

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Whimbrel

1 Oct 1995

Bjorkboda M., Hamilton Co., IA

*Maridel Jackson

IBL 66:20, 96

Record Number: 95-39

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Maridel Jackson, 410 SW Westview Drive, Ankeny 50021-2727

[*3/24/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:20

Records Committee: IBL 66:96

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Although the reported details are brief they are convincing.

A-D, White eye line eliminates Long-billed Curlew.

A-D, Description of underwing eliminates LB Curlew.

95-39

October 3, 1995

On October 1, 1995 Barb Bettis and I stopped at Bjorkboda Marsh in Hamilton Co. around 2:00 PM. Initially, we had some excitement when spying a widgeon with a buff crown. However, after putting a scope on it, I determined it was an American widgeon with a buff crown.

Then we saw a wader in the weeds. When it came in good view I said willet but knew it was late for one. It held it's own in size with the blue wing teal and coots around it. When it faced me I could see it's long, straight dark bill. When sideways I could see black, white, black edge on underwing. I could see it's dark legs. It eventually lifted a wing to groom and I could easily see the black and white underwing. It also was less barred on breast area than I have seen in summer.

We scoped around again when I heard and saw a couple of greater yellow legs fly in.

✓ However, with them came a larger, browner bird with a long, dark, decurved bill. It too landed in the shallow water and muddy shore area and as I scoped it determined it had to be a whimbrel. I have seen them only in Texas, but this bird could not have been anything else. It was slightly larger than the willet or the greater yellow legs and it had a obvious white eyestripe and dark legs. It's bill was not nearly as long a long billed curlew, but was obviously very decurved.

We observed the birds for about 30 minutes. Barb was having trouble adjusting my scope so did not get good observation through it, only through her binoculars.

Maridel Jackson
410 SW Westview Drive
Ankeny, IA 50021-2727