

Red Knot
15 Sep 1984

Record Number: 84-26
Classification: A-D

Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co., IA

*Martsching, *M. Proescholdt, *Zalatel

*S. Dinsmore, *J. Dinsmore; IBL 54:113; 55:57; Dinsmore 1985

DOCUMENTATIONS

Steve Dinsmore
Hank Zalatel
Paul Martsching
Mark Proescholdt
Jim Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 55:113

Dinsmore, S. 1985. Red Knot at Hendrickson Marsh. Iowa Bird

Life 55:32.

Records Committee: IBL 55:57

VOTE: 6-II, 1-abstain

II, Fair descriptions; seen by many.

II, What are yellow-black legs?

84-26

Dinsmore, S. 1985. Red Knot at Hendrickson Marsh. Iowa Bird Life 55:32.

Red Knot at Hendrickson Marsh — At approximately 1:00 p.m. on 15 Sep 1984 I saw a Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) in the northwestern corner of Hendrickson Marsh, Story County. The bird was feeding with several Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) near the grassy edge of a shallow mudflat. The bird was a medium-sized, chunky shorebird with a slightly decurved bill and a dark stripe through the eye. The back feathers were gray with white edgings giving it a scaly appearance. The belly was white with some faint streaking on the upper part. The bird showed a faint white wing-stripe when flushed. The bird appeared similar to a Red Knot I saw a week earlier in Hampton, IL. The knot was present until sundown, being seen by Jim Dinsmore, Hank Zaletel, Mark Proescholdt, and Joe Schaufenbuel but was not present at sunrise the next morning.

Dinsmore, et al. (Iowa Birds, Iowa State Univ. Press, 1984:145) list two old records and three recent, unsubstantiated spring records. Besides this bird, other knots were reported this year near Red Rock Reservoir on 16 Jul 1984 (G. Black, Des Moines Register, 9 Sep 1984) and at Coralville Reservoir on 16 Sep 1984. My record and the Coralville bird closely match the 10 Sep 1937 of one seen at Anderson Lake, Hamilton County (Scott, Auk 55:275-276, 1938), suggesting that mid-September is the best time to see Red Knots in Iowa in fall. Steve Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010.

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Red Knot 2. Number: one
 3. Location Hendricksons Marsh - Story County - Iowa
 4. Date: 15 September 1984 5. Time Bird seen: 5:50 pm to 6:40 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):
general appearance from
a distance - lite gray bird - paler head & below - bigger than Pectoral Sandpiper (which were at times very close to it) with white rump showing well whenever it turned its back. Thru binoculars at closer range - white eye brow - moderate length bill - perhaps a bit longer than Pectoral's proportionally - chunkier than Pectoral - back feathers lite gray with very pale edges - tail dark - white rump with a few dark bars - darkish legs & bill - breast very pale gray - belly white - white wing stripe when flying.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
 8. Description of behavior: feeding; probing almost straight up & down. also bathing.
 9. Habitat - general: lake & Marsh.
specific: probing in ~~water~~ wetter parts of mud flat; bathing in shallow water at edge of mud flat
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
winter Stilt sandpiper - is longer legged - longer beaked - thinner bodied -
doesn't have dark bars on white rump
Yellow legs - skinnier - longer yellow legs longer beak - no wing stripe
Solitary Sandpiper doesn't have white rump; Wilsons Phalarope has white rump, but no
 11. Distance (how measured)? wing stripe & its back feathers aren't edged with white.
100 Yds & 50 yds Sanderling doesn't have white rump
 12. Optical equipment:
7 x 35 and 20 X 80 binoculars
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
partly cloudy, bird to my north sun to my left; later bird to northeast of me, sun to west.
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Saw one at Hampton, Illinois on September 9 this year during I O U meeting.
 15. Other observers: Mark Proescholdt, Jim & Steve Dinsmore
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: I think Steve Dinsmore
was the first to see & identify it.
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Birds of North America Golden Press
A Field Guide to the Birds Peterson
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? extensive notes
while observing bird.
- Signature [Signature] Address: 1120 Marston
Date: 17 September 1984 City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

84-26

What species? Red knot How many? 1Location? Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co.Type of habitat? mudflat area in drained section of marshWhen? date(s): 9/15/84 time: 1:00 PM to 6:30 PMWho? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames IA 50010others with you: Hank Zaleta, Cole Joe Schaufenbuel, Amesothers before or after you: Paul Martosching, Ames Mark Piescholdt, Liscomb Joe Schaufenbuel, Ames

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 was 20-25% larger than nearby semipalmated plover and chunkier. The head was gray flecked with some white. The neck was gray to mid breast. The belly and underparts ~~was~~ were white. The wings were gray and appeared scaly. The wing tips were black. A faint white wing stripe was seen when the bird flew. The underwings were slightly barred. The bill was pale in color and of medium length, about as long as the head. The legs were pale yellow or black in color; hard to see. The eye was dark. There was a white stripe over the ~~the~~ eye starting at the base of the bill. The rump was white and clearly seen when the bird flew. The undertail coverts were also white. The tail feathers were gray with a faint white edging. The bird also had a dark colored wing wrist.

