

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? American Avocet How many? 4Location? Goodwater impoundment of Rathbun Reserv., Sect 33, Washington Twp., Lucas Co., IAType of habitat? Moist-soil Marsh (Subimpoundment)When? date(s): 4-22-86 time: 1445 to 1515Who? your name and address: Ted LaGrange, IA Conserv. Comm., 1203 N. Shore Dr., Clear Lake, IA 50428others with you: Harold Garner, IA Conserv. Comm., S. Colyn Unit, Russell, IA

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.

lg. wading bird (about mallard size) with long gray legs and a long black recurved bill. The head and long neck were light brown while the body was white. Wings were black and white. The 4 birds were loafing in about 3" of water. They flushed once and then returned to the same spot.

Similar species and how eliminated: NONEDid any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, front-lighting, dist. - ~20 yds (eyeballed) 10X binoculars
15X-60X window mounted scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Extensive experience w/ this spp. I've worked summers in E. Oregon and Manitoba (both w/in this spp. breeding range)References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins et al. Birds of NAHow long before field notes made? At the sighting this form completed? ~ 2 months