

CFO-ORC FILE # 1997-31

ACCEPTED 7-0

rec'd 5-24-97 ✓

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 | LIMNODRAMUS GRISEUS HENDERSONI
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): MAY 17 & 1997

Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: BREEDING

Locality: SOUTH OF LOWER LATHAM RESERVOIR Elevation: 4500'

Nearest town: GREELEY County: WELD

Time(s) observed: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 40 MINUTES

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

GAIL EVANS

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

DAVID OLSEN BERRY

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

MOSTLY SUNNY, PARTLY CLOUDY

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): BINOCULARS 10x40 & TELESCOPE 20-60x

Distance, and how measured: 50 YDS, 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):

FEEDING AND RESTING IN GRASS CLUMPS BY A SHALLOW POOL.

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:

THIS BIRD WAS A DOWITCHER. HOWEVER, IT IMMEDIATELY STRUCK ME AS NOT

LOOKING LIKE THE USUAL DOWITCHERS I SEE IN SPRING - IT SEEMED MORE

COLORFUL AND BRIGHTER. I REMEMBERED TO LOOK FOR SPOTS ON THE BREAST

Description (continued):

AND FLANKS, AND INDEED THE BIRD WAS PATTERNED WITH SMALL DOTS, NOT CHEVRONS, IN THESE LOCATIONS. THE BIRD'S UNDERPARTS WERE MOSTLY BRIGHT RUFOUS, WHICH TAILED OFF TO MOSTLY WHITE UNDER THE TAIL. THE SIDES OF THE NECK AND LOWER FACE WERE ALSO RUFOUS, AND THE UPPER PARTS OF THE BACK ALSO HAD RUFOUS MARKING ON THE FEATHERS. I COULD NOT STUDY THE TAIL WELL. BY THE WAY, THE BIRD HAD A LONG BILL AND LONG LEGS. Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

NONE GIVEN, AND THE BIRD DID NOT FLY.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

ON GRASS EDGE OF A SHALLOW POOL.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER — SPOTS, NOT CHEVRONS, ON BREAST AND FLANKS: RUFOUS, NOT DARKER, ON SIDES OF HEAD AND NECK, MORE BRIGHTLY COLORED BACK (UPPER).

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

VERY FAMILIAR WITH LONG-BILLED IN COLORADO; SEEN SHORT-BILLED FREQUENTLY ELSEWHERE AND ONCE BEFORE IN SPRING IN COLORADO.

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

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during ✓, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: MAY 21ST 1997, 8pm

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S 35th St, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:
Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

CFO-ORC FILE # 1997-31

rec'd 5-21-97

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species:

(Vernacular Name): Short-billed Dowitcher

(Scientific Name): Limnodromus griseus (hendersoni)

Date(s): 5/17/97

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex: unknown

Plumage: breeding

Locality: Lower Latham Reservoir

Elevation: 4800 FEET

Nearest Town: Greeley

Time(s) observed: 12:30 pm to 12:45 pm

Duration of observation: 15 minutes.

Other observers with you (names, addresses, phone numbers):

George Ambrust
1832 Independence St
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303)274-4264

Ric Olson
9450 N Heather Dr
Castle Rock, CO 80104
(303) 790-7753

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Gail Evans
(303)758-2231
1480 S. Jasmine Way
Denver, CO 80224

Peter Gent
55 S. 35th ST.
Boulder, CO 80303
(303) 494-1750

Note: Gail called me about 4:30 pm on 5/17/97 and told me that she, Peter, and others had independently decided that the bird was a Short-billed Dowitcher before noticing a note that I had left mentioning that there was a Short-billed Dowitcher there.

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): Bright and sunny. Sun nearly overhead.

Optical equipment used: Leica 10X42 binoculars and Swarovski ST80 scope.

Distance, and how measured: Estimated at 80 yards by consensus of the three of us but not measured in any way.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: N/A

Who else photographed the bird? N/A

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): The bird was wading in a shallow water at the edge of a small pond at roadside. the bird was feeding the entire time with the typical dowitcher sewing machine action.

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: Ric, George, and I were observing various birds when Ric pointed out this bird, which we quickly realized was a dowitcher because of the size, long bill, dowitcher feeding pattern, striped head, and overall rufous color, especially on the underparts. I got the bird in my scope and quickly remarked that the color was a paler rufous than I was used to in Long-billed Dowitcher and that possibly it was a Short-billed. At this point we got out "Shorebirds" by Hayman, Marchant, & Prater and used the table on p. 397 as an aid. The tail was not very visible and the bird did not call so the only section that helped was the section on breeding plumage. This bird fit the description for Short-billed very well. The belly (where the feet attached) was whitish. The vent was whitish with three broad rufous stripes running toward the belly. The red was distinctly paler than the red of three Long-billed dowitchers we observed in a pond a half mile or so west of the Short-billed. The flanks were finely spotted, not barred (the Long-billeds we saw had distinct barring on the sides and vent). The sides of the neck and the breast appeared to be clear rufous with no spotting although there may have been very fine spotting. I also saw no spots on the vent.

The legs were submerged. The head had 3 pale stripes. There was an eyeline that broke up a little behind the eye. The feathers on the upper parts were dark brown with broad pale edges that were broad enough in relation to the brown centers to give them back of the bird a spotted look. Because of this and the fine spotting on the flanks we decided the bird was of the Henderson's race. There were 2 buffy lengthwise stripes running down the back near the middle.

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

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: The area is marshland surrounding small ponds in an agricultural area.

Previous experience with the species: I have lots of experience with the birds in basic plumage in winter in California where I could distinguish the two dowitcher species by voice. I don't have a lot of experience with them in alternate plumage - basically 3 springs in Colorado.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Long-billed Dowitcher: paler red, light spotting on flanks instead of barring, clear red breast instead of barred.

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

a) at time of observation: "Shorebirds" by Hayman, Marchant, & Prater: see above.

b) after observation: none

This report was written from reports made during XX,
after observation --, from memory --

Date and time report was written: 5:00 pm, 5/17/97

Reporting observer: David W. Quesenberry

Signature:

Address: 6254 S ELMIRA CIR
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80111

Return to:

Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001