

Whimbrel
10 May 1997
Nebraska City area, Fremont Co., IA
B. J. Rose, Doug Rose, Roger Rose
IBL 68:3, 7, 85

Record Number: 97-53
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Doug Rose [by inference, no address given]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: none
Spring Count: IBL 68:3, 7
Records Committee: IBL 68:85

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, Details minimal, but the large size, long down-curved bill, and striped head are distinctive.

A-D, Description brief, but touches on the two important features.

A-D, Details are brief but sufficient.

A-D, Not much detail, but adequate for Whimbrel.

A-D, Minimal details are enough for this species.

NA, Not enough details to say beyond a reasonable doubt that this was a Whimbrel or not. Notes indicate a large shorebird, how large is large? Compared to what? How far away was bird from the observers? A bird seen through a high-power scope for 5 minutes should have resulted in more details being seen and documented. Where were the stripes on the head? How many stripes on the head? What was the color of the bird? How long and what color were the legs? I don't think we have enough details to accept this record at this time.

A-D, Again minimal description by excellent observers, but key features (down curved bill, striped head) noted. Eliminates Long-billed Curlew, rarer than Whimbrel at this location. Time of observation not a problem also.

RE-VOTE (at meeting of 4/19/98): 7 A-D

May 10 1997
 Details of * Birds Fremont County Iowa

White Fronted Goose - Did not look too healthy but did have pink bill with a white face - north of P.Y.O. Orchard in newly created basin.

Peregrin Falcon - A very pale bird, probably a young male, dark hood. We watched this bird at Riverton for about 45 minutes as it made several passes at the waterfowl then sit in a tree for awhile and more passes at waterfowl. It never did make a kill while we were watching.

Piping Plover - Again at Riverton, very pale, with Semi-palmated Plovers for comparison, single black breast band, yellow legs, yellowish bill.

Ruddy Turnstone - Riverton again, hard to mistake with the black markings on the head and breast.

Sanderling - North of Hwy #2 on L-31 - In flooded field with Semi-palmated sandpipers, larger size, pale in comparison.

Western Sandpiper - Riverton again - with Semi-palmated sandpipers, bill longer with definite droop, back and crown reddish.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - In a plowed field west of L-31 - buffy overall, white wing linings very distinct in flight.

Short-billed Dowitcher - Riverton again - "check" marks on flanks, not barring.

Great-tailed Grackle - Throughout the Missouri River flood plane - Males large with enormous tails, females light brown with pale eyes. This is becoming a common bird in southwest Iowa, can be found year around in Mills And Fremont counties.

Wimbrel - North of Hwy #2, Nebraska City area, in flooded field - Large shorebird with long down curved bill, striped head. We viewed this bird for about 5 minutes in full sunlight with Kiowa and Discoverer scopes. No question about identification.]

Olivaceous Cormorant - Riverton - We walked out on the dike from the check station and spent a lot of time scoping the area. Around 7 p.m., a flock of 9 cormorants took off and were flying around the area. One cormorant appeared to be about 1/3 the size of the rest and completely dark, (the other cormorants were mostly immature double crests). I asked Dad and Roger if anything looked different about this flock of cormorants, and they both immediatly noticed the the small bird and said Olivaceous (actually Roger said Neotropic). The small size of this bird made it stand out. The flock flew within 50 yards of us then turned and headed north. The size difference was very noticable without binoculars.

Observers for all of the above: B.J.Rose, Doug Rose, Roger Rose.