

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Short-billed Dowitcher How many? 2 juv 1 adLocation? DuPont Rd, Covalville Res, Johnson Co, IAType of habitat? Wet flats, backwaterWhen? date(s): 3 Aug 1985 time: 2:45 to 3:30 pmWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52240others with you: none

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

First juvenile was in water feeding. Broad buff feather edging on scapulars and wing feathers with internal markings easily seen. Buffy wash to neck and upper breast with fine faint vertical streaks. Faint dots on sides of breast. Belly and under wing white. More white than black on upper tail (brief look). A second juvenile seen later. Then an adult seen with reddish underparts (throat, breast, legs) mixed with white (belly, wing). Dots on sides of breast. Scapulars and wing feathers mostly black with white edging (mostly worn). Either the adult or 2nd juvenile called while flying -- a soft tu-tu-tu repeated several times.

Similar species and how eliminated: Juveniles distinguished by internal marking on wing feathers and buffy neck. ~~Adult~~ by mixed white and red on underparts with dots on sides of breast and probably by call.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Overcast 30-50 ft. Quarter scope - birds up to 1/3 of field.Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen many

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? 5 min this form completed? Notes.

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