

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CBRC FILE #: **2002-30**

ACCEPTED

RESULTS: _____

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): **Mew Gull** – *Larus canus brachyhynchus*

Date(s) of Observation: 11 March 2002.

Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: unknown.

Plumage: adult basic (winter) plumage.

Exact location: Pueblo Reservoir, north shore marina.

County: Pueblo

Nearest town: Pueblo West.

Elevation: unknown.

Length of observation: 15 minutes.

Time(s) of observation: 1:15pm – 1:30pm.

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): none that I know of.

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position): Sunny, I was looking north toward the bird, the sun was behind me and not a factor.

Optical equipment used: Baucsh & Lomb 15 – 60 zoom spotting scope.

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 50 meters.

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? If so, are you submitting photos? No.

Who took the photograph(s)? n/a.

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: The bird was at Pueblo Reservoir, a large man-made reservoir. The bird was observed on the water.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: I was looking through my scope at the gulls and ducks in the cove north of the north shore marina, when I noticed an adult Mew Gull with the Ring-billed Gulls. The bird stayed pretty much in the same spot, floating with other gulls. It didn't flap or anything else.

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.

The overall shape was of a small-headed "white-headed" adult gull. The size of the bird was an inch or two smaller than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls, probably a little smaller than 1.5 feet in length. The bird was no doubt a gull by the color pattern, shape, size, ect. The bird was an adult basic plumage gull with a smaller round head than the Ring-billed Gulls. The head and neck were white with brown feathers. The eyes were dark. The mantle and back were darker gray than the mantle and back of the nearby adult basic Ring-billed Gulls. The bird had a white tertial crescent, which Ring-billed Gulls do not have. The bill was fairly thin and all yellow, noticeable smaller and thinner than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls bills. The underparts were all white below the neck to the under tail coverts. The folded wings were black with several white tips. The folded wings extended beyond the tail. The tail looked all white. The tail was squared. At one point when the bird was swimming, I was able to see one of the bird's legs, which the color was yellow.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: None heard.

SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration.

Ring-billed Gull – This species has a ring on the bill, lighter colored mantle, lighter colored eyes, no tertial crescent, a little bigger size ect.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Mew Gull – I have seen a few adult basic Mew Gulls in Colorado and California in winter.

Ring-billed Gull – I have seen thousands each winter in all plumages at Pueblo Reservoir and about 45 of them when watching this Mew Gull.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): None needed.

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

Date and time of written report: March 11, 2002, 2:25 pm.

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival

Signature: *Brandon K. Percival*

Address: 835 Harmony Drive, Pueblo West, Colorado, 81007-2632.

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601.