

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

A

Species: Short-billed Juvenile
~~Limnodromus~~ ~~Dowitcher~~; Limnodromus griseus
(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.

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): 8.24.85 Time Bird Seen: 10:15 PM to 12:00

Locality: CFTL Lakes, Lake #2

Pueblo, Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bushnell Spacemaster II w/ 40-45x lens

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Minolta SPT-201 w/ Color See mem
88

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Juvenile

Light conditions: good

Distance from bird, and how measured: 40' camera barrel

Describe the bird's overall behavior: bird was mostly feeding/preening in shallow water ~ 10' from shore. At 1st it was solitary but when flushed it join 4 adult dowitchers at least 1 I believe was a Short-billed.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Feeding in interface of water + muddy shore w/ 4 adult dowitchers (possible Short-billed)

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

None although a second bird was seen by Burr, Blues, 3/Myrland
on 9.2.85

APPENDIX II 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 bird was a juvenile Downy. The bill was 2-toned, yellowish at base and dark gray at distal end. Throat at sides of face a warm buff color. Flanks were unstreaked, neither barring nor spotting. The undersides were white. From vent all the way to the chin.

Throat sides had a light spotting and rear portions of flanks also spotted lightly.

The most diagnostic feature was the back, scapulars, tertials & some of the wing coverts. They exhibited the "tiger-striped" or sub-marginal markings characteristic of the juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher. These feathers were broadly edged with buff-buff-brown, giving the entire back a bright appearance. (Compare w/ Long-billed). The tail was ~~unmarked~~ and exhibited a barred pattern. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

I flushed the bird twice but it did not give its characteristic call or any other. It was silent.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

The only other bird that needs to be eliminated is the juvenile-plumed Long-billed Dowitcher; *L. scolopaceus* of which there are no substantiated records ~~given~~ in the lower 48 prior to mid September. The long-billed Dowitcher juvenile has an overall grey appearance especially neck, head & upper breast. Scapulars & tertials are not tiger-striped but have centers of brown narrowly edged chestnut. Tail feathers on *scolopaceus* show even amounts of white & brown. Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen Short-billed Dowitcher in Florida, Texas & Virginia but never in juvenile plumage. I have seen many long-billed Dowitcher including juveniles.

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

Name (print) : Bill Maynard

Mailing address: 372 Blue Windsor Ln. Colo. Spgs. CO 80906

Signature: Bill Maynard

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

light base
with narrow
dark bands
unlike even
banded long-billed tail



DOCUMENT

SIGHTING

A

THE COLORADO

SEP 8501

19-85-31

LISTS' RECORDS

Species: Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)
 Date: September 2, 1985 Time Bird Seen: 1100 to 1110
 Locality: C.F. & I Lakes
 Pueblo, CO
 Optical equipment: Bushnell Spacemaster II 20x45 Zoom
 Photography equipment: No photo.
 Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Juvenile
 Light conditions: Excellent
 Distance from bird (and how measured): 10 meters (estimated)
 Bird's overall behavior:

The bird was foraging at the edge of the water. At one point it seemed to be dozing, standing on one foot with its bill under its wing.

Habitat of bird:

Edge of reservoir.

Other observers:

Linda L. Blue
 3145 Westcliff Dr. W.
 Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Richard Bunn
 2727 Main Street
 Colo Springs, CO 80907

William Maynard
 372 Blue Windsor Lane
 Colorado Springs, CO 80906

John & Virginia Maynard
 1320 Indian Oaks Pl.
 Manitou Springs, CO 80906

Detailed Description (identifying field marks plus size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern, details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail).

This bird was slightly larger than nearby Killdeer but was much plumper. It had a long bill (>1.5 times the projected bill head length). The top of the head was dark and formed a triangle bordered by the light supercillium when viewed from above. The breast was pale and the belly lighter. The tail appeared black with white striping. The upper feathers were dark with buffy golden edges. The scapulars and tertials showed "tiger stripe" marks with the gold extending into the feathers.

Calls (and method of delivery):

No calls were heard.

Similar species elimination:

Long-billed Dowitcher: The juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher is much darker on the back and wings and lacks the "tiger stripes" of the Juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

First sighting of Short-billed Dowitcher. Familiar with Long-billed Dowitcher.

This report was written from notes made shortly after observation.

Name: David V. Blue

Mailing address: 3145 Westcliff Dr. W.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Signature: David V. Blue