

Whimbrel

4 May 1983

Record Number: 83-04

Classification: A-D

Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co., IA

*B & *M Proescholdt, *Sommerlot, *Zalatel,

*Martsching, *J Dinsmore, *Schaufenbuel; IBL 53:50, 54:38

DOCUMENTATIONS

Beth Proescholdt

Mark Proescholdt

Ramona R. Sommerlot

James Dinsmore

Joe Schaufenbuel

Hank Zalatel

Paul Martsching

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 53:50

Records Committee: IBL 54:38

VOTE: 7-II

II, Would have liked mention of underwing coloration, but head striping conclusive.

II, I dont know if I should be glad people aren't carelessly identifying Eskimo Curlew or sorry no one listed it as a similar species, but the descriptions clearly eliminate the possibility that it is one.

What species? Whimbrel How many? 1 IILocation? Hendrickson's Marsh, s.e. Story Co., IowaType of habitat? muddy clover field, vegetation only few inches, some waterWhen? date(s): May 4, 1983 time: 12:00^{noon} to 12:45 P.M.Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Mark Proescholdt, Ramona Sommerlot,others before or after you: Hank Zalatel, Joe Schaufenbuel, Phyllis Harris, Ed + Betty Savage, Jim + Dorothy Maish, Paul Martsching + possibly 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. The bird was the size of a willet or Hudsonian Godwit, about twice as large as the Lesser Yellowlegs it was feeding with, but appearing brown rather than gray as were the yellowlegs + not having a rusty belly as a godwit has. Long, dark, down-curved bill, slaty gray-blue legs, + prominent stripes on the crown, alternating dark + light were seen. When it flew the darker brown primaries + leading edge of the wing were easily seen, as well as the decurved bill. The belly was light + unmarked, but the back was patterned, with paler markings following onto the back of the neck. The bird was feeding in the field, flying short distances 3 times.



poor drawing!

Similar species and how eliminated: Hudsonian Godwit (this had decurved bill, no rusty breast + no white + black flight pattern); Long-billed Curlew (much shorter bill + prominent stripes on crown); Willet (different flight colors in wings + much browner + also decurved bill)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: thin haze over sun shining from behind, as close as 40 yards (estimated), binoculars, 6x, 7x, 10x, 20x

Previous experience with species and similar ones: never before a Whimbrel, but I have seen many Long-billed Curlew + Hudsonian Godwits + Willets

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's Field Guide, 4th ed, Birds of N. America, Robbins, et al

How long before field notes made? made at once this form completed? May 18th

What species? Whimbrel How many? 1Location? Hendrickson's Marsh, Story Co., Iowa -- west of the road on the west sideType of habitat? in a wet area of a weedy clover fieldWhen? date(s): May 4, 1983 time: 12:00 noon to 12:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscamb, Iowa 50148others with you: Beth Proescholdt, Ramona Sommerlotothers before or after you: Paul Martsching, Hank Galatel, Joe Schaufenhuel, Phyllis Harris, Jim and Dorothy Maish, Ed and Betty Savage

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.

We saw a field of lesser yellowlegs feeding in the field. I scanned the field and spotted a large grayish bird feeding in the field away from the yellowlegs. It was all grayish-brown with a long (3-4"), dark, decurved bill. We saw very distinctive striping on the crown. The bird was twice as big as the lesser yellowlegs, had grayish legs, and was light underneath. We saw it fly short distances three times and observed the profile of its long, decurved bill as well as the darker brown ends of its primaries on the top side of the wings.

Similar species and how eliminated: A willet does not have a striped crown or long, decurved bill. It was not big enough or have the very long bill of a long-billed curlew.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Sunny with sun behind us. 40 yards estimated. 7x35 binoculars.Previous experience with species and similar ones: this is a new life list species.References and persons consulted before writing description: Birds of N. America by Robbins, et. al.; 4th edition of Field Guide to the Birds by R. T. Peterson; Notes of Beth Proescholdt
How long before field notes made? 10 min. this form completed? May 30, 1983

