

Elk: See p 2 for Utah highlights -
I sent a copy of p 2 (but no descriptions)
to Steve Hedges as well. Two sheets of
details (a bit brief) attached - hope you can read it!
If not, let me know - Paul
Dear

P.O. Box 379
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16 Jan 1996
2 Aug Least Bittern, Oswald
21 Jan 1996
Least Tern, Neponset R.
Paul Lehman

Back in June I spent three weeks in Colorado and Utah (and briefly in Wyoming) leading tours, attending the ABA convention, and doing some general birding. Here are the highlights of that trip, organized by state.

COLORADO

- Neotropic Cormorant- 3 at Ireland Reservoir, June 11. We had been told two birds were present, but we clearly had three, easily counted side by side. See attached details.
- Great Egret- 4 at Rawhide Power Plant north of Ft. Collins, June 9, were north of usual
- Green Heron- 2 stakeouts of family group still in Lee Martinez Park, Fort Collins, June 10
- Least Sandpiper- 1 at Lower Latham Reservoir, June 11, somewhat aseasonal
- White-rumped Sandpiper- migrants still passing through as usual well into June, with 6 at Rawhide Power Plant, June 6, and 18 at Lower Latham Reservoir, June 11
- Long-billed Dowitcher- 1 at Rawhide Power Plant, June 11, slightly late
- LITTLE GULL- 1 worn first-summer found at Walden Reservoir, Walden, June 14. See attached details.
- Red-headed Woodpecker- 1 adult at Endovalley, Rocky Mountain N.P., June 12, seemed odd for inside the park...
- Least Flycatcher- 1 territorial bird found singing at Watson Lake, north of Fort Collins, June 10-11
- Eastern Meadowlark- 1 stakeout seen and heard calling near Bellvue, north of Fort Collins, June 11. See attached details. I have since heard that this bird was reported as

(Cont.)

giving anomalous vocalizations (?). But to us, the bird's plumage looked good for an Eastern, and its call (a buzzy 'bzzt') was good for Eastern.

Scott's Oriole- 1 male at traditional spot near Utah state line just north of I-70, June 7

UTAH

Common Loon- 1 in basic plumage at Neponset Reservoir, Deseret Ranch, June 21

LEAST BITTERN- 1 at Ouray N.W.R., June 16. I was playing a Least Bittern tape in good-looking habitat in "Sheppard Bottom" when a female or immature Least Bittern flew into a nearby patch of reeds. Shawneen Finnegan and several folks on the tour were also able to see it, briefly. Not seen again. But about a week later a couple folks attending the ABA convention visited the refuge and had this species somewhere else in Sheppard Bottom; I don't know the exact details, although one of those birders was Hugh Willoughby from Rhode Island.

Great Egret- 5 flying into egret/ibis colony at Ouray N.W.R., June 7, and 2 there June 16. No direct evidence that they are nesting there, but possible; would be a first for state, I believe, if they did. Somebody needs to check it out more thoroughly than we were able to do. Colony in "Leota Bottom."

Wilson's Phalarope- flocks of females totaling 50 birds in Ouray area, June 16, were undoubtedly "southbound" migrants, given this is typical timing for early female Wilson's.

Bonaparte's Gull- 1 worn first-summer at Ouray (town, not refuge), June 16

LEAST TERN- 1 adult at Neponset Reservoir, Deseret Ranch, June 21, undoubtedly the same bird reported there about a week or so earlier. See attached details. I also showed this bird to several other people on the ABA field trip we were on. This is about the second (?) state record.

Great-tailed Grackle- 1 male at Stewart Lake, near Jensen (east of Vernal), was well north of normal. Seen by my entire tour group.

(Cont.)

WYOMING

Common Loon- 1 in basic plumage at Bridger (power plant) Ponds,
near Point of Rocks, June 9

