

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Greater Yellowlegs

How Many?1

Location?Riverton W.A., Fremont Co.

Habitat?feeding with Killdeer on mudflat

Date?6 Mar 1988

Time?approx. 9:45-10:30 a.m.

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

Others who saw bird:Bart Ballard, Ross Silcock, Babs & Loren Padelford

Description of bird:We were scanning the mudflat for early shorebirds when we noticed a very large, long-legged shorebird standing and feeding alone. The bird was much bigger than a Killdeer and had very long, bright yellow legs. The birds upperparts and wings were gray-brown with some light speckling, particularly on the back. The underparts were white except for some gray wash and speckling on the upper breast and sides. In flight, the tail appeared mostly white with some dark bars running across the tail near the distal end. In flight, the wings were all dark. The bill was long (definitely longer than the head), thick, and curved upward slightly. The bird called several times as it flushed, making a harsh 2-3 note whistle each time. The call was not as soft as the call of a Lesser Yellowlegs.

Similar species and how eliminated:The size, yellow legs, long bill, and body color eliminates all other shorebirds except Lesser Yellowlegs. Lesser Yellowlegs was eliminated by the call, the large size, and the bill shape.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent. Estimated viewing distance was around 50 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Greater and Lesser yellowlegs in Iowa.

References consulted:none

How long before field notes were made?none made

How long before this form was completed?written on 27 Mar 1988