

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Mew Gull Scientific Name: LARUS CANUS

Date: JAN. 29, 1988 Time: 3:50 PM Length of time observed: 40 min.

Number: 1 Age: ADULT/WINTER Sex: ?

Location: POND ACROSS (NORTH OF) FROM HILTON HOTEL IN THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER S.L. COUNTY

Latilong: 5 Elevation (if known): CLOSE TO PRESENT LAKE LEVEL - APPROX. 4230

Distance to bird: 50 yds Light conditions: EXCELLENT - VIEW POINT WAS SOUTH OF BIRD ON A CLEAR DAY

Optical equipment: BINOS (10x50) & SPOTTING SCOPE (18-36)

Weather: Clear / Cold

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Adult WINTER plumaged mew gull was with about 125 ring-billed gulls of various plumages.

This bird was noticeably smaller than the accompanying R.B.'s and had a darker gray mantle than them. The mantle was further different in that there was a white crescent on the mantle (in middle of back) and a very noticeable large white crescent on edge of tertials. The mantle & tertiail crescents as what first drew my eyes to the bird as being different from the ring-bills.

The head & breast were streaked with light brown, but the streaking seemed slightly more than that on the accompanying R.B.'s.

The eye was dark and appeared proportionately large on the small rounded head. The bill was yellowish (tending toward ochre) thin and delicate looking. Overall the head was quite dove-like.

Leg color was not seen. Bird was not seen in flight. The smaller size, darker mantle, white mantle & tertiail crescents, thin, unmarked bill, and the over all dove-like appearance to the head told me I wasn't seeing a ring-billed gull.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NONE HEARD

Behavior:

PREENING WHILE STANDING ON ICE NEAR OPEN WATER WITH RING-BILL

Habitat:

SEE ABOVE

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

Ring-Billed - IN ADULT WINTER PLUMAGE TENDS TO HAVE A LIGHTER UNMARKED MANTLE WITH ONLY A SMALL WHITE SPOT IN TERTIALS. ALSO HAS A HEAVIER RINGED-BILL. IN DIRECT COMPARISON WAS LARGER & LESS "DELICATE" LOOKING THAN MEW.

CALIFORNIA - MANTLE COLOR SIMILAR BUT TERTIAL CRESCENT, NOT QUITE AS LARGE. BIRD IS MUCH LARGER THAN MEW W/ HEAVIER MARKED BILL

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

LOTS WITH THE CAL. & RING-BILLED. I HAVE SEEN THIS SPECIES ON THE WEST COAST IN 1985 & 1986.

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

IMPRESSION WAS FORMED IMMEDIATELY^{ON THE} BUT I USED THE NATIONAL GEO & AUDUBON'S MASTER GUIDE FOR CONSULTATION

Significance of record in this area or the state:

?

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

PHOTO TAKEN W/ 400 MM LENS BUT IS QUITE UNDETAILED. SKETCH IN NOTE BOOK

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

Observer:

CRAIG KNEEDY

Signature:



Address:

314 S. 4500 W.
WEST POINT, UTAH 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared:

4/20/86

Return this form to:

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