

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Number 1
3. Location North of Davenport, Iowa
4. Date: 9-6-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM  
2:00 PM 2:30 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):  
Size and shape of a least sandpiper. The definite white stripe on each side of the back ending in a near V was what drew my attention to the bird. The bird showed no trace of brown except on the last two or three scapulars. The head had a rather definite white eye brow line, with a thick black eyeline from bill to eye only. The bill was thin, straight, and grayish black. The legs were greenish. The breast was streaked only lightly and not clear across.
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: solitary and not feeding as others sandpipers
9. Habitat - <sup>in group</sup> general: wet freshly cut alfalfa field  
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Least Sandpiper - an out of sink least is a poss. b. ty, but the definite white back stripes, lack of brown, and greenish rather than greenish-yellow legs, plus behavior indicate a similar but different species.
11. Distance (how measured)? 10 yds est. 12. Optical equipment: 20x spotting scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
excellent
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Have seen least regularly in spring and fall - had studied three in excellent light one week earlier.
15. Other observers:  
MANY
16. Did the others agree with your identification? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
None
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
one day
- Signature: Raymond L. Cummins Address: 204 NW 17th street
- Date: 9-7-81 City, State: Pocahontas, Iowa