

UNCLASSIFIED (1997)

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

CBRC Meeting Result: 5/8/98

ACCEPT - 1 JUVENILE

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Short-billed Dowitcher | Limnodromus griseus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): August 10, 1986Number of birds seen: 30 Sex: — Plumage: ^{1 Juvenile} 2 ImmatureLocality: South end of upper CF & I Pond (South of Pueblo) Elevation: 4950' ± ^{27 Basic Plumage} AdultsNearest town: Pueblo County: PuebloTime(s) observed: 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM (noon)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 45 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Good light. Bright sun over my right shoulderOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Telescope 20 XDistance, and how measured: 30 - 100 feet (estimated)If photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Probing in the soft mud with their long bills.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Woodcock or Snipe size and shape with very long, straight, black bills. The ~~juvenile~~ was most distinctive. It was a much lighter-colored bird with such pronounced ~~buff~~ broad buff feather-edging that seemed to comprise 50% of the color on the back of the bird. The vent and lower belly were entirely white and the breast was a pale pinkish-~~yellow~~ ^{gray} buff wash with virtually no spots. The white bars on the tail were much wider than the black bars. The rump was white when it flew and there were no wing bars. The bars on the flanks were indistinct,

Description (continued): The 2 birds that I am calling immatures were intermediate between the lone juvenile and the adults. Their heads and back of necks were much lighter than the adults and their feather-edgings were more prominent than adults but less prominent than the juvenile. The adults had pale reddish-orange breasts with fairly prominent spots but no bars. Their backs were dark brown with thin buff feather-edging. All tails that I saw had white bars wider than black bars. The barring on the flanks showed no chevrons. Their vents were only partly white. The adults were plump; whereas the lone juvenile was more slim and slightly smaller.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

The birds were totally silent while feeding. I forced them to fly twice and each time all of the calls were soft tu tu's. There were no loud keeks. (Before I forced them to fly I thought this was probably a mixed flock of Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers - Now I think they were all short-billed Dowitchers)

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: short-billed Dowitchers at the shallow south end of the upper CF&I ponds, which is a favorite shore-bird area. Feeding in soft mud. Some grass around, but mostly open shore line.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? The juvenile had broad, buff feather edgings. Long-billed juvenile's do not. The juvenile and immatures (and adults I observed) all had white bars on the tail that were wider than the black bars. This is reversed in Long-billed Dowitchers. The best evidence was the soft tu tu calls (short-billed) rather than harsh keeks (Long-billed).

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen and heard many Long-billed Dowitchers in Colorado before and some Short-billed Dowitchers in California.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: Key Differences between the Dowitchers: Birding, Aug/Oct 1983, P. 166
National Geographic - Birds of North America
Golden Guide - Birds of North America

b) after observation: None

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X
Date and time report was written: 8PM August 10, 1986 (same day)

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

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All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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