

NEWLON

M. Newlon

Imm. 1-b and sh-b dowitchers, Half-moon lake, CoR, 1 Sept 1980.

General appearance: at a distance the sh-b were noticeably paler and more variegated on the back and wings, and a paler, more yellowish buff below; the 1-b were darker and more uniform on the back and a more rich, redder color below. In s.b, contrast between grey coverts and dark back noticeable at long distance.

Appearance close up.

L. griseus. upperparts dark black/brown with paler feather edgings. Edgings on crown/nape quite narrow and fine. Back, scapulars/tertials had wide orange-buff edges, and the tertials had wide crossbands and irregular internal markings of the same color. Underparts a clay- or ochre-buff, belly whitish, as were flanks. A band of fine interrupted streaking across the upper breast, some punctate spotting at sides of breast (though not as much as in typical adult). Some spotting on flanks and undertail coverts. Dark bars on tail narrower than the white. Wing-coverts (lesser, median, greater) pale grey with conspicuous pale feather-edgings, nearly whitish. Noticeable contrast between the dark black/brown of the back feathers and the grey of the coverts. The two birds examined closely had no sign of moult in the wing-coverts; one had less intense spotting on the sides of breast/undertail coverts, and less intense barring on the flanks than the other. Leg color: pale ~~xxx~~ yellow-orange, more orange than the yellow-green of the adults. Bill was dark for the distal 2/3 but the proximal 1/3 was colored in both birds. In one it was a yellow-orange similar to the legs; in the other it was not seen well but appeared to be a greenish pale olive.

L. scolopaceus. Upperparts dark black/brown with narrow pale feather-edgings, at least on scapulars, tertials and wing-coverts, interrupted at intervals at sites where the dark of the feather center reached all the way to the edge of the feather. Edgings salmon-buff, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~. Underparts a reddish salmon-buff, extending all the way to the base of the tail; some white mixed in with the salmon on the belly. A heavy band of fine dark markings across upper breast, and there was a heavy dark smudge, made of nearly fused spots, at the base of the neck, on each side. Some spotting on side of breast, some of the ~~spots~~ spots wider than long. Some barring on flanks and on the undertail coverts. Dark bars on the tail about as wide as ~~the~~ white. Wing-coverts (where unmoulted) had centers as dark as the feathers on the back, and the buffy edges, while paler than the back-edgings nevertheless had a cinnamon tinge. In the bird examined in most detail, both the lesser and the greater coverts were a medium grey and unmarked: so that the bird was beginning its pre-basic moult. The second bird had only the lesser coverts moulted. (This bird also had less strong markings at the side of breast and on flanks, and the undertail coverts were spotted rather than barred.) In both birds, bill was dark; leg color not recorded. One bird had bill about as long as the short-bills; the other bird was noticeably longer. Voice: when second pair of dowitchers joined the first, the long-bill uttered several ^{emphatic} single notes: a coarse 'wheep' or 'peep', lower-pitched than a yellowlegs.

Behavior: feeding at muddy edge of pond; mud strip was 2-6' wide. Although least and semipalmated sandpipers, and single birds of several other species (western sandpiper, pectoral s., stilt s.) were in the immediate vicinity (also a imm. semipal. plover), the birds did not associate with them. There was also a flock of about 10 lesser yellowlegs at the end of the pond. When initially obs, the birds were distributed as follows, separated by about 50 yds: single sh-b, pair of sh-b and 1-b, another sh-b/1-b pair. As we watched the first mixed pair, the second pair flew in and alighted nearby. The mixed pair had been feeding steadily, ~~eldom~~ more than a yard apart; when joined by the other two, the two 1-b began to associate closely, seldom more than a foot or two apart, and were joined by one of the two sh-b, though this bird did not stay as tightly with the other ~~two~~ two, moving at times ca. ten yards away, then rejoining the 1-b pair. The second

