

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Spotted Sandpiper

Number: 1

Location: Little River Rec. Area, Decatur Co., IA

Habitat: lakeshore

Date: 27 November 1996

Time: 10:45-11:10 a.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): I was scanning the dam face when I noticed a small shorebird flying with stiff wingbeats near shore. I immediately recognized the bird as a Spotted Sandpiper by the shape and behavior. I then approached closer and photographed the bird. It was a small shorebird, and throughout the observation it teetered continuously. The head was gray/brown with a thin dark line through the eye and a pale line above the eye. The upperparts and wings were a dark gray/brown. In flight, there was a white stripe extending along the base of the primaries and outer secondaries. The throat, underparts, and vent were white except for a gray wash on the sides of the neck. The short legs were dull yellow. In flight, the bird gave a sharp, two note, peet-weet call.

Similar species and how eliminated: The size, call note, stiff-winged flight, and body bobbing eliminated other shorebirds.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance was 200m initially, but I was later within 10 feet of the bird. I used a 20-60x spotting scope and 10x42 binoculars.

Previous experience with species: Very familiar with this species and other similar-looking shorebirds.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: written 28 November 1996