

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/22/00

Snowy Plover

3 May 1996

Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA

*Stephen J. Dinsmore

IBL 66:102; 67:81, P-0504, Dinsmore 1997

Record Number: 96-14

Classification: A-P

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014 [4/6/97]

PHOTOGRAPH

Stephen J. Dinsmore, P-0504

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:102

Records Committee: IBL 67:81

Dinsmore, S. J. 1997. Snowy Plover at Saylorville Reservoir.

IBL 67:64.

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Identifying marks noted.

A-D, Diagnostic features seen.

REVOTE (with photo): 7 A-P

A-P, Picture is diagnostic.

A-P, Photo clearly shows adult male in alternate plumage; short bill, dark but not black legs, short black bill, black facial markings and abbreviated shoulder slash.



Snowy Plover P-0504
Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA
3 May 1996 Steve Dinsmore 96-14

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SNOWY PLOVER AT SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 3 May 1996, I saw a Snowy Plover at the Oak Grove Beach Recreation Area of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. I studied and photographed the bird at distances as close as 20 m between 10:00-10:21 a.m. When I arrived at the beach, I noted a distant pale shorebird near the water which I thought was probably a Piping Plover. I left the bird for a couple of minutes to look at some Sanderlings, after which I couldn't immediately relocate the bird. Several minutes later, I found the bird high up on the beach. As soon as I put the scope on the bird, I recognized it as a Snowy Plover (Fig. 1). Overall, the bird was very pale. The upperparts were a pale, sandy brown. When viewed from behind, the bird had a narrow white collar and the crown appeared buffy and contrasted with the mantle. The underparts were white. The forehead was white with a small black patch on the forecrown. The bird also had a small black auricular patch and a black "slash" mark on each shoulder. The bill was very thin, black, and had a slight upturned appearance. The legs were grayish, and the bird seemed long-legged for its size. Throughout the observation, the bird's upright posture and very active foraging behavior were distinct. Based on the brightness of the plumage and black head markings, I sexed the bird as an adult male. Other birders did not relocate the bird later in the day.

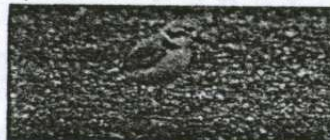
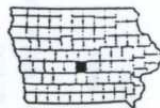


Fig. 1. Snowy Plover, Saylorville Reservoir, 3 May 1996. Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

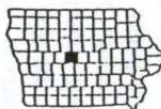
This is the fifth record of a Snowy Plover for Iowa. Previous records are all from spring: 6-7 May 1988 at Bays Branch Wildlife Area, Guthrie County (Dinsmore and Fix, *Iowa Bird Life* 58:86-87, 1988), 22 May 1988 at Dunbar Slough, Greene County (Dinsmore and Fix, *Iowa Bird Life* 58:86-87, 1988), 28 April 1990 near Burlington, Des Moines County (*Iowa Bird Life* 62:21), and 10-13 May 1992 at Riverton Wildlife Area, Fremont County (*Iowa Bird Life* 62:76, two birds).

4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

PINYON JAY IN BOONE COUNTY

LLOYD AND GAYLAN CRIM

At 7:45 a.m. on 30 November 1996, while watching a flock of Blue Jays at our bird feeder, we noticed one "odd" bird. After checking the bird book, we decided it was a Pinyon Jay. We then called Jim Dinsmore who came to see it. After he arrived, all three of us were able to observe it returning to the bird feeder three times in the next several hours.



The bird was roughly the size of a Blue Jay, with a shorter tail and a longer, thinner, slightly curved beak (Fig 1.). In color, it was mostly gray with some light bluish-gray color on the head, tail, and edges of the wings. It had a white throat patch, but lacked the streaking an adult should have, and was labeled a juvenile by some of the many visitors who came to see it. It walked rather than hopped, and mingled with the Blue Jays as one of them. Its visits to our feeders were fairly

regular at first, becoming more erratic as the season progressed and the snow melted. It seemed to prefer the peanuts, but occasionally took sunflower hearts, even hanging from a "super ball" feeder to do so. It was last observed on 22 March 1997.

