

323-01-1991

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY 9/22 x 10/6/91

Ed Kwater.

On September 22nd I was birding at Shelleto Pond, Pymatuning, Crawford County with Joyce Hoffman, Walt Schaeffer and Mike Fialkovich. It was sunny and there was a 10-12 m.p.h. south-easterly wind blowing. I noticed a lone dowitcher (Limnodromus sp.) feeding on the far side of the pond and identified it as a Long-billed (L. scotopaceus) on the following characters:-

The bird was in definitive basic plumage and appeared to be very gray as a result. The head and neck were fairly uniform mid-gray except for a pronounced white supercilium extending from the bill base to well behind the eye, a black eyestripe (mainly on the lores between the eye and the bill) and a paler gray cheeks and chin. The breast was a similar shade of gray as the head and neck. The mantle, wing coverts and scapulars were slightly paler with dark shaft streaks. The belly was very pale, almost white but the ~~the~~ fore flanks were distinctly barred with gray. The hind flanks and lateral undertail coverts were spotted and barred with black. The central undertail coverts were white. The primaries were very dark and extended just to the tip of the tail. The tertials were fairly dark gray, narrowly fringed with white. When the bird preened it drooped its wings, exposing the upper tail coverts which were heavily barred black & white. The rectrices were also barred black & white, the black bars being broader than

323-01-1991

the white bars, a good character for Long-billed Dowitcher. The bill was extremely long with a very slight downward kink towards the tip. The bill color was very dark brown with an olive-green tinge to the base. The legs were fairly dark olive green. When alert, and just before it flew the bird uttered a sharp "keek" call 3 or 4 times, a diagnostic note of Long-billed. In flight there was a white "V" up the back and the trailing edge of the secondaries was white. Total observation time was approximately 30 minutes through $\times 10$ binoculars and $\times 25$ spotting scope. The bird was observed down to about 40 feet.

On October 6th Joyce Hoffman and I were again birding at Shelleto Pond where we met Chuck Tague who informed us he had just seen 6 dowitchers which he had tentatively identified as Long-billed. They had flown off over the railroad onto the main body of the reservoir. Joyce and I eventually found the birds in company with 6 Stilt Sand-pipers (*Micropalama himantopus*) on a mudflat about 100 yards away. The light was fading and we didn't get very good views, but the flock took off and passed within about 50 yards of us. The birds were calling, a sharp, high-pitched, single "keek" note which was very distinctive and identified them as Long-billed Dowitchers. The birds flew back towards Shelleto Pond but could not be relocated subsequently.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Date of Sighting: **22 September 1991 to 6 October 1991**

Observer(s): **Ed Kwater**

Date of Submission: **1991**

Submitted by: **Ed Kwater**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas	X		XXXX				
F. Haas	X		XXXX				
R. Leberman	X						
G. McWilliams	X						
S. Santner	X						
P. Schwalbe	X						
TOTALS	6		1				
DECISION	X						

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

3/7/92