Similar species and how eliminated: peeps sp. because of smaller size, lack of gray scaly back, lack of white stripe above eye and lack of black wing tips with white wing stripe.
Sanderling was eliminated by smaller size, unscaly back, larger amount of black on wings and lack of necklace on breast. Eliminated from other shorebirds by combination of chunky, short legged appearance, white wing stripe, necklace on breast and grayish, scaly appearance.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NoIf yes, explain: —

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
lighting good - clear sky, sun at back. Estimated distance 20'-50'. Viewed through a 20X Bausch and Lomb Spotting Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen several thousand on East coast

References and persons consulted before writing description:

National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of N. AmericaHow long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? 7 hours

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

What species? Red Knot How many? 1Location? Hendrickson's Marsh - (Story Co.)Type of habitat? Grassy marsh area, large exposed mudflats, lakeWhen? date(s): Sept. 15, 1984 time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:23 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Paul Martsching, Steve and Jim Dinsmoreothers before or after you: Steve Dinsmore, Hank Galetel, Joe Schaufenbuel -
before

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 was a chunky gray bird with a short black bill and dark legs. It was white under the belly to the tail and had dark tail tips on both the upper and lower sides. It had a gray scaled back, a light grayish bib, a white eye stripe, and a white stripe in its wings when it spread them. It had white on its rump which could be seen through its folded wings. When preening in the water, its white rump with dark barring all up the white rump patch could be seen. It was bent over feeding a lot and fed with its bill in an up and down motion. It was larger than Killdeer and Pectoral Sandpipers which were beside it at times.

It was first seen in a corner by itself about 120 yards away. We walked closer to about 80 yards away. It flew to a spit jutting into the water and was 40-50 yards away. Then it flew back to its original area and was there up through sunset when I left for home.

Similar species and how eliminated: A winter Black-bellied Plover looks and acts differently. It stands in an upright posture, has a thicker bill, and a white rump without barring all the way up it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy at times, sunny at times, sun from side while viewing; distances estimated;

22x telescope, 7x35 Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: First Red Knot I've seen. Have seen quite a few winter Black-bellied Plovers.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Field guides of R.T. Peterson, Robbins, and National Geographic.

How long before field notes made? Made while viewing this form completed? Nov. 23, 1984

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

84-26

What species? Red Knot How many? oneLocation? Hendrickson Marsh, Story CountyType of habitat? in shallow water along edge of mudflat in freshwater marshWhen? date(s): 15 September 1984 time: 6:10 to 6:20 p.m.Who? your name and address: Jim Dinsmore, Dept. Animal Ecology, Iowa State Univ., Amesothers with you: Steve Dinsmoreothers before or after you: Paul Martsching, Mark Proescholdt, Hank Zaletel, Joe Schaufenbuel

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.

Medium sized shorebird, compared directly with Killdeer. Knot appeared about the same size as the killdeer, perhaps slightly larger and plumper than killdeer. Overall color-light grayish above and mostly light below

Bill-dark, little noted other than that it was fairly thick and stout

Legs-appeared to be dark

Back-most feathers were light gray in color and through scope they distinctly could be seen to be edged in white at tip, giving the bird a somewhat scaly appearance although not real distinctly

there was no indication of any wing stripe on the bird; the outermost primaries were black as seen while the bird was foraging.

Head-distinct dark stripe passing through the eye with light areas both above and below it;

top of head showed some fine white stripes on the darker background when the bird bent over to forage

Breast-on the upper breast there were distinct but very fine brown stripes running down the breast and stopping at a distinct "line", much as in Pectoral Sandpiper but with the stripes much finer and also the ending line somewhat higher on the breast than in the Pectoral

Did not flush bird so wing pattern not noted, heard no calls, rump not noted by me although others said they saw that pattern

Similar species and how eliminated:

Pectoral-gray color on back, the difference in the breast markings noted above

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

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

fairly clear sky, light still good from behind me, watched through 20X spotting scope at an estimated 30-40 yards, considered it good viewing conditions

Previous experience with species and similar ones: saw Hampton, Ill bird a week earlier, also have seen species in Florida and Massachusetts

References and persons consulted before writing description: Compared with Nat. Geog. guide in field, good match except for lack of wing bars, looked at Golden and Peterson guides when

How long before field notes made? 24 hours this form completed? 36 hours writing this

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD. 84-26

1. Species Red Knot 2. Number: one
 3. Location Hendrickson Marsh, Story Co.
 4. Date: September 15, 1984 5. Time Bird seen: approximately 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): bird the size of Killdeer - it appeared to be about 20-25% larger than nearby Semipalmated Plover - black wing tips - white under belly - neck gray to mid-breast - gray wings that were scaly - dark eye - gray head flecked with white - yellow-black legs - tail feathers gray-white edging - slight barring under wing $\frac{1}{4}$ " white stripe above eye - white rump - white undertail coverts - pale bill dark colored wing wrist
 7. Description of voice, if heard: short chirps
 8. Description of behavior: probing mud flat, head tucked in wing
 9. Habitat - general: marsh
specific: water's edge
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
 11. Distance (how measured)? 10 yards 12. Optical equipment:
20x scope 8x40 binoculars
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
clear, sunny day with sun at back - perfect light
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Red Knot seen in Illinois previous week almost same appearance
 15. Other observers: Joe Schaufenbuel
Steve Dinsmore and I took turns looking through scope and other would
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? take notes which were shared
Yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Robbins
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
Written from notes taken at time of sighting
Hank Zaletel Address: 715 West
- Signature _____ City, State: Colo, Iowa 50056
- Date: _____