

APPENDIX II

19-93-115

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

Species: Short-billed 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 May 1988 Time Bird Seen: ~ 25 min to _____

Locality : Hart's Basin
Eckert ; Delta Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: B&L Discoverer 40X scope ; 9x30 Nikon binocs.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: not known Plumage: "hendersoni" breeding
or "caurinus"

Light conditions: Excellent; even, diffuse sun.

Distance from bird, and how measured: 50-200 ft, variable

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Feeding at lake's edge in "sewing machine" up & down motion;
wading in ~~very~~ shallow water. Also just standing around and
once - flying.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Grassy-muddy edge of lake.

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

Coen Dexter ; Brenda Wright

APPENDIX 1I 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. Plump, medium-sized shorebird about 10" long or so. White lower back and rump. Overall medium darkish body. Bill long (~3"), straight and slender. Above: feathers dark with broad reddish-gold margins. There is a suggestion of pale yellowish-gold "V" down back. Face and underparts a distinctive bright orange except for white vent and undertail. Face orange with distinct light yellowish supercilium. Bill seemed clearly shorter than most Long-billed Dowitchers. Center of breast unmarked but sides of breast have sparse, faint spots - these spots combine to form indistinct rows but no barring. In flight, tail appears whitish. Legs dusky & medium long. Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

When flushed, the two birds called with a weak "tu tu tu tu", totally unlike sharp call of Long-b. Dowitcher.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Was dowitcher sp. by wedge-shaped white patch on lower back; long bill; feeding behavior.

Differed from Long-billed Dowitcher in: 1) light orange face & breast; 2) white underbelly & vent; 3) broad golden edges to scapulars; 4) sparse spotting (not barring) to sides of breast; 5) clear center to breast without markings; 6) short bill; 7) whiter tail impression; 8) weak "tu-tu-tu" call. Prior experience with this and similar species:

- Much w/ breeding-plumaged L-b. Dowitcher.

- Occ. exp. w. "hendersoni" or "caurinus" in breeding plumage.

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

Name (print) : MARK JANOS

Mailing address: 860 SHARPE C. DELTA, CO 81416

Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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