

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Baird's sandpiper How many? ~20Location? Iowa Public Service Settling Ponds near Sioux CityType of habitat? mudflats with sparse vegetation, pools of water (mud is fly ash)When? date(s): March 30, 1985 time: 0800 to 0900Who? your name and address: Bill Huser, 319 W. 17th St, So. Sioux C., NE 68776others with you: Wayne Livermore, Bob Livermore

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.

Approx. 25-30 birds were observed scampering & making short erratic flights in the vicinity of mudflat/water pool ~~area~~ habitat. Upon closer examination (with spotting scopes), birds of 2 sizes were seen, the larger being identified as pectoral sandpipers. A majority (~20) of the birds were smaller & the following field marks noted on several but not ^(each) all of the individuals:

- 1) long body appearance - wings extending well beyond tail tip.
- 2) buffy streaking on upper breast & throat; light belly & undertail
- 3) buffy rather than grayish dorsal coloration, pale feather edges.
- 4) dark/black legs
- 5) In flight, showed dark rump & no hint of wing stripe
- 6) Picking feeding habits, not probing - most feeding on mudflat not in H₂O.

Similar species and how eliminated: sanderling: no noticeable wing stripe in flight
 white-rumped: dark rump when in flight
 least: dark legs, long tail/wing
 semi-palmated: long tail/wing
 Western - long tail/wing, no droop in bill tip, no probing

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

good lighting - sun at observers' back

70 yard distance - estimated

Bushnell 32X scope

Bushnell 16-36X zoom scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen this peep & the others listed above on previous occasions.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Birds of N. Amer. - Robbins, Bruner, Zim

How long before field notes made? 1/2 day this form completed? 1 month

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