

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Bairds Sandpiper How many? 1

Location? Lake Rathbun - Island View

Type of Habitat? short grass at edge of lake

When? date(s): Nov. 11 & Nov. 24 time: _____ to _____

Who? your name and address: Tom Johnson RTI Mystic

Others with you: _____

Others before or after you: Jim Fuller found one on Nov. 9

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.

There were many shorebirds on the Island. This one lone bird was with Pectoral S.D. and was smaller. It had black legs and a bill longer than the head. It was grey on the back with a white belly and fine barring under the neck. The eye was black. The bill was straight. The bird was seen with Pectoral on the 11 was about 1 1/2" smaller. It was with a killdeer on the 24 and was definitely smaller. It probed at the edge of the grass.

Similar species; how eliminated: size and leg color helped eliminate pectoral larger than a Western that was present a couple of times I saw them and bill was not curved at tip like the Western. I did not document Western even though it was late because I am not that familiar and could not differentiate between Semipalmated

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

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

50' - TSN-2, BTL 236 Custom
Hawg

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I am familiar with Bairds but only a few times. I spent more time looking at this black legged bird because Jim Fuller had reported it.

References and persons consulted before writing description: National Geographic Advanced Birding Kayman
on tape recorder - immediately.

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 20 days

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