

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Whimbrel How many? 1

Location? behind HyVee Store Algona, Kossuth, Co. Ia.

Type of Habitat? almost-dry ponds / large mudflats

When? date(s): June 26, 1988 time: 3:15 P.M. to 3:40 P.M.

Who? your name and address: Matthew Kenne 709 N. Phillips Algona, Ia. 50511

Others with you: Karla Kenne - wife

Others before or after you: none

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A. largish bird was standing in the weeds on a ~~dry~~ dry strip between 2 mudflats. It was brownish gray above and lighter on the belly, browner towards the tail and lower back. It had 2 dark, bold stripes on the crown of its head separated by a white stripe, like a white crowned sparrow. It had a fainter, less complete eye stripe. The bill was long, longer than the ^{long} neck, and curved down throughout its length. The tip seemed darker, but was probably mud (looked like mud). 2 crows landed nearby (lots of dead camp) and were the same size as this bird. It walked away from them out onto the mud, on ^{long} blue-gray legs and feet. It didn't feed heavily, but pecked and probed occasionally in the mud as it walked slowly. It did not fly or call. We had to leave, but when I returned at 6:00, it was gone.

Similar species; how eliminated: wrong sizes, ^{lack of} no head stripes and records eliminate long-billed curlew + eskimoe curlew
lack of head stripes + upturned bills eliminate godwits
no underwing markings seen, but willet has straight bill + no head stripes

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no
If yes, explain:

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

Full sunlight, view from slightly above 7X50 binoculars + 15-45/60 spotting 85 yards (approx) paced off later in evening ^{scope on window mount} 10 feet higher than level of bird

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I've never seen whimbrels in Iowa before, but my wife + I followed a flock of 9 whimbrel down a beach on the Oregon Coast just after Memorial Day last year on vacation.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? concurrent this form completed? 6 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).