

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Western Sandpiper

How Many?1 juv.

Location?Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co.-Roberts Creek area

Habitat?feeding with other shorebirds on muddy area

Date?27 Sep 1987

Time?2:26-2:56 p.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:Bart Ballard

Description of bird:The bird was feeding with several Stilt Sandpipers. The bird was much smaller than the Stilts, but had a similar feeding method and posture. The bird was wading in water so deep that the legs were not visible. The bird also had its head under water most of the time. The bill was very long for a peep, and was drooped at the tip. The bill also had the impression of being very slender. The back and upperparts were brown with light speckling, except for the distinctly rufous scapulars.. The head was gray except for some very faint rusty color on the cheek(auricular patch). The chest was mottled dull brown. The rest of the underparts were white. Leg color not seen.

Similar species and how eliminated:The long, drooped bill, rufous scapulars, and feeding method rules out Semipalmated Sandpiper and other peeps.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good with the sun behind us. Estimated viewing distance was about 30 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Western Sandpipers in Iowa and other states.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?5 hours