

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/24/00

Black-necked Stilt

1

Record Number: 97-02

26 Mar 1997

Classification: A-D

Louisa Refuge, Mark Twain NWR, Louisa Co., IA

*Amy Sprunger-Allworth

IBL 67:87, 68:85

DOCUMENTATION

Amy Sprunger-Allworth, Mark Twain NWR, C.R.X61, Wapello 52653

[6/15/97]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 67:87

Records Committee: IBL 68:85

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Well described; a record early date.

A-D, Full description of an unmistakable bird.

A-D, No other reasonable contender based on description.

What species? Black-necked stilt How many? 1Location? Mark Twain NWR, Wapello District, Louisa DivisionType of habitat? Shallow ^{fresh} water, ~4-6"; near ^{open} deeper waterWhen? date(s): March 26, 1997 time: 8:50 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.Who? your name and address: Amy Sprunger-Allworth Mark Twain NWR 10728 C.R.X61 Wapello, IAothers with you: none 52653others 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The bird I observed was approximately 12-15" in height. Its colorations were distinctly black & white. The black covered the birds back, wings, back of the neck, and top of the head, over the eyes. It had a very obvious white spot around or over the eye. Its legs were very long, thin & pinkish-red in color. Its bill was black & quite long & straight.

The bird was probing the mud for invertebrates, walking back & forth through a shallow finger of water. It flew away from me as I approached it in a vehicle. Its wings & back were fully black with a white rump, tail & belly.

Similar species and how eliminated: American avocet. The avocet has reddish neck & head colorations; also has a bill that curves upward near the end. The stilt was only black & white in coloration, with a straight bill. Legs of stilt were pinkish red.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
good early morning light - bright sunny day. Distance, approx 50-75 yds.
Nikon 7x50, 7.2° binoculars + Bushnell Spacemaker II spotting scope.Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen (1) American AvocetReferences and persons consulted before writing description: Bill Ohde, IDNR Biologist, WapelloHow long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 48 hrs.