

FIRST VERIFIED RECORD OF THE MEW GULL FOR IDAHO

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The first report of the Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) for Idaho is of an unverified sighting I made of two adults on a gravel bar in the Clearwater River at Lewiston, Nez Perce County, on 23 April 1978 (Weber 1981).

To my knowledge, the first verified record is of a subadult bird I photographed at the public beach at Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, on 22 July 1982. This gull, which had several flecks of black on a white tail but which was otherwise in adult plumage, was in a flock of about 50 Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*). The original photograph (on file in the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello) clearly shows the field marks of this species: unmarked, short greenish-yellow bill, greenish-yellow legs, dark eyes. In addition, the Mew Gull was slightly smaller and had a darker mantle than nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The black and white print (Fig. 1) shows the short, unmarked bill and dark eyes.

For North America, the A.O.U. Check-list (1983) mentions *canus* as occurring in winter from southern Alaska (west to the Aleutians) south along the Pacific coast to northern Baja California and as casual in eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, at scattered interior locations in the West, and along the Atlantic coast. In addition, the A.O.U. Check-list mentions that nonbreeding birds occur in summer outside the



Figure 1. Mew Gull at Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho, 22 July 1982.

Photo by John W. Weber

NOTES

northern breeding range south to Washington, central Alberta, and central Saskatchewan. Mattocks (1979) lists *canus* as occurring in eastern Washington (east of the Cascades) from 29 February to 16 May in spring (four records) and in fall (17 records) from 8 September to 7 November. Thus, the 22 July record of *canus* discussed herein is noteworthy on another account: it represents the first summer record of this species for the eastern Washington-northern Idaho region.

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LITERATURE CITED

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