

Red Knot  
31 Aug 1989  
Union Sl. N.W.R., Cerro Gordo Co., IA  
Kenne  
IBL 60:14, 61:85

Record Number: 89-31  
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Matthew Kenne

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 60:14  
Records Committee: IBL 61:85

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D: Good description of post-breeding adult except legs should be expected to look greenish, not black, but this is a minor point.

A-D: Convincingly described.

A-D: Size and color description good (along with body shape). Only thing inconsistent with Red Knot is black legs, possibly a function of lighting. How deep in the mud was this bird feeding.

A-D: A very nice find and a good description.

A-D: Good description - these birds are definitely gray looking.

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

89-31

What species? Red Knot (molting adult) How many? 1

Location? Union Sl. Nat. Wild. Refuge north of Titonka Blacktop

Type of Habitat? mud flats with puddles + pools

When? date(s): Aug. 31, 1989 time: 9:15 AM to 9:18 AM

Who? your name and address: Matthew Kenne 709 N. Phillips, Algona Ia. 50511

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: none

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I was looking over 1000's of shorebirds when I spotted one with a pale robin-like breast. It was the same size as a nearby killdeer, but plumper + stockier. It was feeding by picking off the mud. It was finely marked black + white on the back giving it a gray look with darker gray wings. The head + throat were grayish with a pale supercilium reaching to behind the eye. The bill was straight, black, and longer proportionally than a pectoral's, tapered to the tip. The chest + sides of the breast were splotchily rusty brick red. The splotchiness gave it a "1/2 strength" look to the color. The legs were black (mud or shadow?) and the bird was white from where the legs met to the undertail. The knot and 100's of other birds spooked when I tried to get closer. I was unable to relocate it again.

Similar species; how eliminated:

This bird had a different bill than any shorebird I've ever seen. No other shorebird has a red breast. (OK - curlew sand)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NA  
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.  
Cloudy, hazy sunshine behind me, bird to the west. 15X-60x zoom scope  
75 yds. est.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:  
none (pictures in books) with this species

References and persons consulted before writing description:  
none

How long before field notes made? concurrent this form completed? 2 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).