

## FIELD NOTES

ACCEPT 7-0

Rcd 1/12/00 upl

**Species reported:** Short-billed Dowitcher -juvenal plumaged

**Number of individuals:** One

**Location:** Lower Latham Reservoir- CO RD 43 just west of the reservoir.

**Date of sighting:** 9/05/99

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Reporting observer:** John W. Vanderpoel

**Other observers:** Peter Gent

**Light and weather conditions:** Sunny, mid 70's

**Optical Equipment:** Zeiss 10 X 40B, Kowa Telescope

**Distance to bird:** 40 yards

**Description:**

**size** - The bird was dowitcher size, slightly smaller than the Greater Yellowlegs that was standing near it.

**bill** - The bill was long and straight, dark in color with a little fleshy red at the base

**head** - Strong and wide white stripe through lores just above the bill that widened in the middle. See picture below

**chest and belly** - The chest was a buffy wash with a few streaks (not many). The belly was almost pure white without any streaking

**tertials** - Had the diagnostic tiger zigzag pattern of the juvenal plumaged Short-billed Dowitcher

**tail** - The tail was heavily barred black and white, with the white stripes being equal in width or slightly wider than the black stripes.

**Voice:** Did not call

**Previous Experience:** I've studied many juvenal plumaged dowitchers of both species in the Erie marshes of western Ohio

**Identification Aids:** (list of books, illustrations, video

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or other birders consulted in identification)

at time of observation After the identification was made we consulted The National Geo

after observation -

**Conclusion:** The bird was a Short-billed Dowitcher. The tiger/zigzag pattern of the juvenal plumaged SB Dow is diagnostic for the species. Long-billed Dowitchers have very dark muted tertials that are narrowly fringed lighter.

The tail barring also fits for SB Dow when it can be viewed properly.

