

Black-necked Stilt Record Number: 93-10
20 May 1993 Classification: A-P
Amana L., Iowa Co., IA
*Kent, *Staudt, *Pinkston, #Schantz
to 21 May; P-0386, IBL 63:75, 64:68, Kent 1994

DOCUMENTATIONS

Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City 52246
Thomas Staudt, no current address
Randy Pinkston, 426 Reno St., Iowa City 52245

PHOTOGRAPH

Tim Schantz, 21 May, P-0386

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 63:75
Records Committee: IBL 64:68
Kent, T. H. 1994. Black-necked Stilt at Amana Lake. IBL

VOTE: 7 A-P

Common Redpoll: Low numbers were reported from the northern half of the state, although the best counts were from the next-to-southernmost reporting site, Johnson Co., where 25-32 were found (JLF, m.ob.). The only report further south was of 8 wintering in Des Moines Co (CRF). A flock of 25 was in Emmet Co. 4 Dec (DeH), and 10-12 were at Ames 12 Jan and 23 Feb (HZa). One observer tantalizingly mentioned a "very pale" individual at Sioux City (BFH).

Pine Siskin: This species was widespread but not in large numbers this winter. Best counts were only 15 in Polk Co. 13 Feb (DT) and 12 at a Sioux Center feeder throughout the period (JV).

American Goldfinch: Two observers in southwestern Iowa (MTI, MAP) indicated low numbers, but see CBCs.

Evening Grosbeak: With the few reports of this species in recent years, the three seen this winter provided some hope for better things to come. One was at a feeder at Seymour, Wayne Co. throughout (CSc), and single birds were reported in northeastern Iowa on the Dubuque and Clinton CBCs. Maybe next year?

House Sparrow: See CBCs.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: This species is expanding its range, at least in winter, northward along the Mississippi River from its north Burlington origin point. They were found on CBCs north to Muscatine, with as many as 60 at Burlington. Movement is occurring to the south of Burlington also, where birds were seen in the Wever area (CRF). An unexpected record was of a male at the Geyer feeder near Oxford from around the end of December through the period (JSc, RPi, m.ob.).

CONTRIBUTORS

Carl J. Bendorf (CJB), Iowa City; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Brian Blevins (BBI), Davenport; Tanya E. Bray (TEB), Bellevue NE; Dennis Carter (DC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Ray L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Raleigh, NC; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; Chris Edwards (CED), North Liberty; Mary Ellis (MEI), Lake City; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Erzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; Charles R. Fuller (CRF), Burlington; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Kevin Griggs (KGr), Madrid; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Hendrickson (DHe), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Bob Livermore (BLi), Sioux City; Francis L. Moore (FLM), Waterloo; Curt Nelson (CuN), Mason City; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Randy Pinkston (RPi), Iowa City; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Doug Rose (DoR), Glenwood; James Scheib (JSc), Iowa City; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Charlotte Scott (CSc), Seymour; Mindy Sheets (MSH), Missouri Valley; W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MTi), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Russ Widner (RWi), Marshalltown; Hank Zaletel (HZa), Nevada.

Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653

BLACK-NECKED STILT AT AMANA LAKE

THOMAS H. KENT

On 20 May 1993, Tom Staudt and I went to Amana Lake in Iowa County to look for shorebirds because we had heard that the water level was low with extensive mudflats. We immediately spotted two large, long-legged shorebirds in the shallow water. The birds were huge compared to nearby Semipalmated Plovers. The body size was about same as nearby grackles, but their long, bright pink legs made them tower over the grackles. The stilts were black above and white below with a small white patch over eye and white forehead. Their bills were long, thin, and black. The black on back of head extended down neck to back and was more prominent on lower neck. They fed by leaning down and picking at the surface.

The birds were seen later in the day by Randy Pinkston, and one was photographed the next morning by Tim Schantz as it flew away to the north (Figure 1).

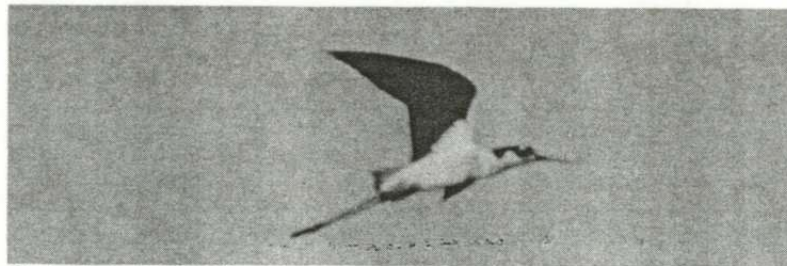
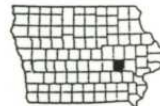


Fig. 1. Black-necked Stilt at Amana Lake, 21 May 1993. Photo by Tim Schantz.

