

BRAY

October 10, 1982

Dear Tom,

I am enclosing some notes on the Western Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs which we observed on 21,25 July at Forney's Lake. As we spent nearly an hour studying them at close range (especially the Western Sandpipers) we feel rather strongly that these were valid sightings. Obviously, we were unaware that these regular species needed detailing. Although the dates were earlier than average, none of us felt they were extreme.

We are aware of the paucity of July shorebird records from western Iowa. One reason may be the lack of a consistently good shorebird area. In wet years, as this one certainly was, previously unknown wet areas appeared. Of course, these aren't always on the Iowa side of the Missouri River. (Right now, for example, we've found a good pond containing both Black-bellied and Golden Plovers near Blair, Nebraska.) As I'm sure I've mentioned before, this criss-crossing the river tends to make both Iowa and Nebraska reports seem somewhat unbalanced.

Secondly, it has only been in the last three years that many birders from this area began looking for shorebirds as early as July.

I hope these notes will be helpful.

Sincerely,

*Tanya Bray*

Tanya Bray

✓ WESTERN SANDPIPER

The Western Sandpipers were observed at approx. 100' with 25-40 power scopes. The following details were noted:

Black legs

Black bill--longer and heavier than Least & Semipalmated also present. Definite droop at tip.

Wings did not extend beyond tail

Some rusty feathers still present on scapulars

Few rows of black dots extending from side of neck to bend of wing.

No white rump

July 25, 1982 Forney's Lake

✓ GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Obviously size difference compared with many Lesser Yellowlegs present.

Longer bill, heavier at base.

Loud, three-note call heard

July 21, 29, 1982 Forney's Lake

Tanya Bray

Loren and Babs Padelford

Jim and Sandy Kovanda