

58-1985

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Heermann's Gull Scientific Name: Larus heermanni
Date: November 2, 1985 Time: Approx. 10:30^{am}-11:00 Length of time observed: 15-20 minutes
Number: 1 Age: Adult Sex:
Location: Logan Sewage Ponds, Cache County, Utah
Latilong: 3 Elevation (if known): 4440
Distance to bird: 50 - 200 meters Light conditions: Good
Optical equipment: Questar spotting scope; Bushnell 9x36 binoculars
Weather: Cool, sunny
Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The bird observed was a medium-large gull. The back was dark gray - almost black, the underside lighter gray. The head was mostly white with some grayish flecks. The bill was bright red with a black tip. Legs were black. The light terminal band was seen on the black tail.

* Note: A similar form was submitted to Mike Tove within a few days of the original sighting.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: None

Behavior: Was seen sitting and flying. The bird did not spend alot of time sitting - appeared nervous.

Habitat: Sewage Lagoons.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

No other gulls have combination of blackish back, gray underparts, white head and red bill.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I've seen them in Southern California and Mexico.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Field guides were consulted to determine distinguishing characteristics.

Significance of record in this area or the state: (S^t) State record.

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Photograph submitted by Mike Tove.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting ___ notes made later ___ from memory X

Observer: Ron Ryel

Signature: Ronald J. Ryel

Address: 825 N. 600 E.

Logan, UT 84321

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

The bird was found by Mike Tove and Terry Barnes. I saw the bird with Mike Tove.

Date prepared: Nov. 15, 1989

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120