

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Dunlin

How Many?3

Location?Saylorville Reservoir, Polk Co.-north end of lake

Habitat?in shallow, open riffle of water near large mud bar

Date?3,4,7,9 Dec 1988

Time?

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

Others who saw bird:Bery Engebretsen

Description of bird:These birds first showed up at this location in late November following a cold front. Before departing, the birds survived at least three nights where the temperature dropped to the single digits. On all dates, the birds were seen in a very shallow riffle of open water in the north end of the reservoir. Most of the rest of the north end of the reservoir was frozen at this time.

The following is a description of the three birds. Each bird was very stocky, with dark gray upperparts, tail, and wings. The birds appeared to be about Killdeer-sized, although there were no Killdeer for direct comparison. Each bird had white underparts, with a light gray wash on the breast and throat. The bill on each bird was fairly long, dark colored, tapered, and slightly decurved. All of the birds had dark legs. In flight, each bird showed a lighter stripe that extended out to the base of the primaries on each wing.

Similar species and how eliminated:The size, color, bill shape and color, light wing stripe, and late date eliminate all other shorebirds.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were good, although the birds were a long ways off. Estimated Viewing distance was 300 yards at the closest. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I am very familiar with Dunlin and the similar Purple Sandpiper.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 3 Dec-updated on 9 Dec