There are three other accepted records of this species in Iowa. The first were two photographed at Union Slough N.W.R. in Kossuth County on 1-2 June 1984 (Kent and Silcock 1985). The second was at Snyder Bend in Woodbury County from 6 to 14 April 1991 (Huser 1992). The third was photographed at Riverton Area in Fremont County on 12 May 1992 (*IBL* 62:77, 63:69, Johnson and Allen 1994). There are six old, inadequately substantiated records and two unlabeled specimens (Dinsmore et al. 1984), which are likely correct considering the ease of identification and likelihood of occurrence.

LITERATURE CITED

- Dinsmore, J. J., T. H. Kent, D. Koenig, P. C. Petersen, and D. M. Roosa. 1984. Iowa Birds. Iowa State University Press, Ames.
- Huser, B. 1992. Black-necked Stilt in Woodbury County. *Iowa Bird Life* 62:84-85.
- Johnson, A., and P. Allen. 1994. Black-necked Stilt at Riverton Area. *Iowa Bird Life* 64:20-21.
- Kent, T. H., and W. R. Silcock. 1985. Report of the I.O.U. Records Committee for 1984. *Iowa Bird Life* 55:56-58.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246



Black-necked Stilt P-0386
Amana L., Iowa Co., IA
21 May 1993 Tim Schantz

93-10

6 3 210 +02 NBNNN 568 111-1250

DOCUMENTATION OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRD SIGHTING

Species: Black-necked Stilt; *Number:* 2

Location: Amana Lake, Iowa County, Iowa

Date: 20 May 1993; *Time:* 12:15 to 12:30 p.m.

Name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246.

Others before/with/after: with Tom Staudt, Randy Pinkston after

Habitat and circumstances: artificial, shallow lake with low water and extensive mud flats

Description of bird: Two large, long-legged shorebirds on mud flats in shallow water. Pink legs. Black above, white below. Small white patch over eye. white forehead. Long thin black bill. Fed by leaning down and picking at surface. Black on back of head and down neck to back, more prominent on lower neck. Huge size compared to Semipalmated Plover. Body size about same as nearby grackles, but long legs made them tower over the grackles.

Voice: not heard.

Similar species: none.

Any one have reservations?: no.

Light: back and side lighting, sunny; *Distance:* 50 to 100 yards (guess); *Optics:* 10x binocular, 20x telescope.

Previous experience: Have seen many, one in Iowa.

References before/after viewing: none.

Time of notes: during observation; *Final typing:* 3 hours.

IOWA Documentation

Species Black neck Stilt number of birds: 2
 Date May 20 1943 reported by: Thomas Staudt
 Location Amana Lake signed Thomas Staudt

Description: Top of head, area around eyes, sides of face, back of neck, upper body and wings black.

Underparts and breast white. Foreneck and throat white. White extends around the base of the bill. Small white patch immediately about eyes.

Bill black, long & pointed.

Legs pink, very long proportionate to body
 Eye color not noted

Body size - between Blue Jay & Am. Crow

Similar species/experience with this species.

This is a very distinctive wader that could not be mistaken for any other North American wader. The combination of black upperparts, white underparts, black bill, long pink legs applies only to Black necked Stilt.

I spent March & April in Texas where many Black necked Stilts were observed on coastal flats and inland ponds

Other observers: Tom Kent, agreed with identification and took photos

The birds were observed with 8X binoculars and 20X scope. This is written from notes made about 2 hours after observation.

DOCUMENTATION OF ACCIDENTAL SPECIES

Black-necked Stilt, Himantopus mexicanus
20 May 1993, approx. 2-2:45 p.m.
Amana Lily Lake, Iowa Co., Iowa

Two birds observed across the width of the lake, perhaps 300 yards(?), with 10-30x zoom binoculars under mostly cloudy skies. I used 30x magnification for most of the observation. The two birds were foraging in shallow water against the lakeshore mud-flat. Slender-bodied shorebirds on long spindly legs. Larger and taller than Black-bellied Plovers present in same area. Jet black above sharply demarcated from snow white below, with characteristic pattern of black on neck extending down onto sides of chest. Pink color of legs discernable even at great distance. No further details could be seen. Not seen in flight. No calls heard.

Black-necked Stilt is a common permanent resident on the upper Texas coast where I have lived and birded for many years. There is no other species with which it can be confused.

--Randy Pinkston
526 Reno Street
Iowa City, IA 52245-3039
Ph.(319)351-0592