

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Lesser Golden-Plover
How Many? 1
Location? Forney L., Fremont Co.

Habitat? with Killdeer on large mudflat

Date? 23 Nov 1988
Time? 1:15-2:15 p.m.

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

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird: I was scanning through the many Snow Geese resting on the lake when I came upon several Killdeer and a larger shorebird feeding on one of the many mudflats on the lake. The stout body, running behavior, short, thick bill, and short legs identified the bird as a plover. The bird was mostly dingy brown colored, with the underparts slightly lighter. The upperparts, particularly the wings and mantle, were scaly looking due to the lighter feather edgings on those feathers. The head was also brownish, except for a lighter eyeline. The bill was black, short, and thick, similar in shape to the bill of a Killdeer. The undertail coverts were very white compared to the rest of the bird. I was fortunate enough to see the bird flushed several times by a Bald Eagle. In flight, the bird had white underwings and a dark rump. I concluded that the bird was a juvenile Lesser Golden-Plover.

Similar species and how eliminated: The dark rump and white underwing eliminates Black-bellied Plover.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were very good with the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 300 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with both Lesser Golden-Plover and Black-bellied Plover.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes were made? none made

How long before this form was completed? 3 days