

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

23-93-44

NEW STATE RECORD / UNUSUAL RECORD /

ACCEPTED

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

Species: Laughing Gull (1<sup>st</sup> winter) / Larus Atricilla  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): Dec. 13, 1993 + 14<sup>th</sup>, 1993Number of birds seen: One (1) Sex:  Plumage: First winterLatilong: ? Distribution Code: ? Habitat Code: ?Locality: cherry Creek Res. Elevation: 5350 FeetNearest town: Denver County: Denver - ArapahoeTime(s) observed: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM on 12-13; 8AM-12N 12-14Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 hour and 4 hrs, resOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): Alone on 13<sup>th</sup>, Joe Roller late on 13<sup>th</sup>, Sherrri Chapman, Marlene Eggarling, Joe Himmel, Karleen Schifield on 12-14 (most CFO members) Diane Nelson

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

Bill FinkDr. Joe Roller - 12-13, Karleen Schifield. Joe Himmel - many others on 12-14

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Sunlight from so. Gull mostly west from me -Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Swift 8.5 x Bushnell Scope  
Zoomed to 36 x 12-14-93Distance and how measured: Bird flew within 50 yards of me. 20 yds.If photographed, type of equipment and film: Minolta X700 - 300 MM Lens  
Film - ~~Color~~ Ektachrome 400Who else photographed the bird: Diane NelsonDescribe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): Gull flew incessantly. Alighting on water after about 1 hr. to allow telescopic view & verify bill size and shape. On Dec. 14, allowed much closer approach than Ring-bills.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: Small size and darkness first attracted. Much wider tail band than other small gulls I've seen. Black legs and bill. Upper tail whitest part of bird.  
Dark ~~black~~ primaries, mostly brown mottled w/grey. Dark  
12-14 observation of standing bird: Slight broken eye-ring

Description (continued): thin sinuose beak behind eye. Large bill curved downward at tip. - proportionally larger than Franklin's or Bonaparte's. ~~Apparent eye-ring = split~~

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Not heard

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Reservoir near dam - and shore

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The size - compared to many ring-bills present. Size of tail-bend and bill eliminated other small gulls.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?  
Many Laughing Gulls on visit to Ocean City, Md. two years ago

Many Franklins each year in Colorado

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

Nat'l Geographic Field Guide

a) At time of observation: Advanced Birding - Rautman

b) After observation: Audubon (Master Guides)  
Enc. NA Birds - Terres

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

Date and time report was written: 12-14-93 4:00 A.M.

Reporting observer: Joe Ten Brink Signature: Joe Ten Brink

Address: 6801 E Miss A302 - Denver, Co 80224

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, CO 80205