

Entered



Marion County Conservation Board

COURTHOUSE
KNOXVILLE, IOWA 50138
PHONE (515) 828-2213

RARE BIRD REPORT

SPECIES- Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus)

LOCATION- Lake Red Rock, South Elk Rock State Park

DATE- 7-17-90

OBSERVERS- Tim Schantz, Beth Brown

EQUIPMENT- Zeiss 10x40B, Kowa 20+ spotting scope

WEATHER- Partly overcast, lighting good, rather windy

DISCRPTION- Small Charadrius, very light in coloration, small stubby bill, black smudge mark on forehead, single full black ring around neck, orange legs.

DISCUSSION- On this date I got a report from Ann Johnson of three American Avocets in this area. Beth and I went in search of these but instead we spotted a small pale Charadrius at the water's edge. Coloration indicated that it was either a Snowy or Piping Plover. Closer inspection at many angles concluded that it was a breeding plumage Piping Plover. Iowa Birds (Dinsmore) listed two other July records for this species, one was on the same date in Ottumwa in 1952. I have had previous expiarence with this species in South Dakota and Texas.

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