

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Lesser Yellowlegs

How Many? 1

Location? Big Creek S.P., Polk Co.-north end

Habitat? feeding in shallow water adjacent to large mudflat

Date? 19 Nov 1988

Time? 4:35-4:55 p.m.

Observers Name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird: m.ob.

Description of bird: Earlier that day, several other birders mentioned that they had seen some shorebirds at the north end of Big Creek L., including a Lesser Yellowlegs. Since this was very late for a yellowlegs, I decided to have a look at the bird. When I arrived at the area, I quickly located several Killdeer, two Black-bellied Plovers, two Dunlin, and a yellowlegs.

The yellowlegs was wading in shallow water with two Dunlin. The body of the yellowlegs was slightly smaller than the body of the Dunlin, but the yellowlegs had longer legs and a longer neck. The legs were yellow. The bird's upperparts were dark gray with some lighter flecks on the back and wings. The underparts were white with some dark spots on the flanks. The head and neck were light gray. The bill was quite short and very needle-like. The bill was straight and was not upturned. The bill seemed to be about as long as the head. I did not hear the bird call.

Similar species and how eliminated: The body shape, yellow legs, small, slender, straight bill, and small size compared to Dunlin eliminates Greater Yellowlegs.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were very good with the sun behind me. Estimated viewing distance was 50-60 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I am very familiar with both species of yellowlegs, having seen many in Iowa.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes were made? none made

How long before this form was completed? 4 hours