

1983 JK
DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Western Sandpiper How many? 1

Location? Sioux Preme Lagoons, Sioux Center

Type of habitat? aerobic waste treatment lagoons with exposed mudflats

When? date(s): Aug. 19 time: 1:00 to 1:30

Who? your name and address: Gordon Brand, 413 Frankfort Ave NE, Orange City, Ia. 51041

others with you: Tina Van Dyke

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A "peep" that had a distinctly longer bill than the Semi-palmated Sandpiper. It also had a desided droop. It was grayer than the Least Sandpiper but did have a "tinge" of buff on the scapulars. It was the classic Western Sandpiper in appearance. The legs were dark. Together with the Western Sandpiper were both the Semi-Palmated Sandpiper and the Least Sandpiper so the difference was quite discernible. The sun was to our side and the birds were only 25-30 feet away so that the field marks could be clearly seen.

Similar species and how eliminated: Noted in the above description. Also I had been daily observing the shorebirds and so could quickly note the difference.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
cross-lighting, estimated distance, used a 7x35 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Extensive experience with similar ones.

References and persons consulted before writing description: I have a masters in Biology with courses in ornithology. I didn't contact anyone else. Peterson Field Guide

How long before field notes made? same day this form completed? _____

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