

Babs Padelford  
1405 Little John Rd.  
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation for Whimbrel

Location: Mud flat on the west side of the main pool at  
Riverton Waterfowl Refuge in Fremont Co., Iowa

Date: May 11, 1992

Time: 2:00 - 2:30 pm

Description of Bird: It was a large, brown, long-legged shorebird standing in shallow water at the west edge of the pool. It was larger & much bulkier than the Hudsonian Godwits (present for direct comparison). From my viewpoint on the west dike, I could not distinguish stripes on the crown of the head. It looked rather like a black cap. There was a white line above the eye & a black line through the eye. It was grayish-tan on the breast & part of the belly. The underbelly was whitish. When it lifted its wings, the underwings were all brown. It was grayish-brown on the back. There was light brown barring under the tail. Legs were gray. The bill was all dark, long & downcurved.

Behavior: The bird was sleeping while standing in the water. A couple of times it woke up & preened.

Distance: approx. 50 yards

Optical Equipment: 25X Bushnell Spotting Scope, 40X Kowa spotting scope.

Other observer: B.J. Rose

Another Whimbrel was seen at the IPL south pond on May 26th by Loren & I. The bird was at the water's edge - approximately 100 yards. We observed it through a 25X Bushnell Scope from the road, & could not see at lot of detail. We were able to tell that it had a black stripe on the crown & a black stripe through the eye. Otherwise it was a large, brown, long-legged shorebird with a long, downcurved bill.

While we were there, Doug Rose came up & observed the bird. This was around 7 p.m. We were there about 15 minutes, when we heard the bird calling repeatedly as it was flying away.

*Babs Padelford*