

278-01-1989

Rare Bird Report

Species: Willow

Reporter: Steve Sartner  
8 Overbrook, Village Green Apts  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
(717)-367-5857

Date: Aug 20, 1989. Notes were prepared at the site and written up 8/23/89.

Location: Prescott Rd near intersection of Fox Rd, east of the village of Iona in Lebanon Co.

Habitat: Weed-filled puddle about 30-40 feet across in a field. This is a temporary puddle owing its existence to the heavy spring and summer rains this year.

Sighting conditions: Seen at about 50 ft, perched, in good light in fair weather. The bird was studied using 9-power binoculars. It was also seen in flight as it left the area. Total viewing time was about two minutes.

Other observers: None.

On the morning of 8/20/89, I was checking a series of ponds and puddles from Reistville to Iona for shorebirds. As I approached Fox Rd I noticed two large shorebirds at a very small puddle which had never contained birds before. I stopped and immediately both birds became agitated and began bobbing in unison! On inspection one was obviously a Greater Yellowlegs while the other appeared to be a little bigger and heavier and had a much heavier gray bill. It was behind a weed clump so I could see only the head, neck, back and part of the breast. The bird was uniformly gray with a white unmarked breast. After about 50-60 seconds the bird stepped out, revealing gray legs. After another 10 seconds or so, the bird flew directly away, revealing the striking black and white wings and white tail. I watched it for an additional 30 seconds until the bird disappeared. The age of the bird was not determined and since the bird was in winter plumage, the race could not be determined either. Attempts to relocate this bird proved fruitless.

Elimination of similar species: Only Black-tailed and Hudsonian Godwits are even remotely similar. However, both of these species have two-toned bills (orange basally and dark towards the tip) and black tails. Also, the wings of these species contain much less white than the Willow.

278-01-1989

Experience with this and similar species: Willet: 15+ years, many seen. Huisonian Godwit: 6 sightings over the last 12 years, all good studies. Black-tailed Godwit: one sighting of thousands of individuals on the island of Texel, in the Netherlands in 1976.

Record No.: 278-01-1989

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Willet**

Date of Sighting: **Aug 20, 1989**

Observer(s): **Steve Santner**

Date of Submission: **1990 Lebanon**

Submitted by: **Steve Santner**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			abstain				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			6				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*B. Haas*

Date:

11-10-90