

APPENDIX II

A

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDSSpecies: Red Knot; Calidris Canutus
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

← They are all in a row at the back edge of the pond.
We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 5/15/86 Time Bird Seen: 7:00 PM to 7:30 PMLocality: Highline Lake - Shoreline & mud flat
Loma Mesa CO

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7x35 RTC binoculars & 20 power telescope (Nikon) lens 2x converter on a 500mmIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: 500mm Nikon Mirror lensNumber of birds seen: 12 Sex: ? Plumage: BreedingLight conditions: poor - late evening in a rain stormDistance from bird, and how measured: 120 ft - by focal length
according to camera

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Stood at waters edge - they were not feeding as were the numerous long-billed dowitchers which were all around them.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Large mud flat at Highline Lake. The lake has been drawn down due to a crack in the dam. This accounts for the large mud flat.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

I am the only one - The birds came and left while I was at the lake. I did call Rich Levas but by the time he got there (30 miles from Jct) the knots were gone.

APPENDIX 11 Continued

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The birds drew my attention first by their grayish backs and reddish breast. They were the same size as the long-billed dowitchers but they had much shorter bills - not as short however as plovers. The legs were dark and the bills black, straight and tapered.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

I had on the same flat - long billed dowitchers, birds, western, least sandpipers, Ruddy turnstones and black bellied plovers. To separate these species seeing them together made it easy. Curlew sandpiper don't occur here.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen red knots in San Diego but they were not in breeding plumage. Most other shore, I am familiar with.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory .

Name (print) :

Coen Dexter

Mailing address:

560 29 1/2 Rd #208

Grand Jct, CO 80504

Signature:

Coen Dexter

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
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