

IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS DOCUMENTATION FORM

What species? Common Snipe How many? oneLocation: County Winneshiek Block Not in survey blockLocation in detail Washington Township, section one, two miles south of Calmar. One hundred yards west of Hwy 150 where it crosses concrete bridge.Habitat? Wet meadow, sedgy areas, low woody growth nearby, pasture.When? date? 12 June 1986 Time: 8:42 PM to 8:42:05 PMObserver? Name: Mark A. DietzenbachAddress: RR #1 P.O. Box 72 Fort Atkinson IA 52144Telephone: (319) 534-7775

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary.

While walking through a wet area of a meadow, a large sandpiper like bird was flushed less than ten feet in front of me. It was mostly gray with a white breast, a black and white striped head and back. Its wings were long, slender and pointed, its tail short, squared. Its bill was at least four inches long. It flew in a zigzag pattern around to the back of me while making a rasping "scaip" sound.

Similar species and how eliminated: American woodcock; not quite their normal habitat, Plumper, rounded wings, they produce a whistling sound when flushed. Upland Sandpiper: short-bill, no stripes on head or back.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain:
none

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used. Clear sky, sunny,
Ten feet until bird disappeared.
No equipment was needed.

Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

Common Snipe; Many seen during migration, two wintering birds seen on winter bird count with Darwin Keoning. One bird observed at close rang with spotting scope at Sweet M. American woodcock; many seen while flushed from thickets. Upland Sandpiper; Several have been seen just this past week, I have become familiar with them.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

No breeding evidence as of yet other than bird observed in suitable habitat during breeding season. I will be sure to look for more evidence.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

Peterson Field Guide

Iowa Birds Dinsmore, Kent, Koenig, Petersen, Roosa

How long after observation were field notes made?

On the spot

How long after observation was this form completed?

Same evening