over water's surface (almost touching the water), and diving for fish from about 20 feet above lake surface. While resting, associated itself with flocks of American White Pelicans.

Describe the bird in detail: This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the (bird(s)). Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, etc. that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted: you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes):

General shape that of American White Pelican. The enormous, dark bill identified as a pelican. Size obviously smaller than Am. White Pelican. Overall brownish color set it apart from its company. In particular, underparts, wings, back and tail were a grayish brown. Neck was primarily a deep chestnut brown. Throat area was light colored, and the forehead was brownish.

Describe the bird's song and calls if heard: None

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Immature Am. White Pelican also has dark bill but is mostly black and white, and larger in size.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

I consulted the National Geographic Society's Birds of North America field guide and determined that the bird was intermediate in plumage between immature and adult.

This report was made later from memory.

Reporting observer: Nicholas Komar

Signature: Nicholas Komar Date: 7/5/99

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