

Greater Yellowlegs
15 Dec 1984
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
*Bery Engebretsen
IBL 55:12, 27, 58

Record Number: 84-35
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Bery Engebretsen

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 55:12
Field Reports: IBL 55:27
Records Committee: IBL 55:58

VOTE: 5-III, 2-IV

III, Can't identify it from the description but I think it provides enough details for a late date.

III, Reluctantly, a weak documentation. No size comparison, no description of legs, feathering, or voice. Bill size not related to head size.

IV, Probably correct I.D., at least to yellowlegs, but description too sketchy.

IV, Details of plumage, size, a bit brief. Placed everything on bill.

III, Obviously a yellowlegs. Greater is a Nov. migrant, so more likely. Bill seen.

III, Not a great description, but bill characteristics probably diagnostic. Bird was close (20 yards). Would be expected, rather than a Lesser, at this late date.

III, Documentation skimpy in the extreme, but telling that a bird is a Yellowlegs really isn't that much of a problem. Odd time.

REVOTE (at meeting, 18 May 1985): 5-III, 2-IV

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Greater Yellowlegs 2. Number: 1
3. Location Des Moines River, Just S. of Saylorville Dam
4. Date: 12/15/84 5. Time Bird seen: 10¹⁵ to 10²⁰ A.M.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
 Obviously a yellow-legs.
 large, thick bill with slight upturn was well seen
7. Description of voice, if heard: did not call
8. Description of behavior: wading along sandbar, then flew
9. Habitat - general: DSM river, sandbars
 specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Lesser has smaller, thinner bill & no upturn
11. Distance (how measured)? 20 yds (paced) 12. Optical equipment: 7x50
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): cloudy, mist
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: regular migrant in this area
15. Other observers: —
16. Did the others agree with your identification? —
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Peterson; unfirm
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 8 hrs
- Berry Engelbaker Address: 6492 James Francis Pl., Johnston, Ia
 Signature 50131
- Date: 12/15/84 City, State: _____