

Species: LAUGHING GULL

Larus atricilla

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 5 May 1975

Time Bird Seen: 4:00 PM to 4:45 PM

Locality: on Sloan's Lake

Nearest Town: Denver

County: W Denver

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

John & Joyce Cooper

Optical Equipment: Swift Telemaster 15-60X Zoomscope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Low from behind (excellent)

Distance from bird (how measured): estimated 100 yards

Number of Birds Seen: one Sex: Unk Plumage: Adult- nuptial

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Seen perched only. It was sitting with Bonaparte's Gulls and Forster's Terns on the west end of the island on Sloans Lake.

While perched it appeared large and dark mantled. The bill also was rather long. Finally it stretched its wing fully exposing both upper and lower surfaces which were uniformly dark. Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

It was a typical adult with full dark hood. The wing surfaces were dark from body to tip, unlike Franklin's Gull in both pattern and coloration. The bill was also longer and deeper than Franklin's Gull.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Rocky shore

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

By wing pattern, color and size.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Laughing Gull- Coastal Mexico, Texas, California.

Franklin's Gull Coastal Texas, California, and Colorado

Hemprich's Gull- Red Sea- none.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

None

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory _____

PRINT NAME: Bruce Webb

Street Address: 1090 A 11th St.

SIGNATURE: Bruce Webb

DATE: 22 May 19

Town and State: Boulder Colo

ZIP: 80302

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

23-75-41
Accepted 8/5/75

1041 Field St.
Lakewood, Colo. 80215

May 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM

To: Jack Reddall, Chairman, CFO Rare Bird Committee
From: John R. Cooper
Subject: Laughing Gull reported May 5, 1975 by Bruce Webb
at SloansLake

After learning of the above report, Joyce and I visited Sloans Lake at 7:15 AM MDT May 6, 1975. We found one fullplumaged adult Laughing Gull, both in flight and perched with 8 or 10 Bonaparte's Gulls. The Laughing Gull was much larger than the Bonaparte's, with distinctly darker mantle, much darker red legs, and a dark-red bill. We were fortunate to get an unusually good view of the upper surface of the Laughing Gull's wings, both in flight and when it held its wings straight up briefly on alighting. The wings blended imperceptibly with the dark-gray back and became increasingly dark toward the tip; the only white was in a narrow band along the trailing edge. Our excellent view of the wing is the chief reason for this memo

John R. Cooper

Species: Laughing Gull (Vernacular Name) Larus atricilla (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 6 May 1975 Time Bird Seen: 1000 to 1015

Locality: Sloan's Lake

Nearest Town: Lakewood County: Jefferson

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
------	---------	-----------

Mildred Snyder

John and Joyce Cooper

Bruce Webb (found the bird)

Optical Equipment: 15 x 60 scope

Light Conditions: good - diffuse sunlight backlitting

Distance from Bird (how measured): ~ 300 yds (guess)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: adult-breeding

Overall Appearance and Size: like a Franklin's Gull but immediately seen to differ in having longer wings and larger body size

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): not certain - looked dark

Legs (shape and color): orange-red

Crown and Forehead: black (but not as black as Franklin's) Eye (color): ?

Nape: black (upper) - white (lower) Face: black with partial white eye-rings Throat: blackish

Breast and Sides: white

Belly and Flanks: white

Undertail Coverts: white

Back: white (mantle dark gray)

Wings: dark gray becoming blackish on tips - absolutely no trace of white anywhere except along trailing edge

Underwings: gray (not remembered)

Rump: white Uppertail Coverts: white

Upper Side of Tail: white

Under Side of Tail: (not seen)

Shape of Tail: like Franklin's

Voice: not heard

Behavior: Flying around south edge of island; resting on rocks

Habitat: reservoir

Prior Experience with this Species: hundreds several times at Salton Sea, Calif.; very familiar with Franklin's

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Black head eliminates all but Franklin's, Bonaparte's, Black-headed, and Little, none of which have all dark upperwings and all of which were smaller. There were one Franklin's and five Bonapartes around the island for direct comparison.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after observation; Memory

Signed: Van Pearson Street Address: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Univ. of Calif.

Date Prepared: May 14, 1975 Town and State: Berkeley, CA ZIP 94720

Return to: JACK REEDMAN, 11150 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80210