

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

*Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!*

CBRC FILE #: 2002 - 50

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) **Common Moorhen**

(Scientific Name) **Gallinula chloropus**

Date(s) of occurrence: **05-04-02**

Number of birds seen: **One**

Sex:

Plumage: **Adult breeding**

Exact location: **Barbour Ponds**

County: **Weld**

Nearest town: **Longmont**

Elevation: **Approx. 5300 ft.**

Length of observation: **10-15 seconds**

Time(s) of observation: **Approx. 6:30 p.m.**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Joe Fontaine, Andrew Spencer, Karleen Schofield, Bob Spencer, Tony Leukering**

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **MOB**

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: **Sunny, light wind**

Optical equipment used: **Leica 8 X 42 binoculars**

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **A few feet**

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? **Yes**

If so, are you submitting photos? **Yes**

Who took the photograph(s)? **Andrew Spencer**

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: **Wetland/Marsh**

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **The bird was hiding in marshy reeds and flew when flushed, diving into more cover. It was flushed again, repeating this behavior.**

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings -- folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes. **I had two brief looks at this bird in flight. Small American Coot size bird with black head and neck, short wings and short tail. Yellow legs. Bright red forehead shield and red bill with yellow tip. Please click here for photo.**

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: **American Coot has much smaller reddish forehead shield and white bill with dark band on the tip. Purple Gallinule has bluish forehead shield and is more purple-blue in color.**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen several.**

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): **None**

This report was made from (check one) \_\_\_ notes made during observation \_\_\_ notes made after observation **X** later from memory.

Date and time of written report: **05/30/02**

Reporting observer: **Rachel Hopper**

Signature: *Rachel Hopper*

Reporting observer's address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**

City: **Ft. Collins**

State: **CO**

Zip: **80524**

**Send report to:  
Colorado Bird Records Committee  
Tony Leukering  
PO Box 660  
Brighton, CO 80601**



## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

IXI

rec'd 5/19/02

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

Species: Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): May 4, 2002Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? [not sexually dimorphic] Plumage: AdultLocality: Adjacent to Barbour Ponds State Park (South edge) Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_Nearest town: Mead County: WeldTime(s) observed: approx. 9:20 am. and 5:00 p.m.Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1<sup>st</sup> observation  $\approx$  1 1/2 minutes

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

Dick Pratt 757 Wack Road, Longmont, 80503 303-651-6860

CFO Field trip participants

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

Andrew Spencer 3649 E. Phillips Ave, Littleton, CO 80122Tony Leukering P.O. Box 660 Brighton, CO 80601Karleen SchofieldBill Kaempfer 724 Fourmile Canyon Dr. Boulder, 80302 (303) 939-8005Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): feeding along barbed wire fence. Bird was in light shade. Colors not bleached out but well-lit by morning sun. Sun Southeast.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Leica trinovid 10x42Distance, and how measured: 20 feet estimated upon return to site

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? (Tony Leukering) Andrew SpencerDescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): The bird was walking along the barbed wire fence feeding in the marshy area. After approx. a minute, it walked away from the fence deeper into the marsh and behind a tussock. After a few seconds, it flew further back into long grass.

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:



**Description (continued):** Bird's size was that of a small hen (chicken). Round "butterball" shape. Tail was held mostly erect with an obvious white patch on either side. Bill was most strikingly red with a vivid yellow tip. Extent of red up to forehead was unmistakable.

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** None given

**Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:** Marshy area formed by water discharge from gravel washing operation. Short and long grasses scattered in approx. 1 acre site. Short grasses close to road longer grasses farther back. Shallow water up to 3 inches. Other aquatic plants.

**How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?** The beak and forehead shield color was red with a yellow tip -- very different from a coot which is the common gallinule-like species. Most striking was the extent of red up the forehead.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?** Several regular visits to the upper Texas Coast with visits to Aransas NW Refuge. Other coastal marsh habitats of the area also.

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

- a) at time of observation: National Geographic Field Guide Edition 3, Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds 3rd Edition, Consultation with Dick Pratt.  
b) after observation: National Geographic Field Guide Edition 3, Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds 3rd Edition,

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

Date and time report was written: May 15, 2002 8:00 p.m.

Reporting observer: Richard Mendel <sup>Richard Mendel</sup> Signature: Christie L. Owens

Address: 418 Sumner Street, Longmont, CO 80501  
(303) 772-6048

Return to:

Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

13810 WCR 1

Longmont, Colorado 80501

Tony Leukering PO Box 660 Brighton, CO 80601