Common Goldeneye- 1 male at Bridger Ponds, June 9, a bit
aseasonal

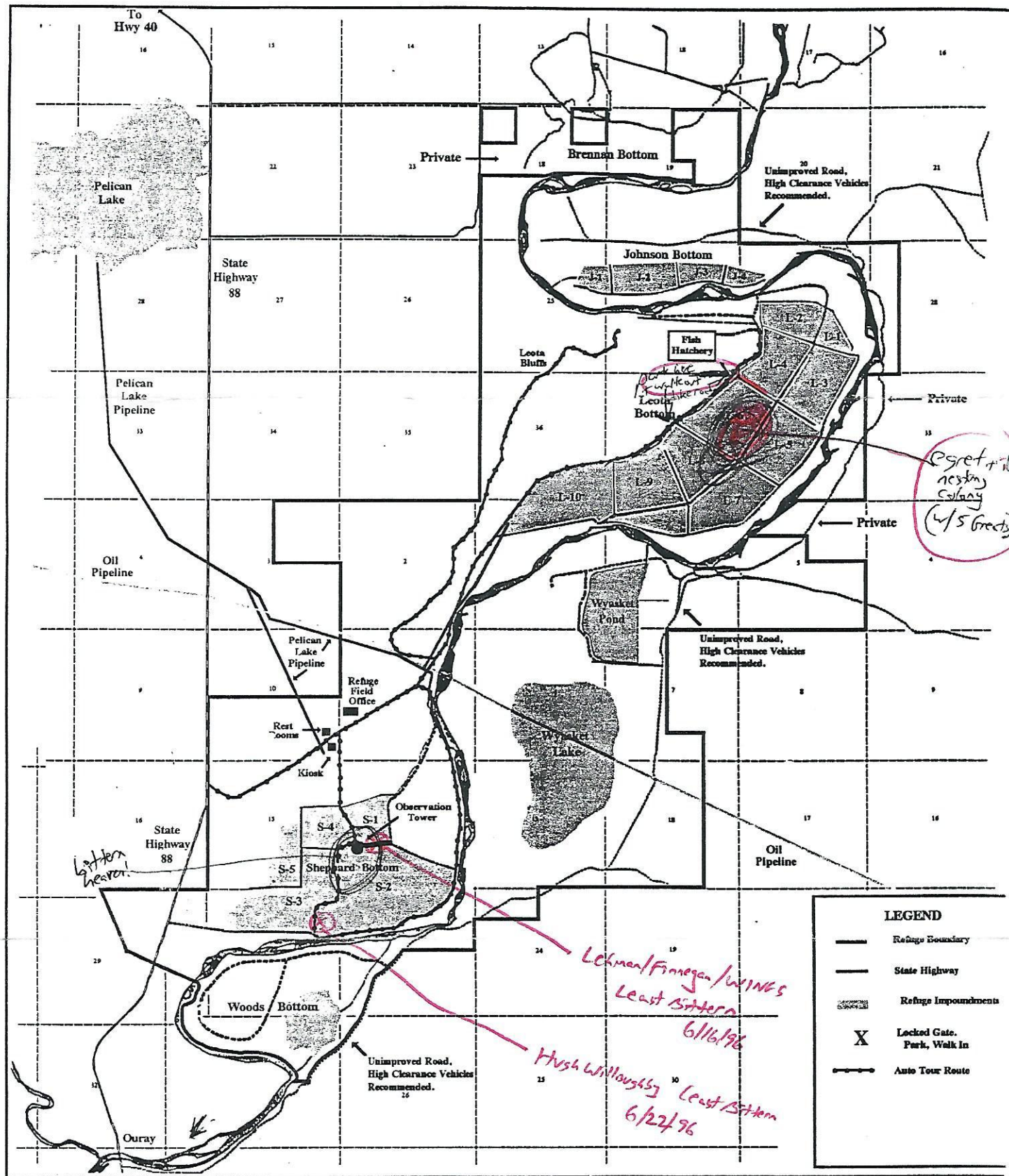
Bonaparte's Gull- 6 non-breeders at Bridger Ponds, June 9

Common Tern- 2 alternate adults at Bridger Ponds, June 9

Scott's Oriole- 2 (pair) in pinyon-juniper along Little Firehole
Road southeast of Green River, June 9. This species has
occurred previously at this site. This must be the north
limit of the species' range.

Sincerely,

Paul Lehman



OURAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

REFUGE VISITORS MAP AND GENERAL INFORMATION

16 SUNDAY JUNE

FATHER'S DAY 1996 168/198

Sensor, Utah

Eastern Kingbird (1), COBE (3), Great-tailed Grackle (1)
(♂); Stewart Lake; large heel-toed tail; plumage
dull but somewhat glossy sheen over all

Ouray area, Utah

AMBI (6), Least Bittern (1) (♀ or 7 mm ♂ flying in
in response to tape at Ouray NWR, but not seen again or heard)
Great Egret (2) (assumably spent 6/7), CAEG (60)
(nesting colony), SWEG (15) (""), WFB (80) (""),
VIREA (2), Wilson's Phalarope (50) (2 flocks of ♀♀, undoubtedly
"fall" migrants), Bonaparte's Gull (1) (worn first-summer
wings of Ouray), ROTE (30), SLTE (8), LEWO (4)
Sage Sparrow (2)

1996 169/197

JUNE MONDAY 17

n.r. Hebo City, Utah

HAFZ (2), BWFZ (2), Evening Grosbeak (2)

(16 Jun 1996)
Least Bittern
Ouray NWR



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(16 Jun 1996)
Least Bittern

21 Sun 1996
Least Tern
Deseret Ranch

20 THURSDAY JUNE

1996
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 172/194

1996
173/193

JUNE FRIDAY 21

Deseret Ranch, UT

Common Loon (1) (basic, Neponset Reservoir), Aukette (15)
Nico (50) (inc/nests), SWEP (6), NERI (10), ANWIL (1), CANV (1)
BUFF (5), FEHA (4) (inc/nest), GOEA (1), Sage
Grouse (4), FRW (30), RSBV (15), CAR (700) (colony),
FOTE (12), SUTE (5), ~~Least Tern~~ (1) (adult at

Neponset Reservoir) (present for ± 1 week - seen in first
flurry but not back over lake. A very small tern, smaller than

Forster's, even slant, and C. Nighthawk - all present nearby for
direct comparison - rather rapid, shallow wingbeats, slightly
forked tail, white below and virtually so above but w/ strongly
contrasted ⁱⁿ location of primaries (upper surface). Appeared to

have white on forehead; distances too great to see bill color.)
BLOW (2), CAHV (1), ~~Williamson's Sparrow~~ (1) (at
brief), HAFE (4), DUFF (2), Purple Martin (1) (at nest hole
to open), SWTH (1), WESS (5), GXP (2), ~~Cant Bunting~~ (6)



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