

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species Stilt Sandpiper      How many? one  
Location? one mile east of Ames on 13th Street (by Holub  
Greenhouse)  
Type of habitat? flooded field  
When? date(s): 26 June 1993      Time: .10 a.m., again at 6 p.m.  
Who? your name and address Jim Dinsmore  
4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames  
Others with you alone  
Others before and after you ?

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

Medium sized shorebird, body size appeared slightly smaller than Killdeer, larger than Least Sandpiper (direct comparison for both)  
Legs fairly long but not the extreme length of a yellowlegs, legs were yellowish in color  
Bill fairly long and slightly decurved. Bill appeared somewhat blunt at end rather than needle shape of a yellowlegs, also appeared thicker than a yellowlegs bill  
Body-didn't pay a lot of attention but basically dark above, light below with some dark markings on front of neck and chest.  
Head-top of head dark, also faint dark line through eye with distinct light line above the eye. In good light, could see faint hint of remnants of reddish cheek patch on side of head.  
Behavior-feeding with distinctive sewing machine like behavior (bill down into water and mud and then repeatedly plunged down several times without bill leaving the water. Saw this several times.  
Bird didn't fly so didn't see wing or tail markings.

Similar species and how eliminated:  
Lesser Yellowlegs-bill shape, thickness, leg length, head markings.  
Solitary Sandpiper-eye line rather than eye ring

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? ?  
If yes, explain: once I had good lighting, no doubts

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: lighting poor in morning, returned in evening when had light behind me and could see colors better.

Bird was about 50 yards away. Looked at with 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

Have seen this species numerous times

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Robbin et al field guide

How long before field notes made?

this form completed? filled on on 28 June, made strong mental notes of field characters I saw as I was watching the bird.

Mail original form to field editor for this season.