

323-02-1991

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, Limnodromus scolopaceus

Montgomery County

Rick Wiltraut

A juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher (Limnodromus scolopaceus) was present at Church Road, Green Lane Reservoir on November 4 through at least November 15, 1991. After the initial sighting, the bird was suspected of being a Long-billed Dowitcher because of the date (November 4) and its extremely long bill with a drooped tip. When viewed through a 32 x Bushnell scope at distances as close as 50-75 feet, the following characteristics were noted:

- unmarked gray breast contrasting sharply with a whitish belly
- thick, white eye-ring (lower half) against dark gray cheek (a mark not mentioned in field guides, but one I find useful)
- faint barring on flanks
- faint rufous wash on each side of lower belly
- greenish legs
- barred tail with black bars slightly wider than white bars
- narrow rusty edges on scapulars and back feathers
- tertials unmarked internally with narrow, even buffy edges

When flushed, the bird uttered a single "keek" or "peep" note, occasionally a doubled "peep peep" or a rapid, trebled "peep-peep-peep". Also, a single "peep" note was occasionally uttered as it fed. I was able to record these calls at fairly close range.

The bird apparently found food plentiful in the soft mud and remained for two weeks. It was also studied closely

by Kevin Crilley who after a talk with George Franchois, enlightened me about the tertial markings being useful in in the identification of juvenile dowitchers.

My previous experience with the species includes a juvenile and an adult at Green Lane, two in winter on Long Island, and a large migrant flock at Bombay Hook Refuge in Delaware.

205 Washington St.

Nazareth, PA 18064

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Long-billed Dowitcher**

Date of Sighting: **4 November 1991 to 15 November 1991**

Observer(s): **Rick Wiltraut**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Rick Wiltraut**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Bm Haas

Date:

2-27-93