

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

ACCEPTED

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): <b>BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE</b>		(Scientific Name) <b><i>Rissa tridactyla</i></b>
Date(s) of occurrence: <b>April 20, 2001</b>		
Number of birds seen: <b>One</b>	Sex: <b>Unknown</b>	Plumage: <b>Mostly 1<sup>st</sup>-basic</b>
Exact Location: <b>West side of Chatfield Reservoir (Swim Beach)</b>		
County: <b>Jefferson</b>	Nearest town: <b>Littleton</b>	Elevation: <b>XX msl</b>
Length of observation: <b>Approximately 10 minutes</b>		Time(s) of observation: <b>Afternoon</b>
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: <b>Tony Leukering</b>		
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): <b>Many</b>		
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: <b>Good. Bird was to east and sun was slightly to west of myself.</b>		
Optical equipment used: <b>7x42 Bins, 20x60 Leica Televid 77 Scope</b>		
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): <b>Quite close. Closest was approximately 50 feet</b>		
Was bird(s) photographed? <b>Yes (video)</b>	If so, have you submitted photos? <b>Yes, stills from video</b>	
Who took the photographs? <b>Myself</b>		
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: <b>Sandy beach of open water lake.</b>		
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): <b>Loafing on shore. Quite listless.</b>		
Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the 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 important 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 field notes):		
<p><b>On a trip to southeastern Colorado, Tony Leukering and I stopped off at Chatfield Reservoir to see the Black-legged Kittiwake that was being seen on the western side of the lake. We arrived at the swim beach and very soon found the young kittiwake loafing along the shore. The bird was fairly similar in overall size (probably slightly smaller) to that of a Ring-billed Gull, but had a slimmer overall proportion. The bill was mainly black (though with close-up views it appeared a blackish-green), moderately short, no gonydeal angle, and rounded, drooped culmen. The head was mainly whitish except for a dark grayish ear spot that extended perpendicularly toward the crown, lightening vertically toward the crown. There was also a diffuse gray smear slightly posterior and vertical to the black eye. The neck and breast were white, save for the blackish nucal collar. The mantle was gray, being a shade grayer than a Ring-billeds. The wings were also gray except for the black leading edge to the folded wing, blackish inner secondaries, black, inner-based tertials, and black primaries. The tail appeared slightly forked and was white basally, black distally. I did not observe the legs because of the listless behavior of the resting bird.</b></p>		



Describe bird's call or song: **None heard**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **Those smaller gulls with black bills are limited to Bonaparte's Gull, Little Gull, Ross' Gull, and Red-legged Kittiwake. All lack the black nucal collar except for Red-legged Kittiwake. I believe 1<sup>st</sup>-basic Red-legged Kittiwakes (which I have never seen) have shorter bills, have darker gray mantles, lack the black scapulars, coverts, and tertials, and have an all-white tail compared to young Black-legged Kittiwakes (they also would have light legs, though it would not have been possible to discern this based on the view of the subject bird that I had).**

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Have observed thousands of others in Scotland and Alaska as well as a few birds in Wisconsin, Texas, Scotland, California, and the East Coast. Had previously observed on other bird in Colorado in October 2000 at Chatfield Reservoir.**

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

This report is from notes made during      or after **XX** observation or later      from memory

Date of written report: **8/22/01**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:



Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

**Send report to:**

**Colorado Birds Record Committee**

**c/o Tony Leukering**

**Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

2002-1

CFO-RC FILE X:

**RESULTS:**

**Species:(Common Name)** Black-legged Kittiwake

**(Scientific Name)** *Rissa tridactyla*

**Date(s) of occurrence:** 14 May 2001

**Number of birds seen:** 1 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar  
year

**Location:** Chatfield State Park, Douglas County

**Length of observation:** 30 minutes

**Time(s) of observation:** 7:00am – 7:45

**Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:** None with me. Many others saw the bird including Joey Kellner and Andrew Spencer.

**Conditions:** Bird slightly backlit from early morning sun. Mild and calm.

**Optical equipment used:** Leica 8 x 42 binocular. Leica APO Televid scope with 32 x eyepiece

**Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):** 120 meters

**Habitat:** Reservoir marina.

**Details:**

I went to Chatfield to see if I could relocate the Black-legged Kittiwake that had been present since early April. I quickly found the bird at the marina. The kittiwake was standing the entire time I watched it, opening and closing its eyes in a sickly manner. The bird appeared dazed and ill. This was one of the sickest birds I have ever seen in Colorado.

The bird was smaller than the nearby Ring-billed and California gulls, with shorter legs and smaller bill. The bill was typical in size and shape for BLKI and not as short as one would see on Red-legged Kittiwake (see video). The head was white with dusky markings behind the eye and a vertical black bar and the rear of the auriculars (see video). The bird had a black half collar just below the nape, a feature sometimes said to be shown only by juvenile kittiwakes. Mantle appeared similar in color to California Gull, perhaps slightly paler. Wings each had a dark carpal bar. Primaries that could be seen in rest appeared all black. Gray adult-colored feathers replaced two of the coverts that formed the carpal bar; this is shown by the video.

Black terminal tail band.

**Similar species:**

All other species are eliminated by the combination of this bird's: black legs, bill shape, black bill becoming yellowish throughout especially at the tip, retained black half collar, extensive carpal bar and black terminal tail band.

**Video:** MPG video enclosed on CD.



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

I have seen hundreds of kittiwakes, but this is only my second in Colorado and the first that I have seen showing this combination of bill color and molt in the wing coverts. I have also seen all other similar species except Red-legged Kittiwake.

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

**This report is from notes and video made immediately after observation.**

**Date of written report:** 6 February 2002

**Reporting observer:**

Christopher L. Wood  
[zeledonia@cfo-link.org](mailto:zeledonia@cfo-link.org)

**Signature:**

**Reporting Observer's Address:** 744 Mockingbird St, Apt G-205

**City:** Brighton

**State:** Colorado

**Zip:** 80601