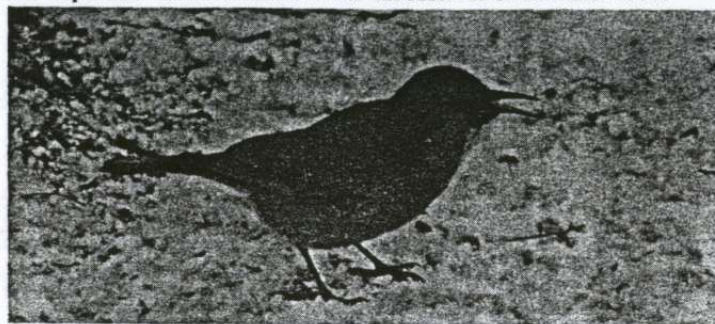


Figure 1. Pinyon Jay in Boone County, 6 December 1996. Photograph by Thomas H. Kent.

This is only the second report of this western species in Iowa, the previous report being one seen at Shenandoah from December 1972 to January 1973 (Zollars, *Iowa Bird Life* 43:28-29, 1973). To our knowledge, this is the furthest east report of this species.

1750 140th St., Boone, IA. 50036

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER IN HARDIN COUNTY

MARK PROESCHOLDT

On 2 June 1995, I stopped at Eagle City County Park along the Iowa River Greenbelt in north Hardin County. I heard a loud unfamiliar warbler song in a brushy tangle along the park's edge. There were several birds in the tangle. I heard one or two loud "chip" notes then zeroed in on the area of the chips. Then a warbler popped out into view about eight feet up in the tangle. It looked like a breeding-plumaged male Mourning Warbler. It was yellow underneath, had a dark green back, and a dark gray hood with a definite black smudge on its upper breast. It was blackish around its eye area. But it had very vivid white eye crescents above and below its eye like a breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gull would have. I had a very good look at it for approximately five seconds, and it was a broken white eye-ringing that was incomplete both in front of and behind the eye. I was very surprised! The bird moved, and I did not see it again. The unfamiliar song continued, but I was unable to find the singing bird. Then lack of additional time forced me to leave. Although I had only a brief view of the bird, the presence of the incomplete eye ring made it clear that this was a MacGillivray's Warbler, a western species that otherwise might be confused with a Mourning or Connecticut warbler. This is the first accepted record for Iowa of a MacGillivray's Warbler.



Box 65, Liscomb Iowa 50148

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Snowy Plover
Number: 1 adult male
Location: Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA-Oak Grove Beach
Habitat: sandy beach
Date: 3 May 1996
Time: 10:00-10:21 a.m.
Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014
Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): When I arrived at the beach, I noted a distant pale shorebird near the water which I thought was probably a Piping Plover. I left the bird for a couple of minutes to look over some Sanderlings, after which I couldn't immediately relocate the bird. Several minutes later, I spotted the bird high up on the beach. As soon as I put the scope on the bird, I recognized it as a Snowy Plover. Over all, the bird was very pale. The upperparts were a pale, sandy brown. When viewed from behind, the bird had a narrow white collar and the crown appeared buffy and contrasted with the mantle. The underparts were white. The forehead was white with a small black patch on the forecrown. The bird also had a small black auricular patch and a black "slash" mark on each shoulder. The bill was very thin, black, and had a slight upturned appearance. The legs were grayish and bird seemed long-legged for its size. Throughout the observation, the birds' upright posture and very active foraging behavior were distinct. Based on the brightness of the plumage and black head markings, I sexed the bird as a male.

Similar species and how eliminated: The plover shape, size, and overall color were enough to eliminate all shorebirds except Piping Plover. Piping Plover was eliminated by the dark legs and bill, pattern of black on the head, and bill shape.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were very good with overcast skies. Estimated viewing distance varied between 20m and 100m. I used 10 x 42 binoculars and a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen one other Snowy Plover in Iowa. I have seen many in Kansas and Florida.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: written during observation
How long before this form completed: 5 hours after sighting