

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/28/00

Red Knot

4 Sep 1999

Horseshoe Bend, Mark Twain NWR, Louisa Co., IA

*J. Fuller

IBL 70:36, 145

Record Number: 99-25

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Jim Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll NE, Iowa City 52240

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 70:36

Records Committee: IBL 70:145

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Good description of adult in fresh basic plumage.

A-D, Good details.

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD

SPECIES: Red Knot (Adult Basic)

LOCATION: Horseshoe Bend Unit Mark Twain NWR. Off "F" Avenue 5 miles east and 3 miles south of Wapello (Louisa County).

HABITAT: Water pool and mudflats remaining from earlier high water.

DATE & TIME: 4 September, 1999 (7:30-8:10 AM)

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

OTHERS: Discovered by Chuck Fuller.

DESCRIPTION: This bird was discovered by Chuck Fuller at this location late in the afternoon of 3 August. When I arrived early the next morning, he met me and had the bird in the scope. The bird was on a mudflat at the edge of a pool of water. It's general size was larger than nearby Pectoral Sandpipers, and roughly the same size, but a very different shape from nearby Stilt Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs. It was relatively plumper than any of the other birds. It was generally a light gray color above, contrasting with the generally more brown color of all the other shorebirds.

Specifically, the head showed a gray crown, dark eye, dark eye stripe, and white superciliary line. The bill was dark, somewhat tubular, straight, and roughly the same length as the width of the bird's head. The upperparts were generally a light gray color, showing white scalloped feather edgings on the scapulars and lesser coverts. There was also a black mark at the bend of the folded wing and dark primaries. The underparts were generally white, but the upper breast was gray and there were dark gray check marks on the undertail coverts, and lighter gray spotting on the sides of the belly beneath the wing. The legs appeared dark gray-green in color. When the bird stretched its wings briefly, it flashed some white on the underwing, but I could not determine exactly where it was.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Stilt Sandpiper in basic plumage lacks undertail covert checking, has a much longer bill and yellow-green legs. Lesser Yellowlegs also lacks undertail covert checking, and has yellow legs and a much longer and thinner bill.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: It was early morning on a clear day. We were using a KOWA TSN-4 telescope looking north to northwest at distances of about 100-150 feet.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I have seen at least half a dozen basic plumaged birds in Iowa, and two spring birds. I have also seen numerous adults on the east coast in the spring, varying from basic to alternate plumage.

REFERENCES & FIELD NOTES: Field notes were made immediately. National Geographic Guide, 3rd Edition, was viewed the same evening, and this form was also typed 4 September.