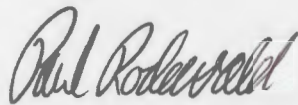


School of Forest Resources
302 Forest Resources Lab
Penn State Univ.
University Park, PA 16802
December 14, 1996

Dear Ronald,

I am writing with additional information on bird sightings I made this past fall. In addition to records I sent to you yesterday, I have also submitted a report to the PA rare birds committee (Frank Haas). In that report I gave more in depth info on the Long-billed Dowitchers I reported to you. I thought you should also have this information. In addition, I noticed a mistake regarding the numbers of Dowitchers observed in September that I reported to you (see below) and realized that the November bird I observed was not properly documented (again, see below). I hope this information clears up any questions you may have had. Thanks,

Sincerely,



323-03-1996

Long-billed Dowitcher - Seen at State Game Lands 214 in Crawford County at the same pond as Glossy Ibis. Dowitchers were observed 22-24 September (2 birds daily), 25-26 September (3 birds daily), and on 12 November (1 bird). Birds were seen at 30-60 meters distance with both binoculars and Kowa scope under good lighting conditions (with the exception of the 12 November bird - see below). The September birds were observed repeatedly and sometimes twice in a day. I had the strong impression that the same two individuals were present 22-24 September and were joined by a third bird on 25-26 September. These birds tended to fly around the pond with some regularity, such that call notes and tail patterns were seen on nearly all visits to the pond. All September birds were Long-billed Dowitchers. The 12 November was seen during a snow storm and was not well observed. It was seen next to a number of Common Snipe and was certainly a Dowitcher, however, I can not be certain of the identification. I assume it was a Long-billed only by the late date of observation.

Large plump shorebirds with long straight bills, feeding together and probing mud/water with sewing machine-like bill movements. In flight, tail feathers appeared dark (narrow white bands with wider black banding on tail) relative to broad pure white stripe down center of back. Back feathers solid dark brownish (with narrow reddish-brown edging. Pale underparts with heavy barring in flanks, extending to tips of undertail coverts. At times, it appeared that it was actually dark spotting on undertail coverts and not barring. Calls heard on several occasions - a sharp "kip" which was given in an irregular series, or as single notes. The call was not the more soft sounding,

repeated "tu-tu-tu-tu" of Short-billed Dowitcher. Common Snipe were seen nearby for comparison. Snipe were shorter-legged, somewhat smaller in size and had striping on the head and bright white stripes on the back.

Finally, despite the fact that details given here may not be as thorough as the committee would prefer, I should mention that I am quite familiar with this species, both in western North America and on the NJ coast in fall, where it is regularly observed.

323-03-1996

Plumage Notes:

095-1996

Glossy Ibis - seen during snow storm on 11/12 in pond across street from maintenance buildings at SGI 214. Adult in winter plumage. Back solid dark brown. Neck dark brown with fine white streaking on rear of crown and back of neck. Wings dark brown with greenish iridescence. Legs dark (olive-brown?). Long decurved bill (pale brown). Bare skin

of lores dark (looked brown). Eye brown. Pale bluish stripe at upper edge of bare loreal area. Less distinct pale stripe at lower edge of bare loreal area. Legs approx. 1 foot long. Feeding constantly by probing in aquatic vegetation at edge of pond. Ate several small fish. Not found after this date. After finding this bird I was surprised to hear it had been on the bird alert for several days.

323-03-1996

Long-billed Dowitcher - Large plump shorebirds with long straight bills, feeding together and probing mud/water with sewing machine-like bill movements. In flight, tail feathers appeared dark (narrow white bands with wider black banding on tail) relative to broad pure white stripe down center of back. Back feathers solid dark brownish (with narrow reddish brown edging. Heavy barring in flanks, extending to tips of undertail coverts. At times, it appeared that it was actually dark spotting on undertail coverts and not barring. Calls heard on several occasions - a sharp "kip" which was given in an irregular series, or singly. The call was not the more soft sounding "tu-tu-tu-tu" of Short-billed Dowitcher. Seen on several days at this location, once in November (single bird - see field notes)

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*)

Date of Sighting: 22 September 1996 to 12 November 1996

Location: PYMATUNING - MILLERS POND

County: CRAWFORD

Observer(s): Paul Rodewald

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Paul Rodewald

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater								X
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein				X				
TOTALS			5	1				1
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

8-16-97