

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Dowitcher Sp. How many? 3  
Location? Deer Rock Res at #14, Merrin Co. IA  
Type of Habitat? mud flat on large reservoir  
When? date(s): 13 Nov 1987 time: 10:30 to 11:45  
Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA  
Others with you: none  
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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

3 shorebirds larger than killdeer, chunky body, long bill, long legs, and no streaks. All grey, lighter below. Sleeping and feeding by poking down in mud.

Presumptive long-bills by date. Distance too great to look at wing feathers. No way to get close to birds.

Record date date.

notes "all grey, lighter below, no streaks"

Similar species; how eliminated:

Lack of stripes and upright posture eliminate Common Snipe.  
Typical dowitcher profile.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, explain:

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

cloudy. 200+ yds. Questar + 20x scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: relatively common bird but late

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? 10 min this form completed? 5 hrs

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