

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

KENT

1. Species Western Sandpiper 2. Number 1  
3. Location Cone Marsh, Louisa Co Iowa  
4. Date: 8/2/80 5. Time Bird Seen: 4<sup>50</sup> to 5<sup>10</sup> PM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Same size as semipalmated sandpiper,  $\frac{1}{2}$  size of pectoral in same fields. Black legs. Long decurved bill with wider tip; bill as long as head,  $\frac{1}{3}$  longer than semipalmated. Under parts white with streaks at side of upper breast-neck. Back and wing feathers black centrally with wide buffy-misty edging. Two white streaks down back and white in some wing feathers. Back overall brown to rusty. Moderately distinct eyeline. Feeding in shallow water downward.

7. Description of voice, if heard: NA  
8. Description of behavior: Feeding + standing  
9. Habitat - general: mud flat at marsh  
specific: near long dike at Cone M.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Semipalmated and Pectoral in same field, least 10 ft away. Least had yellow legs, dirty brown back + bib. Semipalmated had short uniform bill, overall gray with no detail in

11. Distance (how measured)?

20 yards (est)

12. Optical equipment:

no eyeline.  
6x Questar Scope. Box 20% of field

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Overcast dark sky

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Seen almost every year

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification? NA

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NA

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

not used

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 5 min.

Signature: Thomas H. Kent Address: 211 Richards

Date: 8/2/80 City, State: Iowa City Iowa 52242