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species- Whimbrel How many? 1Location? Hendrickson's marsh by Rhodes, IowaType of habitat? clover field - muddy and wet in spots w/ marshWhen? date(s): May 4 time 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Ramona R. Sommerlot, Uniontown, Iowa 50582others iwth you: Beth and Mark Proescholdtothers before or after you: Paul Mantsehnig
Mark Zalefel plus many -

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.

first noticed 40 lesser yellow legs - then about 20 yds away a bigger bird - grayen-looking and silhouetted against a windrow of straw with a long down curved bill (very noticable), Body looked twice size of yellow legs - held head high on thinner neck reminding me of an upland Sandpiper - however bird bigger - Bill decurved & long - Advancing closer could see slight streaking on neck and black outline of tail when it bent forward to eat - white belly. Strong striped head looked - light and dark - it flew over us closer - 40' - noticed grayish brown wings - ending in points with hook at wrist and little white edge on secondaries - top side of wing - dark long legs - waders picked - Slurped worm - Heard call - twee twee etc

Similar species and how eliminated: Godwits - bills turn up -
Long-billed curlew - bill too long

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (not measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny - good lighting on bird 2x35 Bushnell
Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description:

L.B. Curlew seen Tex 1982 Hudsonian Godwit seen several times
Peterson - Robbins - Poush
How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed May 26 - '83

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City Ia 52240

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

83-04

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Whimbrel 2. Number: one
3. Location Hendricksons Marsh in Story County, Iowa
4. Date: 4 May 1983 5. Time Bird seen: abt 3:30 to last seen 4:45
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):
nearly twice the size of the Lesser Yellowlegs in same field. brown; somewhat long legged and longish necked; bill very long and turned down, especially toward tip; head striped - lite stripe thru crown appeared to be white or nearly so - other lite stripes pale, but not quite white: another way of putting it - four very dark stripes on a nearly white head. Only saw flying ~~at~~ once & then at a distance too far too really be able to identify it. --abt 4:45 pm was much larger than L Yellowlegs it was flying with and brown; seemed quite a bit liter beneath than on
7. Description of voice, if heard: top in flight.
not heard
8. Description of behavior: foraging
9. Habitat - general: wheat or oat field that still had windrows of stubble ; green
specific: growth more or less covering ground.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Godwits bill ~~turns~~ turns up instead of down. heads not strongly striped
Long Billed Curlew - beak much longer and head not strongly striped
11. Distance (how measured)? guessed 150 yds to 300 yds
12. Optical equipment:
7 X 35 binoculars
20 X 80 binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
some highthin cloud; when facing sun, bird was to northwest.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
never seen Whimbrel before. Have seen both Godwits many times.
15. Other observers: Beth Proescholdt, Hank Zaletel, Joe Schaufenbuel
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Beth found it first. I was fully in agreement with her identification.
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Birds of North America Golden Press
A Field Guide to the Birds Peterson
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes while looking at bird. typed this two hours after having last seen it.
Paul Martsching Address: 1120 Marston
- Signature Paul Martsching City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010
- Date: 4 May 1983

(over)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species WHIMBREL 2. Number: ONE
Location HENDRICKSON MARSH
STORY CO. R21W-T28N SECTION 2, NORTH CENTRAL, EAST CENTRAL

4. Date: MAY 4, 1983 5. Time Bird seen: 6:45-7:30 PM 3:00-3:30 PM WHEN BIRD FLEW TO NORTH

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): BIRD WAS APPROXIMATELY 14" IN HEIGHT, DARK EYE, DARK BILL APPROXIMATELY 3" LONG, DARK CAP WITH THIN LIGHT-COLORED LINE THROUGH MIDDLE, EYE LINE SAME COLOR AS CAP, THE BIRD WAS OVER ALL SANDY BROWN IN COLOR WITH MARBLED BACK. BREAST WAS CREAMY IN COLOR. LIGHT STREAKING APPEARED ON BREAST AND NECK



7. Description of voice, if heard: NONE

8. Description of behavior: DEEP THRUST OF BILL INTO GROUND - MANY WORMS WERE BEING TAKEN

9. Habitat - general: FLOOD^{ED} FIELD (PUDDLES 1-2" DEEP) WILDLIFE PLANTINGS NEARBY - FIELD PLANTED FOR CROPS FOR WILDLIFE - SECOND AREA WATER 1-2" DEEP - CORN STUBBLE

