


12-1986

California Gull in Keith County, Nebraska

Mark A. Brogie
Creighton, Nebraska

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev>

 Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#), [Poultry or Avian Science Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

Brogie, Mark A., "California Gull in Keith County, Nebraska" (1986). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 1261.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/1261>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska Bird Review by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

CALIFORNIA GULL IN KEITH COUNTY, NEBRASKA

The status of the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) in Nebraska has undergone a series of changes in recent years. Rapp et al. (1958) makes no mention of this species for Nebraska, although one was collected 19 March 1933 in Lancaster Co. (Hudson 1933) and is now an axial skeleton #ZM11152 in the University of Nebraska State Museum (Bray et al. 1986). Johnsgard (1980) lists the species as an extremely rare migrant or vagrant in most of Nebraska, while Rosche (1982) designates it as casual in spring and summer and accidental in autumn in northwestern Nebraska and southwestern South Dakota. Rosche and Johnsgard (1984) do not list the species for the Lake McConaughy area, although in recent years it has been seen there (Rosche, pers. comm.). Bray et al. (1986) consider it casual, and further state that personal communications with Richard Rosche indicate that this gull may be regular in western Nebraska. Despite the recent reclassification and sightings of this species, only one description of a California Gull has been published since the one collected by Hudson, that of a single bird seen 25 October 1965 at Lake Maloney, Lincoln Co. (Shickley 1966). The following includes the first photodocumentation of this species for the state of Nebraska.

On 14 August 1986 I observed and photographed a breeding-plumaged California Gull at Keystone Lake, below Lake McConaughy, Keith Co. The Gull was approached to a distance of approximately 50 feet while it was at rest on the water. The Gull was studied for an approximate 10-15 minutes before it was scared off by a passing boat. The bird was in company with several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), and was noticeably larger by several inches. It also possessed a yellow bill, of which the lower mandible was tipped with red and black. I was unable to assess the leg color, although size, dark eyes, dark mantle, round head, and smaller bill distinguished this bird from being a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).



LITERATURE CITED

- Bray, T. E., B. K. Padelford, W. R. Silcock, 1986. *The Birds of Nebraska - A Critically Evaluated List*. Published by the authors. Omaha, Nebraska, 111 pp.
- Hudson, G. E. 1933. A Nebraska Record of the California Gull. *NBR* 1:61.
- Johnsgard, P. A., 1980. *A Revised List of the Birds of Nebraska and Adjacent Plains States* Occ. Pap. NOU, No. 6. 113 pp.
- Rapp, W. F. Jr., J. L. C. Rapp, H. E. Baumgarten, R. A. Moser, 1968. *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds*. Occ. Pap. NOU, No. 5. 35 pp.
- Rosche, R. C., 1982. *Birds of Northwestern Nebraska and Southwestern South Dakota*. Published by the author. Chadron, Neb., 100 pp.
- Rosche, R. C., and P. A. Johnsgard, 1984. Birds of Lake McConaughy and the North Platte River Valley, Oshkosh to Keystone. *NBR* 52:26-35.
- Shickley, G., 1966. Excerpts from Letters. *NBR* 34:39-40.

--- Mark A. Brogie, Box 316, Creighton, Neb. 68729