

CFO-RC F.

RESULTS:

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

Red 6/99 wpt (2 photos)

ACCEPT 7-0

SPECIES: Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromos griseus
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: May 20, 1999NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: One SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: AdultEXACT LOCATION: Weld County Roads 61 and 74COUNTY: Weld NEAREST TOWN: Galeton ELEVATION: 5100'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 30 minutes TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 11 am

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

David Leatherman, Fort Collins

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

Brandon Percival, Peter Gent, Mark Janos, Joe Fontaine, mob.

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

Clear day, light behind the observer, to the side and behind the bird during the observation

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

90X Questar scope, 10X binoculars

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 20 feetWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? yes IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? not as of yetWHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? David Leatherman

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Edge of a small farm pond that had a narrow strip of shoreline and low dense grasses

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

The bird was observed feeding (sewing machine motion into shallow edge of pond), preening on the shoreline, standing very still while alert for predators or approaching birders, and flying from one side of the road to the other.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

The bird was in full breeding plumage; very reddish. An obvious dowitcher by the nearly straight, long bill (snipe-like) and chunky shape. Bill that did not droop significantly at the end. Face had a distinctive whitish supercilium. Underparts were a striking reddish-orange, with limited spotting on the throat and breast and sides. In flight, the white back, with an obviously whitish tail (much whiter than dark barring on the tail). This was probably the most diagnostic SBD tail I have ever seen. The vent area was nearly white with very little spotting and absolutely no barring. Orangy breast terminated at the mid belly area fading to whitish lower belly. Bill and legs darkish. Lores were marked by a dark brownish line. Upperparts marked by dark centered, rusty edged feathers on mantle and scapulars. Size was much larger than peeps and nearby Stilt Sandpipers and slightly larger than Lesser Yellowlegs, though much "dumpier".

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

It did not call.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

Long-billed Dowitcher - the white vent and lower belly area was striking on this breeding plumaged bird, obviously had much more white than dark barring in the tail, and markings on underparts were nearly light spots as opposed to heavy barring.

Red Knot - only a consideration on the basis of coloration—bill was way too long, reddish did not extend up the neck and to the face, and size was too large.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

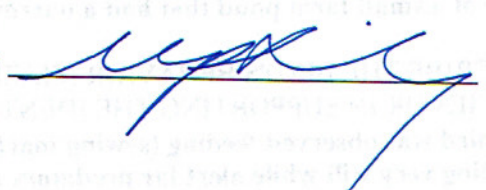
Have seen thousands of both Short and Long billed Dowitchers in other states (mostly coastal), though this is only my second Short-billed in Colorado.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

Used the standard references after determining this to be a SBD. Shorebirds by Hayman, Marchmont and Prater and Advanced Birding by Kaufman (section by Wilds)

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING ____ OR AFTER __X__ OBSERVATION, AND LATER FROM MEMORY __X__.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: June 1, 1999

REPORTING OBSERVER: Bill Lisowsky SIGNATURE: 

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

2919 SILVERPLUME DR.
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526



Short-winged Dowitcher
Cornish Ponds

22 May 1999

photo by: D. Leatherman

1999-42

photo: D. Leatherman

Short-billed Dowitcher
(Hendersoni)

Cornish Ponds

22 May 1999

note: extent of white on tail and
trailing edge of wings

1999-42