

New Mexico Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee Submittal Form

New Mexico Rare/Unusual Bird Report

1. Species: American White Pelican

2. Number: 1

3. Location: Bosque del Apache NWR

4. Date(s): 12/15/12

5. Time(s): 11:30 AM

6: Reporting observer:

David L. Hawksworth

611 Lead Avenue SW Apt. #815

Albuquerque, NM 87102

davehawk1@msn.com

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: Also seen and identified by Sonja Mendoza.

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: This bird was present in the same location for several days and seen and identified by many observers. It was seen by virtually all participants on the Christmas Count including Cole Wolf, Raymond VanBuskirk, Nancy Hetrick and Gale Owings.

9. Light conditions: Excellent.

10. Optical equipment: Observed with binoculars and scope, but easily close enough to identify without either.

11. Distance to bird: Perched in the open approximately 350 meters away.

12. Duration of observation: The bird was present all day; we observed for several minutes.

13. Habitat: Large shallow pond with scattered emergent vegetation and small islands.

14. Behavior: Perched on a sandbar near one of refuge's lakes.

15. Description: This bird was observed as it perched on a sandbar. It was huge bird – easily double the body size of the two Snow Geese perched next to. It with a very plump body with a very thick neck. The plumage appeared to be entirely white as the outer flight feathers were not visible the way it was standing. It had an enormous, long yellow beak and very short legs. It was perched in almost the exact same location for several days and perhaps was injured or ill, although it had no visible injuries.

16. Voice: Silent.

17. Similar species: None. The huge size and white plumage eliminates all other species.

18. Photographs? No.

19. Previous experience with this species: I have observed this species hundreds of times.

20. Aids: None needed.

21. This description written from: Memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? Yes.

23. Signature, date & time report written:

Dave Hawksworth 12/22/12 5:30 PM