

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Black-necked Stilt

28 Apr 1998

Mark Twain N.W.R., Louisa Co., IA

*Tim Julison

IBL 68:92

Record Number: 98-14

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Tim Julison, Mark Twain NWR, 10726 Co. Rd. X61, Wapello 52653

[*9/4/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:92

Records Committee: IBL 69:89

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Unmistakable bird that has become expected annually.

A-D, A detailed description of an unmistakable bird.

A-D, Description eliminates other possibilities.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

98-14

What species? Black-necked stilt How many? 1, possibly 2
Location? Mark Twain NWR, Wapello District, Horseshoe Bend Div. - Rush La
Type of Habitat? shallow fresh water marsh 2-4" near mud flats
When? date(s): 4-28-98 time: 1350 to 1410
Who? your name and address: Tim Julison, Mark Twain NWR, 16728 Cty Rd. X 61
Wapello, IA. 526
Others with you: Kathy Maycroft - Refuge Manager.
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.

The bird was about 12-15" in height. It had a long narrow black bill about 3in", the neck was long, and it had very long distinctly orange legs. It was dark black along the back of the head and neck and extended over the top of the back and wings to the end of the tail feathers. There was a bright white patch above its eyes and the front of the head and neck and the entire undersides were bright white. It appeared to be feeding on small invertebrates in the shallows. It would feed for about 50 yds. and then fly back to its original point. The wings appeared to be solid black when it flew.

Similar species; how eliminated:

American avocet - Avocet has a longer and up curved bill, solid lighter colored head & neck, there are white wing patches on the front and rear of the wings, and the legs are shorter and gray in color.

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

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

Over cast but very clear ground conditions; viewed at about 100 yds with 10x42 bushnell binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have had several sightings of American Avocets and Phalaropes at other wildlife Refuges. No previous sightings of Black-necked stilts.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Amy Spruager - Allworth

How long before field notes made? 2 hrs this form completed? 24 hrs.

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

21102 →

There was also an unconfirmed sighting of
a female Black-necked stilt about 500yds east
of the male.

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