

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Whimbrel

How Many?1

Location?Riverton A., Fremont Co.

Habitat?feeding on large mudflat with other shorebirds

Date?1-2 Aug 1987

Time?2:10-4:00 p.m. on 1 Aug

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:Bart Ballard, Ross Silcock

Description of bird:The following description was written directly from field notes. Very large shorebird; 50% larger than nearby Greater Yellowlegs. Bill very long, dark, and decurved. Bill about three times as long as head. Legs long and greenish-yellow. Crown dark with light median stripe. Cheek light with a dark eyeline. Breast and throat tan colored. Belly white. Upperparts brown with lighter speckling. In flight, upperparts were uniformly brown except for buffy flight feathers. Bird gave a loud, harsh "kek-kek-kek" call when flushed.

Similar species and how eliminated:No other shorebird has the combination of large size, long, decurved bill, dark eyeline, and buffy flight feathers.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind us most of the time. Estimated viewing distance was as close as fifty feet. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen one other Whimbrel in Iowa and many on the east coast.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?notes written at 10:05 p.m. on 1 Aug

How long before this form was completed?26 Nov 1987