

Black-necked Stilt

4 May 1999

Harrier M., Boone Co., IA

\*J. Dinsmore, \*Overton, \*Fuller, \*Kent

\*M. Proescholdt; IBL 69:94, 70:145, Dinsmore 1999

Record Number: 99-13

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Jim Dinsmore (4 May) [9/17/99]

Michael D. Overton (4 May), 1316 S. Duff #93, Ames 50010

Jim Fuller (5 May), 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

Thomas H. Kent (5 May), 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246

Mark Proescholdt (5 May), Box 65, Liscomb 50148

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 69:94

Records Committee: IBL 70:145

Dinsmore, J.J. 1999. Black-necked Stilt in Boone County. Iowa  
Bird Life 69:131.

VOTE: 7 A-D

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DOCUMENTATION FORM

**Species** Black-necked Stilt **How many?** two

**Location?** Harrier Marsh, Boone County

**Type of habitat?** restored wetland

**When? date(s):** 4 May 1999 **Time:** 5:25-5:35 p.m.

**Who?** Jim Dinsmore

**Others with you** no one

**Others before or after you** Eugene and Eloise Armstrong, Pam and Reid Allen, Hank Zaletel, others

**Describe the bird(s):** Large, long-legged shorebirds. Dwarfed several Wilson's Phalaropes that were near it. Long, spindly legs, bright pinkish red in color. Bill long, thin, straight, dagger-like, black. Neck long and thin with tiny head. Body, head, and neck basically black above and white below. Extension of black coloration on "shoulder" fairly obvious.

**Similar species and how eliminated:**

Unmistakable.

**Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?** no

**Viewing conditions:** Overcast but still decent light. Birds were about 150 yards away but could see well with 20-45 power scope

**Previous experience** Have seen the species previously in Iowa and extensively in Florida

**References & persons consulted before writing description:**  
None needed

**How long before field notes made?** Notes taken in field while viewing bird.

## BIRD SIGHTINGS DOCUMENTATION FORM

**Species:** Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) **How many?** 2 adults

**Location:** Iowa, Boone co., Harrier Marsh Wildlife Area

**Habitat:** Shallow lake in marsh in agricultural cropland.

**Date:** 4 May 1999 **Time:** approx. 6:45-7:00pm.

**Observer:** Michael D. Overton, 1316 S Duff #93, Ames, IA, 50010

**Other Observers:** Dixie Overton.

**Observers Before and After:** Before: Hank Zaletel After:?

**Description:**

**Size:** About the same as a Greater Yellowlegs, but with a longer neck and much longer legs.

**Shape:** A tall slender shorebird with very long legs.

**Bill:** Black, thin, pointed, and long; Nearly straight ( very slightly upturned ).

**Eyes:** Not noted.

**Head:** Black and white. Forehead, lores, lower auriculars, and part of the supercilium immediately above the eye white. Crown, nape, postocular, and top edge of auricular black.

**Throat:** Chin and throat white. White extends back on sides of neck to meet the black nape and back of neck in a sharp nearly straight line.

**Back:** Black with a white central wedge extending forward from the rump.

**Rump:** White.

**Breast/Belly:** White.

**Wings:** Dorsal: black. Ventral: black.

**Tail:** Dorsal and ventral both white. Uppertail and undertail coverts white.

**Legs/Feet:** Reddish pink, very long.

**Vocalizations:** Loud *kek, kek, kek* in flight.

**Behavior:** Foraging in shallow water along marshy lakeshore.

**Similar species and how eliminated:** Black-winged Stilt by head pattern and realistic attitude.

**Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification:** No.

**Viewing conditions:** Overcast, approx. 75 yards (estimate), Leupold 12-40x60@40.

**Previous experience with species and similar ones:** Numerous sightings of Black-necked Stilt. No experience with Black-winged Stilt.

**References consulted before writing description:** Hayman Shorebirds for Black-winged Stilt pattern.

**How long before field notes made?** None made. **this form completed?** 2 days.

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## DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Black-necked Stilt (Adult male and female)

LOCATION: Harrier Marsh (Boone County)

DATE: 5 May, 1999 (7:40-8:00 AM)

OBSERVER: Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240

OTHER OBSERVERS: I was with Tom Kent. The bird was reported the previous day by Jim Dinsmore and later seen by MOB.

DESCRIPTION: Two long-legged black and white shorebirds were seen at the north edge of a small pond. When viewed through the telescope, it could be seen that the long legs were a pinkish color. The upperparts were black and the underparts were white. There was a small white area in the black around the eye, and there was an extension of the black at the base of the neck. The bill was dark, thin, and quite long (close to twice the thickness of the head). The black on the upperparts of one of the birds was not as dark, and appeared to be almost blackish-brown (female). The birds walked the edge of the pond probing in the mud and water. No vocalization was heard.

SILIMAR SPECIES: No other North American species is similar.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: It was early morning, overcast, and sometimes misting with a strong wind. The birds were viewed from the car using a KOWA TSN-4 telescope with window mount (20-60 X zoom) and looking toward the northeast at a distance of 50 yards.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen four other birds of this species in Iowa, and a large number in the western US.

REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES: Field notes at the time, and this form was typed on 7 May, 1999. No field guides were consulted.

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DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

**Species:** Black-necked Stilt; **Number:** 2

**Location:** Harrier Marsh, Boone Co., Iowa

**Date:** 5 May 1999; **Time:** 8:45 to 9:00 a.m.

**Name and address:** Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

**Others before/with/after:** reported by Jim Dinsmore on 4 May; Jim Fuller with me

**Habitat and circumstances:** marshy pond

**Description of bird:** The two birds were feeding on the opposite side of the pond north of the road. They were black above and white below with an extension of black around the neck. They had long pink legs and a long thin black bill. The back of one bird was slightly brown-black (female?). I did not see the facial pattern well.

**Voice:** not heard

**Similar species:** none

**Any one have reservations?:** no

**Light:** light rain; **Distance:** 200 yards (guess); **Optics:** 20x scope

**Previous experience:** have seen twice in Iowa and many times elsewhere

**References before/after viewing:** none

**Time of notes:** while viewing; **Final typing:** 2 days

What species? Black-necked stilts How many? 2Location? Harrier Marsh - (Boone County)Type of habitat? Marshy pondWhen? date(s): May 5, 1999 time: 5:00 p.m. to 5:05 p.m. - approx.  
2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. - approx.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdt, Kevin Healyothers before or after you: Jim Dinsmore, Armstrongs, Russ Reisz, others

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.

These marvelous, distinctive shorebirds gave us marvelous looks! The bodies were black and white with long, long pink legs. The male had a black back and the female had a brownish back. They had long black bills.

We saw them at the far end of this pond and then right along the road beside us. A great treat!

Similar species and how eliminated: no other bird quite like these lovely birds.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cloudy, sprinkles, good viewing, distances estimated as 65 yards and  
for a white then 10-15 yards away.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: 8X30 Binocs and 22X scope.  
Have seen them a few times.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? May 5 this form completed? May 31, 1999

(white viewing  
or  
that evening)