

Common Name: Whimbrel

Scientific Name: *NUMENIUS phaeopus*

Date: MAY 7, 1986 Time: 8:11 PM

Length of time observed: 12 min.

Number: 3 Age: ?

Sex: ?

Location: 3000 W. Gentile
Layton, Utah

Lat/long: # 2

Elevation (if known): approx 4230

Distance to bird: 15 yards

Optical equipment: 8x30 Bushnell Binos

Weather: Partly Cloudy, low 60's
18-36 x 50 scopeLight conditions: Lighting wasn't the ideal
just prior to sunset, but
birds were near enough and to
my south so that lighting was adequate

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

The birds were with three long-billed curlews and obviously smaller with much shorter bills. Nearly didn't stop, because I first thought they were willets, which in body coloring and size they approached. The bills were black, longer than a willet's and decurved. The black and white head striping approached a white-crowned sparrow in boldness (not as subtle striping as in the long-billed curlew). The overall coloring was grayish-brown (much like a willet's summer plumage) rather than the brighter warmer brownish tones in the plumage of the long-billed curlew. Overall shape and appearance was of a smaller version of a long-billed curlew but with a much more proportionate bill (not ludicrously long as in most long-billed curlews). When wing was stretched, the undersurface was much browner than the cinnamon lining of the long-billed.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: *not heard*

Behavior: *appeared more active than the l-b curlews. Constantly moving and probing, whereas the l-b.c's would stand and probe, move, stand and probe.*

Habitat: *short grass and greasewood pasture land approx. 1/4 mile from G.S.L. Area is unpopulated (by humans) and road travel is infrequent*

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Long-Billed Curlew - *smaller size, shorter bill length, crown-striping, grayer coloration, wing lining much browner*

Esquimo Curlew - *crown striping, larger size, overall grayish brown coloration, rarity and range of esquimo curlew was also a factor*

Bristle-thighed Curlew - *smaller size, more grayish brown, bill totally black, range also eliminated the B.S. curlews*

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Very familiar with long-billed curlew, but no previous exp. with the whimbrel

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Books helped confirm sighting, but I was on the look-out for this bird after Joe Leigh had seen them earlier in the S.L. Airport area.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Considered a rare migrant in Utah

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Very underexposed slide (taken through spotting scope)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting notes made later from memory

Observer: *CRAIG L. KNEEDY*

Signature:

Address: *314 S. 4500 W.*



WEST POINT, Utah 84015

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Richard Sorensen, ET AL

Date prepared: *June 2, 1986*

Return this form to:

*Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120*