

286-01-2001

Documentation for the PORC

Person Submitting Data: Cameron Rutt

Address: 727 Blooming Glen Rd., Blooming Glen, PA

Date: August 10, 2001

Phone: (215)-453-9585

Species: Whimbrel

Observers: Bob, Regina and Cameron Rutt, August and Judy Mirabella, Bill Wallace, Steve and Devich Farbotnik, Jason Horn, Bill Etter, and George Francois.

Date seen: July 29, 2001

Length of Observation: 4:50-6:30 PM (was observed taking off and leaving later that evening)

Location: Behind the Clemens Food Market in Quakertown, Bucks County. This is located near the intersection of Rt. 309, Rt. 313 and Rt. 663. It was specifically behind the far right corner of the retention pond in the cut grass.

Conditions: Very overcast with a slight wind and drizzle at times.

Distance: 60 ft. at times

Optics: 7x35 binoculars, spotting scope at 18x and also viewed in another scope at probably 30x.

Behavior and Habitat: This bird definitely seemed to prefer the grassy area compared to the pond. When I first flushed it, it flew to the edge of the pond, and then flew again to the opposite shore. But instead of feeding there, it quickly started to disappear into the weedy vegetation to the back of the pond. After this it moved back to its original feeding area which was a plot of 4-5 in. grass. The Whimbrel would walk one direction plucking (probably grasshoppers) from the grass as it would go, then would turn and go the other direction doing the same thing.

Description: This Whimbrel was in worn adult plumage. It was a fairly big shorebird with mottled brown upperparts (scapulars, mantle, coverts). It had a brown streaked breast and a fairly long decurved black bill. The bird had dark legs

286-01-2001

as well as dark eyes. The face and crown had a very unique pattern. It had a black eye-line bordered by a light supercilium with a dark cap interrupted in the middle by a pale median crown stripe. It also appeared to have a lighter area below the eye-line. This bird was observed in flight at 4 points. Its upperparts in flight were basically brownish overall, lighter at points, but showed no white, buff, etc. Each time it flew it called a loud, quick "whi,whi,whi,whi,whi,whi", that was sharp and basically stayed on one pitch.

Similar Species: (notes are contrasting characteristics to the Whimbrel)

Bristle-thighed Curlew: buff patch on rump, flight call also differs.

Long-billed Curlew: longer bill (usually by a fair amount), more buffy overall, plain crown, orange/buff underwing and secondaries as well as some primaries.

European/Siberian Whimbrel: white upper rump

Eskimo Curlew: smaller size, cinnamon/buff wing linings

Little Curlew: smaller size, incomplete eye-line (pale lores), straighter bill.

Far Eastern Curlew: longer bill, no distinctive head and crown pattern.

Eurasian Curlew: no distinctive head and crown pattern, white rump.

ALSO: Photographs and two video recordings were taken of the Whimbrel. (Sent to N. Pulcinella)

4th Curlew Record

286-01-2001

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION
Whimbrel-Bucks Co.

Person Submitting: August Mirabella

Species: Whimbrel

Observers: Found by Cameron Rutt

Seen by: Judy Mirabella, Devich & Steve Farbotnik, Bob & Regina Rutt,
Jason Horn, George Franchois, Bill Wallace, Ken Rieker, Bill Etter

Date Seen: July 29, 2001

Where Observed: Quakertown, Bucks Co. in several acre recently mowed field full of insects adjacent to a storm water catch basin.

Conditions: Cloudy. Seen with Zeiss 7X42 Bins & Leica APO77 Scope at approximately 150 feet. Viewed for at least an hour late in the afternoon/early evening.

Description: The bird was a large, mostly darkish brown above, shorebird, about the size of the crow feeding nearby. It had a very long decurved black bill. It had a striped crown, consisting of a pale center stripe with black stripes on either side. Beyond the dark stripes were pale supercilium lines, and beyond them, black eye lines. The upper parts were mottled with paler speckles. The primaries were blackish. The chest was paler brown with heavy streaking. The belly and undertail coverts were whitish. The flanks were barred. Crown striping eliminates most other curlews and the more extensive breast & flank streaking eliminates Bristle-thighed Curlew. I did not see it fly or hear it call.

Other Documentation: Written description by CR. Video taken by AM

4th Count, heard

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)

Date of Sighting: 29 July 2001 to 29 July 2001

Location: QUAKERTOWN

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Cameron Rutt, Agust Mirabella, Jason Horn, Devich Farbotnik et.al

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Cameron Rutt, Agust Mirabella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

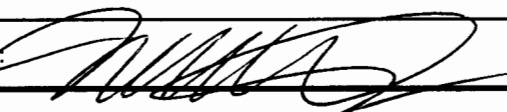
Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. ^{Heath} Couchman	X							
P. Hess	X							
J. Stanley	X							
B. Reid	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8/28/02