

Accepted JR 9/18/74

Species: SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

(Vernacular Name)

Limnodromus griseus

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): July 14, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 2:15 P.M. to 2:45 P.M.-MDT

Locality: Timber Lake (also known as Horse Creek Reservoir)

Nearest Town: Cheraw

County: Crowley & Bent

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME Dave Griffiths

ADDRESS

17 Solar Drive, Pueblo, Colorado 81003

TELEPHONE

561-2974

Optical Equipment: 10x50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15x-60x B/L Telescope

Light Conditions: Clear, bright; light from behind observers

Distance from Bird (how measured): 100 feet to 150 feet

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Breeding Adult

Overall Appearance and Size: Medium-sized shorebird; snipe-like in profile; long-straight bill; white on rump and up on lower back.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): long, needle-like, straight; grayish in color.

Legs (shape and color): not noted

Crown and Forehead: Brownish-gray

Eye (color):

Nape: Brownish-gray

Face: light gray-line thru eye throat: light gray

Breast and Sides: pale brownish-gray

Belly and Flanks: pale brownish-gray; spotting on flanks.

Undertail Coverts: not particularly noted.

Back: dark cinnamon to brownish-gray; scaly effect.

Wings: dark cinnamon-

Underwings: light gray

Rump: white

Uppertail Coverts: not noted

Upper Side of Tail: Brownish-barring on tail

Under Side of Tail: Not particularly noted.

Shape of Tail: Short, stubby; Extended beyond wings when feeding.

Voice: Loud, flight call "Teu-Teu-Teu", similar to but lower than Greater Yellowlegs. Heard distinctly twice from same bird while in flight.

Behavior: Fed in mud flats in typical dowitcher fashion.

Habitat: Mud flats on fresh water reservoir on high plains

Prior Experience with this Species: Have seen and heard on both coasts - Long Island, New York (very common migrant) and California (winter visitor). Seen once before in Colorado - Adams County, 8-11-1973.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Long-billed Dowitcher normally darker backed and darker breasted; has barring on flanks instead of spotting; and when feeding, tail does not extend beyond wings. Flight call is a thin "keck".

This Report was Written From: Notes made during x after x observation; Memory

Signed: Jack Reddall

Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street

Date Prepared: 7/16/1974

Town and State Englewood, Colorado ZIP 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

We observed five dowitchers feeding in shallow water along mud flats. Four of these birds were quite light in overall coloration and had comparatively short bills. The fifth bird was comparatively darker in coloration and had an obviously longer bill. As we approached, the birds became quite wary. Before they flew, I was able to observe the spotting on the flanks of the four lighter plumaged birds which compared to a considerable barring on the darker colored bird. The tails extending beyond the wings was also quite evident on the lighter colored birds as they fed. Suddenly the flock took off, along with several hundred Mountain Plovers, several hundred Western Sandpipers and other assorted "Peeps".

We were unable to differentiate or segregate any calls due to the large numbers of birds that arose simultaneously from the mud flats. However, after the flock settled again, one of the lighter colored birds flew over head calling quite distinctly - "Ten-Ten-Ten". We followed this bird in flight along the shore line and observed it as it settled about 300 feet away on a mud flat. We chased after it, only to have it fly off again, giving the same characteristic call.

I am only reporting one bird which I feel we correctly identified as a short-billed Dowitcher. Nevertheless, I feel we had four short-bills and one long-bill based upon other characteristics noted.

Jack Reddall
7/16/1974

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

Accepted 7/18/74 JN

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(Vernacular Name)

Limnolanius griseus

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): July 14, 1974Time Bird Seen: about 2:30pm to 2:45 pmLocality: Timber LakeNearest Town: CherawCounty: Crawley

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Jack Reddall 4450 South Alton St EnglewoodStan Oswald 907 West Washington, Rocky FordOptical Equipment: 32x Bushnell Scope 7x35 binocularsLight Conditions: bright, sunny, no windDistance from Bird (how measured): estimated, from 100 feet to 300 feetNumber of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: summerOverall Appearance and Size: definitely a dowitcher - stands out from other shore birds because of long bill and legs

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): long, dark, slightly curved tipLegs (shape and color): greenishCrown and Forehead: dark cap and eye lineEye (color): darkNape: stripedFace: dark eye lineThroat: under bill lightBreast and Sides: brownishBelly and Flanks: pale brownishUndertail Coverts: lightBack: brown stripes light & darkWings: grayishUnderwings: do not recallRump: whiteUppertail Coverts: some barringUpper Side of Tail: some barringUnder Side of Tail: lightShape of Tail: spearishVoice: on at least 3 occasions tu, tu, tu somewhat like a yellowlegs but more melodic

Behavior:

Habitat: sandy shoreline and shallow fresh waterPrior Experience with this Species: I have identified it in Florida Dec 1972 and Texas coast March 1973

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? it is difficult to separate from the long-billed dowitcher which it closely resembles. There were 5 dowitchers in the area but only the one called as it flew - it definitely seemed pale and no barring on flanks in comparison to the long-billed dowitcher which is a common species there. The tu, tu, tu call seemed most diagnostic and safest

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after observation; Memory afterSigned: Dave G. Gifford Street Address: 17 Solar DriveDate Prepared: July 15, 1974 Town and State: Pueblo, ColoZIP 81005

Return to: JACK REDDALL 4450 South Alton Street Englewood Colorado 80120