

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): AUGUST 17 & 18, 1993Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: IMMATURELocality: ANGEL LAKE Elevation: UNKNOWNNearest town: SILVERANCE County: WELDTime(s) observed: 8/17 BETWEEN 9 AM AND 11 AM, 8/18 ONLY BRIEFLY @ APPROX 10 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 8/17 OBSERVATION TIME AT LEAST 1 1/2 HOURS, POSSIBLY LONGER

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 KNOWN

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

I WAS FACING NORTH LOOKING AT THE BIRD. THE SUN WAS TO MY RIGHT AND BEHIND ME. THERE WERE ONLY A FEW CLOUDS IN THE SKY, AND VERY LITTLE WIND. LIGHT CONDITIONS WERE EXCELLENT.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): KODAK TSN 4 SCOPE WITH 20X-60X ZOOMDistance, and how measured: ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM SHORELINE AT ANGLEIf photographed, type of equipment and film: 35MM

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): THE ENTIRE TIME I OBSERVED THE BIRD IT WAS EITHER FEEDING OR PREENING. IT DIDN'T FLY UNTIL THE VERY END OF MY OBSERVATION, AND THIS FLIGHT WAS NOT OBSERVED BECAUSE I WAS OCCUPIED WRITING NOTES ABOUT THE BIRD.

FEEDING BEHAVIOR: THE BIRD WOULD WALK ALONG THE SHORELINE AND A MUDDY AREA WHERE WATER WAS DRAINING INTO THE LAKE, PROBING WITH A "SEWING MACHINE" MOTION. ALTHOUGH THE BIRD WOULD STOP ITS FEEDING BEHAVIOR TO BRIEFLY REST THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF THIS BEHAVIOR IS THAT IT ENDED IN PREENING. PREENING: THE BIRD PRIMARILY PREENED ITS BACK, TAIL, AND WINGS.

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 observed in the field:

SIZE AND OVERALL SHAPE: THE BIRD'S BODY SIZE - NOT INCLUDING ITS BILL - WAS SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN THAT OF A KILLDEER (SEVERAL TIMES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE DOWITCHER), BUT WAS MUCH STOCKIER AND HEAVIER. THE NECK WAS LONGER THAN A KILLDEER'S BUT NOT AS LONG AS A GODWIT'S. THE HEAD WAS VERY ROUNDED AND THE BILL LONG AND STRAIGHT. THE TAIL PROTRUDED SLIGHTLY FURTHER THAN THE TIPS OF THE PRIMARIES OF ITS FOLDED WINGS.

Description (continued):

PLUMMAGE AND COLOR PATTERN: OVERALL COLOR FEEL WAS A BRIGHT REDDISH BUFF. THE BACK FEATHERS HAD WIDE REDDISH BUFF EDGES WITH THE COLOR EXTENDING INTO THE DARK CENTERS OF THE FEATHERS. TERTIAL FEATHERS WERE FANNED DURING PREENING AND HAD A TIERED STRIPE LOOK. THE TAIL FEATHERS WERE ALSO OBSERVED DURING PREENING WHILE THE BIRD HELD THEM ERRECT. THE EFFECT WAS MORE OF A "WHITISH" APPEARANCE WITH THIN BLACK STRIPES. THE REDDISH BUFF COLORATION HELPED ESTABLISH THAT THIS WAS AN IMMATURE BIRD. THE REFRING WAS ALSO REDDISH BUFF WITH FAINT STRIPES AND SPOTTING AT THE CLOSE VIEW OF THE BIRD. THIN BROWN STRIPES WERE USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD. OTHER PLUMMAGE CHARACTERISTICS WERE: DARK STRIPED CROWN, CENTER HAD A REDDISH CAST. DARK LOPAL STRIPE, THIN EYERING, BROAD LI SUPERCILIUM. STRIPED GREENISH MURICULAR AREA EXTEND BACK AROUND NAPE. UNDER BELLY WHITISH.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): THE BIRD CALLED ONLY ONCE DURING MY OBSERVATION. IT WAS FEEDING IN A MUDY AREA THAT DRAINED WATER INTO THE LAKE. IT APPEARED STARTLED BY SOMETHING IN THE WATER, TURNED ITS HEAD BACK AND RAISED ITS WINGS AND MADE A "TITTAH". THE SOUND WAS SOFT, NOT HARSH, EVEN THOUGH THE BIRD SEEMED SURPRISED OR ALARMED. IT WAS A SHORT TRILL OR STACCATO. NOT A DISTINCT "TU-TU-TU", BUT THE SOURCES CONSULTED BELOW SAY THIS CALL IS VARIABLE.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: THE BIRD WAS ALONG A LAKESHORE LINE, WITH AN EXTENSIVE AREA OF BARE EARTH AND MUD FLATS BETWEEN THE WATER AND THE TREES AND UNDERGROWTH.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

