

1997-35

ACCEPTED 6-1

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

rec'd 11-15-97

Species: Laughing Gull

Date(s): 21 Oct 1997 **Time seen:** Followed constantly with binoculars, 1000-1010

Locality: Prewitt Reservoir, Washington County

Latilong: 6 **Optical equipment:** 8x42 binoculars

Number of birds seen: 1 **Sex:** ? **Plumage:** Winter/basic

Light Conditions: Bright light; fair to good from time to time, but not ideal.

Distance from bird: 100-500 yards

Weather at time of observation: cloudy to sunny

Describe habitat: Plains reservoir

Describe behavior: Flying during entire observation. Flew by itself although many Ring-bill Gulls flew around the reservoir at the same time.

Field marks observed: size, color, pattern, shape, bill, etc.:

Head: White with black eye and black smudge behind eye. Forehead and crown white.

Mantle: Darker than Ring-billeds which flew around it. Wing tips black, no white, more extensive than Ring-billed (i.e., covered a larger portion of the wing tip. On the undersid of the wings the dark extended in a sort of line along the trailing edge. See drawing.

Size: Slightly smaller than the Ring-billeds.

Tail, body: White.

Bill: Dark, but bird too far away to determine color.

Flight: Flapped continuously, and more frequently than Ring-billeds.

Bird's call or song: Not heard.

Field marks not seen: Color of legs, bill.

Similar species:

Ring-billed: Has white face without smudge, and has white in wing tips.

Franklin's: Back of head has large dark patch. Has white in wing tips.

Bonaparte's, Sabine's: Have different wing patterns with contrasting black and white.

Black-legged Kittiwake: Head has a bigger patch, adult has yellow bill.

Prior experience: Observed on Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

Description from: Notes taken in field.

Uriling & Hugh Kingery
Uriling and Hugh Kingery
869 Milwaukee Street, Denver CO 80206