

ACCEPTED 6-1

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Short-billed Dowitcher

Number: 4 juveniles

Location: Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County, CO

Habitat: mudflat along lakeshore

Date: 27 August 1997

Time: 4:10-4:22 p.m.

Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 612 1/2 W. Magnolia St. Fort Collins, CO 80521

Others who saw bird: none

Description of bird(s): I was scanning a flock of shorebirds along the northwest shore of the lake when I noticed four dowitchers feeding in the shallow water. The birds were clearly dowitchers because of the plump body, leg length, very long, straight bill, and behavior. All of the birds were in fresh juvenal plumage. The throat and underparts were salmon-colored, gradually fading to white on the lower belly and vent. There was some very faint darker spotting on the sides of the neck, but this was very minimal. The upperparts were very strikingly patterned: feathers were dark-colored with narrow buffy fringes to the visible wing coverts and broader, bright orange or rufous fringes to the scapulars. The tail pattern was difficult to see. However, when one bird was preening I had a clear view of the rectrices and noted that the black and white bands were of about equal width. After studying the birds, I walked to the edge of the water and the birds flushed and flew a short distance. In flight, the birds gave the characteristic, soft "tu-tu-tu" call note of a Short-billed Dowitcher.

Similar species and how eliminated: Long-billed Dowitcher eliminated by call note, pattern of barring on the rectrices, and generally brighter plumage (for a fall juvenile).

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with clear skies and the sun to one side. Estimated viewing distance was 75m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: Familiar with separation of both dowitcher species. Extensive experience with both species from throughout the Midwest and Atlantic Coast.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none written

How long before this form completed: completed 27 August 1997