PLUMMAGE DETAILS - TERTIALS, TAIL FEATHERS, OVERALL COLORATION

VOICE - THE CALL WAS DIFFERENT FROM A LONG-BILLED (SEE BELOW)

HAVING SEEN DOWITCHERS BEFORE, I KNEW THE BIRD WAS 1 OF THE 2 SPECIES. ONCE THE AGE OF THE BIRD WAS ESTABLISHED AND THE DETAILS ABOVE CAREFULLY STUDIED, I FELT THIS BIRD WAS NOT A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. STILT SANDPIPER WAS ELIMINATED BY BILL SHAPE, AND OVERALL MORE SLENDER APPEARANCE PLUS PLUMMAGE DIFFERENCES.

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

I HAVE SEEN ABOUT 3 ADULTS OF BOTH SHORT-BILLED AND LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS BEFORE THIS SIGHTING. A LONG-BILLED WAS SEEN AND STUDIED 16 DAYS EARLIER IN MN. AT THAT TIME THE BIRD DID CALL - A HIGH "KEEK", AND THIS WAS FRESH IN MY MEMORY. I HAVE ALSO HEARD THE CALL OF A SHORT-BILLED AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH THAT CALL. STILT SANDPIPER HAVE BEEN SEEN MANY TIMES. THE PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES ARE OBVIOUS EVEN THOUGH FEEDING BEHAVIOR IS SIMILAR.

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

- a) at time of observation: ADVANCED BIRDING BY KAUFMAN AND NAT'L GEO BIRDS OF N.A.M.
- b) after observation: NONE

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory X

Date and time report was written: SEPTEMBER 11, 1993 (FINISHED AT 4:00 PM)

Reporting observer: ANDREW SMITH Signature: Andrew Smith

Address: 3606 WIDGEON WAY, EAGAN, MN 55123

Return to:
Bill Prather
C.F.O. Official Records Committee
13810 WCR 1
Longmont, Colorado 80504

19-93-83

ORIGINAL NOTES

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER — IMMATURE PLUMMALE
ANGEL LAKE, NEAR SEVERANCE, CO

AUG. 17, 1993

WIDE
REDDISH BUFF EDGES TO BACK FEATHERS ①
WITH COLOR EXTENDING INTO DARK CENTERS
TERTIALS

 TIGER STRIPE LOOK

ALARM CALL A ^{SHORT} TRILL TTTAAHH

TAIL FEATHERS OVERALL "WHITE" LOOK W
THIN BLACK STRIPES. 

UNDER BELLY WHITISH

BREAST ~~W~~ REDDISH BUFF W STREAKS AND SPOTS
AT CLOSEST VIEW

CROWN DARK — CENTER REDDISH CAST ②
DARK LORAL STRIPE / THIN EYE-RING
BROAD SUPERCILIUM.

STREAKY GRAYISH CHK/AURICULAR AREA EXTENDING
^{AROUND}
BACK ~~TO~~ NAPE

ANGEL LAKE  HOUSE #12836

WELD CTY RD 74 JUST BEFORE CTY 27

OBSERVATION TIME 1 HR +

-9967