

Accepted

Species: LAUGHING GULLLarus atricilla

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 17, 1977Time Bird Seen: 8:45 a.m. to 9 a.m.Locality: Cherry Creek Recreation AreaNearest Town: IdenverCounty: Idenver

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 20x60 Tasco

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Clear day with sun at my backDistance from bird (how measured): at first, 200 feet; at least 75 feet. (estimated)Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

It was resting (~~sitting~~, not standing) on a sand bar near the inlet. It was motionless until I approached + then it stood up + flew to another sand bar where it again sat, motionless. As I approached the second time it stood up + flew away, high in the sky, toward the south.

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 medium sized gull, about a foot long; mantle and folded wings gray; neck and underparts + tail white; head all around black, with light mark about eye; bill dark red. As it sat I could not see the white wing tips that I had expected to see on a Franklin's Gull, so when it flew I was prepared to concentrate on the wing markings. The wings were dark, without the white band + tips of a Franklin's Gull + the only white was a narrow band along the rear edge of the wing. I didn't notice the color of legs + feet.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc: *I heard no sound.*

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

On sand bars near inlet at Cherry Creek Reservoir

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

It looked too young markings of a Franklin Gull, or a Bonapartes, or a Black-headed. It was too large for a Little Gull + its markings were light.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Many Laughing Gulls seen in Connecticut, Florida + Texas, Many Franklins in Colo; Many Black-headed (Heads brown-headed) in Europe + a few in New Jersey; Many Bonapartes in Colo; a few Little Gulls in New Jersey + one in Colorado

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

I have studied many books over the years, but I used none to identify this bird.

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

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