

Red Knot

5 Aug 1988

Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth Co., IA

*S. Dinsmore

IBL 59:13, 76

Record Number: 88-17

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Steve Dinsmore

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 59:13

Records Committee: IBL 59:76

VOTE: 6-A-D, 1-abstain

A-D. Good documentation of an alternate plumage Red Knot.

A-D. This is also a candidate for [sic]

A-D. Adequate description of molting Red Knot. Description did not mention body shape. Other details together good enough to describe this species though.

A-D. Difficult to dispute this ID based on observer's experience with species and elimination of other possibilities.

SENT TO: Steve Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species?Red Knot

How Many?1 ad. in breeding plumage

Location?Union Slough NWR, Kossuth Co.

Habitat?feeding on large mud area with thousands of shorebirds

Date?5 Aug 1988

Time?8:40-10:30 a.m.

Observers Name and address:Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010

Others who saw bird:none

Description of bird:I was scanning over several hundred Pectoral and Semipalmated sandpipers feeding on exposed mud when I noticed a fairly large shorebird with reddish underparts feeding with them. The bird was slightly larger than a Pectoral Sandpiper. The underparts were reddish, except for white undertail coverts. The cheek was also reddish colored. The rest of the head and neck were light brown. The bill was longer than the bill of a Pectoral Sandpiper, tapered to the tip, drooped slightly at the tip, and was black. The mantle was light brown with pronounced paler feather edgings. The wing coverts were grayer than the mantle. The wingtips(primaries) were black, darker than the rest of the wing. The legs were short and pale, not dark. I did not see the bird in flight.

Similar species and how eliminated:The reddish color on the underparts eliminates all shorebirds except Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, and Sanderling. The pale legs and bill shape eliminate Curlew Sandpiper. The larger size, bill shape, and pale legs eliminate Sanderling.

Viewing conditions and equipment:Viewing conditions were very good, although there were a few heat waves which reduced visibility. Estimated viewing distance was 200 yards. I used a Bushnell 20-45x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species:I have seen numerous Sanderlings in Iowa and elsewhere. I have seen five other Red Knots in Iowa, plus thousands in Massachusetts and New Jersey. I have seen one Curlew Sandpiper in Massachusetts.

References consulted:NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes were made?made while bird was under observation

How long before this form was completed?12 hours