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: WAS RIGHT BESIDE HUDSONIAN GODWIT - APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 1" LARGER IN SIZE BILL TURNED DOWN - GODWIT TURNS UP

11. Distance (how measured)? 25 YARDS (ESTIMATE) 12. Optical equipment: SPACEMASTER SCOPE WITH ZOOM

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): ATTACHMENT SUNNY - 3 PM SUN LOOKING WEST - SUNNY - SUN IN WEST BIRD TO THE SOUTH

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

15. Other observers: DICK MOONEY, JOE SCHAUFENBUEL, EUGENE ARMSTRONG, BETH, MARK PROESCHOLDT

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

YES

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: ALL ABOVE

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: CHANDLER, ROBBINS GOLDEN GUIDE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? JUNE 5, 1983 FROM FIELD NOTES TAKEN DAY OF SIGHTING

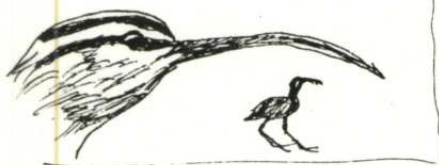
Signature Hank Zolitel Address: 715 WEST

Date: June 5, 1983 City, State: COLO, IOWA 50056

What species? Whimbrel How many? 1Location? Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co., IAType of habitat? Wet partially flooded corn stubble near manmade marsh & lake.When? date(s): May 4, 1983 time: 2:50 p.m. to 3:40Who? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel Ames IAothers with you: Hank Zaletel, Paul Martsching, Dick Mooney.others before or after you: Many

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.

A large shorebird with long, strongly decurved bill. Long legs, medium to long length of neck, Bill black, eye dark. Head had a distinctly marked head pattern. ~~Bill~~ (see drawing) Bird had a brown marbling on neck, back and scapularies. Rump & Tail seemed dark brown and barred. Wings (primaries & secondaries) were the same color as tail. There was no distinct marks on upperparts outside of head pattern.



Throat, and breast were lighter than back of neck somewhat cream-colored with fine streaking. Belly lacked markings and cream-colored. Leg color: gray-brown. No vocalizations. Bird was compared with Hudsonian Godwits & Greater Yellowlegs directly & obviously larger than those species.

Similar species and how eliminated: Only other large decurved billed brown uniformly colored shorebird ~~was~~ would be Long-billed Curlew. But bill not long enough, color not buffy, head pattern distinct.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: N.A.

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent, Clear sky Sunlight nearly at back as bird was viewed. With 45x telescope as close as 150 feet.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Observed Whimbrel before
Robbins' Field Guide.References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's Field Guide and
Rabbin's Field GuideHow long before field notes made? 4 hours this form completed? 4 hours

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

Joe Schaufenbuel

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Whimbrel How many? one
 Location? Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co (actually on private land across from marsh)
 Type of habitat? Flooded field
 When? date(s): 4 May 1983 time: 2:20 to 2:30 pm
 Who? your name and address: James Dinsmore, Dept Animal Ecology, ISU, Ames
 others with you: alone
 others before or after you: Beth Prescholdt, + others, Ted La Grange, prob 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.

Fairly large shorebird, easily twice the size of the Lesser Yellowlegs that were feeding next to it.

The basic color was brownish gray. The lower belly was whitish, upper breast with a gentle wash of light brown. The back was mainly brown in color. I didn't note tail color.

I looked most at head and bill. The bill was long and appeared to be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times the length of the head. It was black in color and distinctly decurved, seemingly more sharply at the tip.

The lower side of the face was light colored and there was a definite dark line through the eye. Above that it was light colored and then another dark ~~line~~ line running across the head with the very crown of the head light colored.

Similar species and how eliminated: Long-billed Curlew - this bird not big enough for Long-billed and bill was not long enough relative to head size

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

clear sky, sun almost overhead, had good light
 ca 50-75 yards away (estimated) see with 20x spotting scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen Whimbrel in Fla + Mass

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbins et al

How long before field notes made? at scene this form completed? 4 hours