

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

19-87-22

Species: Short-billed Dowitcher
(Vernacular name)

Limnodromus griseus
(Scientific name)

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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.

Date (s): 5 Sept 1987 Time Bird Seen: am to for about 10 mi

Locality: Cheraw Res.
Cheraw / La Junta / Otero County COLO.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: B&L scope - 30-40x; Nikon 9x30 bino.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

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

Light conditions: light overcast; but decent, bright light

Distance from bird, and how measured: As close as 40 yds, estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Standing on;
Open mud; edge of reservoir.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Open mud; sedgy, marshy edge of reservoir

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

Jack Reddall; Dan Bridges

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.

Med-large shore-bird; Long-legged but plump body with long snipe-like bill and short neck. Rich brownish tan bird, nearly golden red. Brightly marked compared to all other dowitchers present. Reddish crown, pale face, orangish breast. Feathers of upperparts, including scapulars & tertials dark with broad golden margins and tertials with conspicuous inner mottling. Tail barred black & white.

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

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

- Com. Snipe smaller, whiter, ~~with~~ belly, with reddish tail, transverse markings on back.
- Long-billed Dowitcher paler & less golden, rufous above in all plumages. Lacks broad golden margins to upper feathers & ~~lacks~~ inner markings on tertials.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Pretty good exp w/ Short-billed Dowitchers in Colo.

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

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Signature: Mark Javos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
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Denver Museum of Natural History
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