

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

*What species?* Willet *How Many?* two

*Location:* Cone Marsh, Louisa Co.

*Type of habitat?:* marsh

*When? Date(s):* March 27, 1994 *time:* 9:00 am

*Who? your name and address:*

James Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240-9148

*Others with you:* Sharon Scheib

*Others before or after you:* 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 voice and behavior.*

A Yellow-legs (Greater) sized shorebird but without the streaky look of the head and neck or the fine contrasting fleck pattern in the back and wings. These birds were a more nondescript gray-brown with little patterning or contrast to the heavier body. The contrasting black and white wing pattern was clearly evident as one bird flapped while standing. Bill was smaller than that of the yellow legs that were also present nearby.

*Similar species and how eliminated:* No other shorebird of this area has the Willet underwing markings combined with the uniformly drab body.

*Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?*

All above named birders agreed on the identification.

*If yes, explain:*

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

Good sunlight was from south east. View was unobstructed from about 30 yards to the west. Identification was obvious with naked eye and confirmed with binoculars and Kowa TSN4 scope from car.

*Previous experience with species and similar ones:*

I have seen the species yearly in Iowa; also in Florida and California.

*References and persons consulted before writing description:*

Second edition of the National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

*How long before field notes made?* No notes made.

*How long before this form completed?* Three months.

MAIL TO; T.H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240