

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Whimbrel How many? 1Location? Fremont County - along Hwy. 2 - east of Nebraska City, Neb.Type of habitat? Slightly flooded field - mudflats, water, some weedsWhen? date(s): April 25, 1987 time: 2:05 to 2:35 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Bob Myers, Ross Silcock, Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: B.J. Rose, Eugene and Eloise Armstrong

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.

Some birders who Bob and Ross had talked with came back to them and reported that they had found a Whimbrel. We found it in a slightly flooded field with mudflats and some weeds. It was a big bird with tawny brown color and long, dark legs. It had a long 4-5" decurved bill and distinctive stripes over its crown. It walked around a bit and preened. I saw it fly briefly and its underside looked the same quality of tawny brown as the rest of the plumage. The bird was 150-200 yards away and the sun was behind us.

Similar species and how eliminated: Long-billed Curlews are much bigger with a much longer bill and lack the crown stripes.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

sunny with sun behind us. Distance estimated, 8x30 Binocs and 22x Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen one in Iowa and some in Churchill.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America, Robbins' Birds of N. America, Peterson's field guide,

How long before field notes made? Right away this form completed? May 24, 1987

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