

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Long-billed dowitcher, juv How many? 10Location? pond E of Dupont Br. Rd, Hawkeye WA Johnson Co IAType of habitat? muddy pool in reservoir floodplain.When? date(s): 9/23/8 time: ~4 to 4:45 PMWho? your name and address: M Newlon 408 Waver St Iowa City IA 52240others with you: —others before or after you: —

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.

Snipe-like shorebirds - chunky bodies, very long bills.

Well into juv/basic moult.

Above: 2 complete basic, feathers grey w/ paler edges + dark shaft-streaks. 8 had about half juv. scapulars retained: black centers with narrow chestnut margins, inner edge irregular. 1 bird had a few small pale vitreous smudges on 2 scapulars.

Coverts/tertials: all tertials basic grey paler at edge, dk. shaft-streak. Most had completely basic coverts, with similar patterns. 2 birds had a ~~few~~ ~1/2 median coverts juv: darkened, with faded buffy edges.

Below: breast & thick blurring grey marks - lower edge well set off from pale of lower breast, belly, undertail coverts. 2 birds w/ some retained juv. coverts had a buffy wash over grey of upper breast.

Sides: barred, with light grey, bars with 'soft' (rather than sharp) edges. undertail coverts thinly marked w/ spots + bars (short).

Bill + legs: legs olive, pale, as was base of bill, which gradually darkened to tip. Some birds very long-billed, even for dowitchers.

Tail: obs on only 1 bird: black bars 2x width of white.

Actions: stood in shallows, preened; fed w/ bill submerged to base, sometimes head below water. Did not associate much with other species present (even still s.) or with each other - mostly by 1's + 2's - once 3 birds together.

Similar species and how eliminated: scapular pattern, blurry chest markings (rather than 'speckles'), soft edges to side-bars, tail pattern, date, indicate long-bills.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —If yes, explain: —Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 50'-150'. 25X60 scope. good sun, behind obs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: familiar with both species of dowitcher, all other IA shorebirds.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none.

How long before field notes made? on spot this form completed? 9/25

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