

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Western Sandpiper, juv. How many? 1

Location? Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co., south side of B14

Type of Habitat? mud flats in marsh

When? date(s): Oct - 22, 1997 time: 11:25 AM to 11:40

Who? your name and address: Matthew Kenne 709 N. Phillips, Algona, Ia. 50511

Others with you: NA

Others before or after you: Carolyn Fischer + Jan Walter arrived as I left, but I don't know if they saw the bird.

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.

Bird associated with about a dozen least Sandpipers on mud adjacent to shallow water. Other species within 30 feet of Western: Dunlin, Gr. & Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sand., Pectoral S., L.B. Dowitcher. Bird had black legs with web between toes, black bill almost $1\frac{1}{2}X$ length of least Sandpiper bill, tapered to fine point - not blunt or expanded when viewed head-on. Both sets of upper scapulars were obvious when bird came head-on, strongly edged with rufous. Some tertials were also edged rufous when facing away. Lower scapulars, coverts and some tertials were molted to gray basic plumage. Pale face and head compared to least Sand; cap not as dark, whitish superciliary line not as obvious as on Semipalmated Sand.; no obvious eyering. Sides of breast with fine dark streaks on buffy

Similar species; how eliminated:	background, head and body not visibly molting yet.
Semipalmated only true possibility:	Slightly larger bird than least Sandpiper. I could
bill difference - long, <u>dropped</u> , tapered	not separate any calls from least Sand. present, on
Call difference	ground or when flying to new position. (twice less
rufous scapular edges	than 10 feet, and once as it flew "away" about 50yds)
gray basic plumage in place	<u>No semipalmated Sand. calls.</u>

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

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

Approx. 30 feet away (est.) and 10-12 ft. below me, in sunlight from my left.

20x Spotting scope from window mount.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Plenty comparative experience with other shorebirds. Only spring alternate Western seen before.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NONE

How long before field notes made? at the time this form completed? next day

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