

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Short-billed Dowitcher How many? 1
Location? behind Hy-Vee Store Algona, Ia. Kosciusko Co.
Type of Habitat? almost-dry ponds / large mudflats
When? date(s): June 26, 1988 time: 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM
Who? your name and address: Matthew Kenne 709 N. Phillips Algona, Ia. 50511
Others with you: none

Others before or after you: none The bird was present throughout the 27th also.
" " 28th " " 29th

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A single stocky shorebird was in shallow water of an almost dry pond. It was slightly larger than several killdeer that were on the mudflats. It had a short neck compared with a very long straight bill it was poking rapidly through the water into the mud. It was mottled brown above with a white rump ~~that extended up the back~~ ^{that extended up the back} when the bird flew. It had a light tan throat and chest with darker spots on the sides of the breast and flank, but definitely whitish on the belly. It flew up when I startled it (trying to get closer) and circled with a killdeer once before landing again. I heard it call twice on the ground and twice in the air: the 3 notes sounded slurred to me, as *tlu-tlu-tlu* or *tyu-tyu-tyu*. Kind of like a purple martin does sometimes, not so much the famous "yellowlegs call" that I've heard before.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Long-billed dowitcher is (supposed to be) rustier below through the belly, with bars not spots on the side of the breast, and more spots on the throat. The call is completely different than what I heard.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA
If yes, explain:

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

Full evening sunlight, 25-30 yards paced, 7X50 binoculars ~~used~~
Lighted from behind me.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen many (and attempted to identify many) dowitchers in this area.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

none

How long before field notes made? concurrent this form completed? 4 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).