

Red Knot

1 Sep 1984

Hampton, IL

*P. Petersen

IBL 54:113; 55:58

Record Number: 84-27
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Peter C. Petersen

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 54:113

Records Committee: IBL 55:58

VOTE: ON ID: 1-II, 6-III; ON LOCATION: IL: 7; IA: 1-yes, 2-?,
4-no

III + IL, No evidence bird was in Iowa.

III + IL, We still don't have an adequate policy on location between states. For birds that spend considerable time flying over or swimming in water, I favor 'over main portion of water separating two states, e.g., most gulls over water, diving ducks in water, but not ducks swimming next to opposite shore.' For land oriented birds, I favor 'on state shore or flying immediately along shore'.

III + IL + ?IA, How far over river did it fly?

II + IL + IA, We need to establish criterion for location along border rivers. I favor any bird flying over water both states.

III + IL + ?IA, Description OK, but difficult to follow (hard to read). [location] depends how far bird flew over the water of the Mississippi. Where is the state line? (View from Pleasant Valley doesn't count as bird clearly in Illinois at that time).

III + IL, I see no compelling reason to call this an Iowa sighting. On the other hand, if anyone wanted to add this to their Iowa list, I wouldn't scream.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

84-27

1. Species Red Knot 2. Number of birds: 1
 3. Location Hampton, County: Rock Island
 4. Date: 1 Sep. 1984 5. Time bird seen: 8:05 AM to 8:25 AM
2:30 PM 3:00 PM

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):

Killdeer sized, fattish shorebird grey on back, white below. Back lightish grey, some dark grey near tip + white fringe at tip giving a scaly appearance ^{to individual feathers}. Tail dark grey, rump white with faint grey barring (visible while bird walked). White belly, faint streaking chest area. White line over eye, grey through eye. Bill black, a bit longer than nearby Pectorals. Legs ^{fleshy to} greenish, fairly short. When preening wings showed

7. Description of voice, if heard: silent ^{this was seen on second view}

8. Description of behavior: Feeding, probing in mud flat, edge of Miss. R.

9. Habitat - general: Mississippi River
 specific: mud flat

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
larger & greyer than nearby Pectorals, less streaking on chest. Too small for Reeve, also too grey & legs greenish, Tail & rump color different.

11. Distance (how measured)?
 12. Optical equipment: 40X scope
10X40 binocs.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): sun directly behind observers, partly cloudy but sun on bird.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Have banded in Chicago in fall previously.

15. Other observers: Mary Lou Petersen, Kelly McKay, Larry Cinder

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Kelly had ident. field on 31 Aug.

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Books (all guides) checked before obs. to be sure of areas to check. I don't feel there was any influence.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? one hour

Signature Peter E. Petersen Address: 235 McClellan Blvd.

Date: 1 Sep. 1984 City, State: Davenport, IA. 52803

Note - Bird visible from Pleasant Valley, IA, but could not be IDed. Bird also flushed & flew over Miss. River waters. Either establishes fontana.