

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CBRC FILE #: **2002-137**

RESULTS:

(A)

Species: (Common Name) **Laughing Gull**

(Scientific Name) **Larus atricilla**

Date(s) of occurrence: **04/23/02**

Number of birds seen: **One**

Sex:

Plumage: **Adult basic**

Exact location: **Boyd Lake**

County: **Larimer**

Nearest town: **Loveland**

Elevation: **Approx. 5300 ft.**

Length of observation: **20 minutes**

Time(s) of observation: **10:30 a.m.**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **No one else**

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Nick Komar**

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: **Clear, slightly windy, sunny**

Optical equipment used: **Leica 8 X 42 binocs**

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **40 feet**

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? **Yes**

If so, are you submitting photos? **Yes**

Who took the photograph(s)? **Myself**

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: **Exposed shoreline of reservoir**

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **Walking around on shore and then flying**

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings -- folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes. This bird was smaller than a ring-billed gull, white underparts, gray wings with black primaries, all white tail. Gray wash on head and nape of neck. Gray mantle, black legs. Long and slightly slender black bill. Please see photos.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: Franklins Gull would have white tips to primaries. Bonaparte's Gull would be smaller with smaller bill, reddish legs, lighter gray mantle, would show white wedge on wing in flight.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **I have seen several Laughing Gulls.**

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report was made from (check one) ___ notes made during observation **X** notes made after observation ___ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: **04/28/02**

Reporting observer: **Rachel Hopper**

Signature: *Rachel Hopper*

Reporting observer's address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**

City: **Ft. Collins**

State: **CO**

Zip: **80524**

**Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601**