

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # 2002-15

(A)

rec'd 2/5/02

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

Date: 17 April 2001

Number seen: one

Sex: male

Plumage: adult alternate

Locality: Bonny Reservoir

Elevation: 3600 ft

Nearest town: Hale

County: Yuma

Time observed: early afternoon

Duration of observation: about 10 minutes total

Description:

Small shorebird, specifically a plover. The upperparts were light gray; the forehead was white bordered black on the upper portion forming an upside down U. The eyes were dark; bill was bicolored with the proximal half being bright orange and the distal half black without clear demarcation between the two. Legs were bright orange. The underparts were entirely white, except for a complete black collar that extended around the neck onto the chest. I determined this individual to be a male due to the completeness of the band since females and eastern males show only a partial band.

This individual was seen in close company with two Semipalmated Plovers (*C. semipalmatus*) and a Killdeer (*C. vociferus*); thus, allowing for an excellent comparison of upperpart coloration (being medium brown in the other two species). It was similar in size to *C. semipalmatus*.

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

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen dozens of this species outside of Colorado and a couple times in the state at known breeding locations in the SE.

Light conditions: Bright with sun overhead and slightly behind me.

Optical equipment used: Zeiss 7x42 binoculars

Distance, and how estimated: within 50 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: none

Other observers who saw the bird independently: I believe up to 4 were reported at this location later in the month.


If photographed, type of equipment and film:

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: 3rd ed. National Geographic
Birds of North America

Reporting observer: Doug Faulkner

Signature: 

Address: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 28 January 2002 from notes taken immediately after observation.