

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? BAIRD'S SANDPIPER How many? 5Location? LAKE MANAWAType of habitat? SLUDGE PONDSWhen? date(s): 11/21/82 time: 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.Who? your name and address: BABS & LOREN PADEL FORDothers with you: JIM & SANDY KOVANDA ; PHIL SWANSONothers before or after you: 5 observed in same area on 11/18 by Tanya Bray, B.J. Rose & B. Padel Ford.

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.

The 5 birds had buffy breasts which ended in a line that contrasted to paler belly; dark legs; and, wings that extended beyond tail.

They were larger than a least sandpiper that was with them, and smaller than a dunlin that was also with them.

Similar species and how eliminated: The bills seemed shorter & thinner at base than a Western, & buffy coloring on breast eliminated semi-palmated.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny. Estimated we were 75 yds away. We were looking into sun about 1/2 the time; rest of the time birds were in good light.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: We have observed Baird's

during spring & fall migrations for 7 yrs.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins was consulted

during observation.

How long before field notes made? 3 hrs. this form completed? 2 1/2 wks.

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