

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? AMER. AVOCET How many? 2Location? Iowa Public Service Port Neal Generator near Salix, IowaType of habitat? Fly ash ponds - barren sand flats, shallow water, colonizing marsh + cottonwoodsWhen? date(s): 5/9; 6/7; 6/17; 6/24; 7/3¹⁹⁸⁶ time: — to —Who? your name and address: Bill Huser, 319 W. 17th St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776others with you: Jerry Probst, Randy Williams (photographer), both of Sioux Cityothers before or after you: a few more sightings by Randy Williams + Tim Rollinger interspersed among those listed.

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

2 adult birds, identification unmistakable - photos by Randy Williams

Present on each of our visits up to 7/9/86.

5/9: both fly in to feed at shallow pool surrounded by barren sand flats

6/7: both on the fly ash pit with the most vegetation (incl. sedges, cattails, cottonwoods) interspersed with shallow pools. Both acted very agitated at our presence.

6/17: in same location, agitated + aggressive distraction

6/24: present in same area, agitated

7/3: both still present + agitated, defended

No juveniles or nest were ever seen, but evidence indicates a probable breeding pair.

Similar species and how eliminated: None

We were reluctant to disturb these rare breeders by an extensive search for nest. (over)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

good lighting on each occasion. Each visit birds were seen within 50 yds. 7 + 10 x binocs, Bushnell 32X + 16-42X scopes.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Seen each year for last several years.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? notes after each visit. this form completed on 7/15/86

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

on 7/10: no avocets seen.

on 7/17: one avocet seen, not certain it was one of
the pair there previously. Possible migrant.
(I have a record of a single avocet there
the previous year ~~on~~ on 7/20/85 which,
at that time, I took to be a migrant)

When? date(s):

Who? your name and address: Bill Huser, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52240

Others with you: Jerry Robert, Gary Williams (photographer), both of Iowa City

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

2 adult birds, identification unmistakable - photos by Gary Williams

Present on each of our visits up to 7/17/85

7/17: both in to feed at shallow pool surrounded by
barren sand flats

7/17: both on the flat with the most vegetation
(flat topped, details, culminated) interspersed with
shallow pools. Both water very agitated at
various

7/17: in same location, agitated & aggressive behavior
- flat: present in same area, agitated

7/17: both still present & agitated, defended

the junctions of nest were seen, but
evidence indicates a possible brooding pair.

He more reluctant to allow
these were probably in an
extensive search for water. (same)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Good lighting on each occasion. Last visit both were seen with 30x

7-10x binoculars, Bushnell 8x & 10x BX scopes.
Previous experience with species and similar ones: Saw avocet for first time
here

References and persons consulted before writing description:
None

How long before field notes made? 2-3 days. This form completed on 7/25/85
MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52240