

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Lesser Yellowlegs

Location: Big Creek Wildlife Area, Polk Co., IA

Habitat: Mudflats at end of freshwater lake

Date(s): 11/25/88

Time: 3:00 pm to 3:10 pm (est.)

Name and Address: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Ave., Norwalk, Iowa 50211

Other observers: names unknown

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 behavior and voice.

This bird was a shorebird feeding with three killdeer. It had a rather lean body with long, yellow/orange legs which made it taller than the killdeer. Body size was about the same as the killdeer. The bill was just slightly longer than the length of the head. Bill size and body size led to the identification as a lesser yellowlegs.

Similar species and how eliminated:

The long, yellow/orange legs eliminated most other shorebirds. In order to differentiate from the greater yellowlegs, I compared body size to the killdeer with which it was feeding and the bill size to the head. Both field marks eliminated the greater and confirmed the lesser.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Mostly cloudy; well seen from estimated 100' through 7x26 binoculars and 40x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Many years of shorebird identification

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None.

How long before field notes made? 1 hour
completed? 1 day

How long before this form