

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Dunlin
How Many?1
Location?Rice L., Winnebago Co.

Habitat?on large mudflat with other shorebirds

Date?16 Jul 1989
Time?2:40-3:04 p.m.
Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:When I first saw the bird as it fed with Pectorals, I thought it might be a Red Knot because of the size, posture, and gray and white plumage. However, it was soon apparent that the bird was a Dunlin in basic plumage(as near as I could tell).

The bird was slightly larger and chunkier than the Pectorals it was feeding with. The back and wings were very dark gray, except for a lighter stripe that extended along the base of the flight feathers on each wing. The rump and upper surface of the tail were also dark. A light gray wash extended from the throat to midbreast, with the remainder of the breast and belly white. The undertail coverts were also white. The bill looked like an oversized Western Sandpiper bill-it was longer than the bill of a Pectoral, heavy at the base and tapered to the tip, and was slightly drooped at the tip. The legs were dark.

Similar species and how eliminated:The combination of the size, plumage, bill shape and length, and light wing stripe eliminates other shorebirds, especially Red Knot and Curlew Sandpiper.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind me and a mostly clear sky. Estimated viewing distance*was 75-100 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen many Dunlin in Iowa and elsewhere, and I am familiar with both Red Knot and Curlew Sandpiper as well.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?6 days