

Long-billed Dowitcher, Millers Ponds, Crawford County
8/20/89, 8/26/89 and 9/3/89 Ed Kwater

On 20th August 1989 while waiting for a Wilsons Phalarope to appear at Millers Ponds, I found an adult Long-billed Dowitcher feeding in close proximity to a group of 3 juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers. It was a bulky bird, noticeably larger than the nearby Short-billed and with an extremely long bill (about twice the head length). The bill was approximately 30% longer than the longest Short-billed. It was a very gray bird in advanced molt into basic plumage. There was a pronounced white supercilium extending well behind the eye. The forehead, crown and nape were dark gray. The mantle and scapulars were of a similar color but with pale gray feather edgings. The wing coverts and flight feathers were dark brown and noticeably worn. The tertials were also brown but with narrow paler edging. The throat, cheeks, neck and breast were slightly paler gray than the upperparts. The belly showed many orange alternate-plumage feathers with some fresh grayish-white feathers mixed in. The fore flanks were white heavily spotted with black and the hind flanks were marked with heavy vertical black bars. The bird preened actively and the tail pattern could be studied in details for prolonged periods. The rectrices were banded black & white with the black bars noticeably broader than the white. I was

able to compare this directly with the tail pattern of the nearby Short-billed Dowitchers on which the black bars were slightly narrower than the white bars. The legs were gray & slightly longer than in Short-billed. The bill was dark with a paler gray basal half.

The bird was observed for 1 hour at a range of 40 yards through $\times 10$ bins & $\times 20$ spotting scope.

Previous experience - 2 birds in Britain and several thousand in California.

The bird was also observed on 8/26 and 9/3 and molt progression was noticed on the under-parts as fewer orange feathers were visible.

323-01-1989

Record No.: 323-01-1989

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: *Long-billed Dowitcher*

Date of Sighting: 8/20/89 - 8/26/89 - 9/3/89

Observer(s): Ed Kwater

Date of Submission: 1989

Submitted by: Ed Kwater

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				X			
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			6	1			

DECISION *Accepted Class III*

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *Ben Haas*

Date: *12-26-89*