

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What Species? *American Avocet* How many? *8*
 Location? *3/4 mile southeast of New Albin, Iowa - extreme northeast corner of Allamakee County Iowa*
 Type of Habitat? *Flooded soybean field*
 When? date(s)? *April 27, 1986* time: *9:45 AM to 10:30 AM*
 Who? your name and address: *Ric Zarwell 520 East Morningside, Drive Burlington, Iowa 52601*
 others with you: *Son Rob - same address 319-752-7428*
 others before or after you: *-*

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.

Eight Am. Avocets were observed for approximately 45 minutes. Seven were in summer plumage and one was in winter plumage. Brown head and neck determined breeding colors, while gray head + neck distinguished the other individual. Voice was not heard, but birds flew back + forth during feeding. Black/white pattern on upper wings was clearly visible, as was upward curved bill.

Similar species and how eliminated: *Black-necked stilt does not have brown head/neck and lacks white on upper wing. Ditto Oystercatchers.*

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? *No*

If yes, explain: *-*

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: *Excellent light conditions - partly cloudy sky. Distance approx. 150 yds. Estimated. 10X50 Binoculars. Birds were in wide open field all the time.*

Previous experience with this and similar species: *Observed this species dozens of times at Salton Sea in S. California and also coastal areas along Pacific, and at various areas in Oregon, Washington + Wyoming*
 References and persons consulted before writing description: *Peterson: A Field Guide to Birds, Robbins: A Guide to Field ID - Birds of North America*

How long before field notes made? *May 3, 1986*

How long before this form completed? *May 3, 1986*