

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

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

SPECIES: Short-billed Dowitcher (Common Name) Limnodromos griseus (Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: September 3, 1999NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: One SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: JuvenalEXACT LOCATION: Weld County Roads 151COUNTY: Weld NEAREST TOWN: Stoneham ELEVATION: 5100'LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 30 minutes TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 10am

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

Joe Mammoser and John Barber, Fort Collins; Joe Himmel, Greeley

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):  
unknown

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

Clear day, light behind the observers, 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): 100 yardsWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? no IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS?           WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?           

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

Edge of a shallow, flooded farm field

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), flying, and preening. Feeding behavior was first indication that this was a dowitcher.

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 very reddish and stood out among all the other drab shorebirds. Obviously a dowitcher by the nearly straight, long bill (snipe-like) bill that did not droop significantly at the end. Face had a distinctive whitish supercilium. Underparts were a bright orange or reddish-orange, with some spotting (not heavily) on the throat and breast, but very little on sides. The vent area was nearly white with very little spotting. The tail had dark lines on a white base color, rather than white on dark, as a Long-billed would show. At rest, the tail looked predominately white. I only saw it fly briefly, and the only supportive ID mark I witnessed was the whitish lower back and rump area. Orange 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 brightly colored, with rusty edges on back feathers, scapulars and tertials. The centers of the tertials were marked by loops and bars that were carefully observed as a key separation mark from LBD. Size was much larger than peeps and nearby Stilt Sandpipers though much "dumper".

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 bird, obviously had more white than dark barring in the tail. Rusty or reddish-buff tertials with internal markings of bars and loops were key separations. Long-billeds juveniles are usually less rusty overall than this bird.

Red Knot - only a consideration on the basis of coloration (wrong season for breeding plumage anyway) - bill was way too long, reddish did not extend up the neck and to the face, crown was not pale, 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 third 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 careful observations. We discussed key marks in the field during observation.

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING \_\_\_\_ OR AFTER XX OBSERVATION, AND LATER FROM MEMORY XX.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: September 6, 1999

REPORTING OBSERVER: Bill Lisowsky

OBSERVER ADDRESS:

2919 SILVERPLUME DR.  
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526

SIGNATURE: 