



IOS IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Re: IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

Amanda Tichacek <[REDACTED]>
To: IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 18, 2019 at 6:02 AM

Hello Geoff. I have attached three photographs of the Long-billed Curlew, taken at the two different observation time points. Thank you to the IORC for archiving this information and data for future birders!

Amanda





On Wed, Apr 17, 2019 at 11:51 AM IORC <iorcommittee@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Amanda:

Thank you very much for documenting your Long-billed Curlew observation and submitting the documentation to the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC). IORC will review this record, and upon completing the review will communicate to you the results of its evaluation. If for whatever reason the completion of the review is delayed, IORC will endeavor to notify you periodically of that fact. For your information, the file number associated with this record is 2019-005.

As you may be aware, IORC's review is in large part to make a judgment as to whether the body of submitted evidence (yours and that from others, if any) is sufficient to assure the complete identification to species of the observed bird. Regardless of the outcome of IORC's judgment, the information you provided will be part of the permanent record that IORC maintains of occurrence of birdlife in Illinois. This will provide verifiable evidence to interested individuals in the future regarding the observation. Your having taken the time to prepare and submit your documentation is much appreciated by the current members of IORC, and will also be appreciated by students of Illinois bird life in the future.

Please note that because IORC's purpose is in part to maintain permanently the original bird records for use by future bird students, IORC provides access to the material associated with records to interested individuals.

You mentioned that you obtained photographs of this bird. Although we have received photographs from three other individuals, we would still be interested to add your photographs to the record. You can email digital photographs to this address. Please note that in allowing access to archived material that has been submitted as part of records, IORC may publish submitted photographs (and other material) as part of IORC's regular reports and IOS's seasonal reports, which appear in the Illinois Ornithological Society's (IOS's) journal *Meadowlark*, and may also publish material (including photographs) on its web site. No other publication of submitted photographs is intended by IORC. IORC and IOS do not pay any reproduction fees for this use of images. Also, for publication and review purposes, IOS and IORC prefer to have the highest available resolution for documentary photographs. If the photograph(s) that you sent is not of the highest resolution that you have available, we would appreciate your sending such a version to us. Thanks!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Geoff Williamson

IORC Secretary

On Mon, Apr 15, 2019 at 11:02 AM IORC Web Submission <iorcommittee@gmail.com> wrote:

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Long-billed Curlew
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Adult, unknown sex
5) Date:	2019-04-13

6) Location (include county):	Montrose Beach, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
7) Observers:	Amanda Tichacek and Scott Latimer
8) Your name:	Amanda Tichacek
Street Address	██████████
Street Address Line 2	
City	██████
State / Province / Region	█
Postal / Zip Code	██████
Country	██████████
10) Your e-mail address:	██
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	Andrew Aldrich, Fran Morel, Robert Hughes, Luis Munoz, plus many others
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	A large shorebird with long decurved bill, long legs, long neck, and small head in proportion to the heavy-set oval shaped body. Its size was larger than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls. The bill was approximately three to three and one-half times the length of the head. The body, neck, and head were a light brown color with darker brown spots and bars. The speckling/barring was much heavier on the back than on the flanks and belly. The feathers had a buffy cinnamon wash, especially on the flanks and belly. This cinnamon wash was most concentrated on the underwings while the bird was stretching its wings and during flight. The crown was a plain brown. A diffuse white eye ring was clearly seen in the field. The legs were grey. The feet were not visible while the bird was stationary, and foot color was not noted while in flight. The bill was bicolored, pink towards the face and black towards the tip. The cinnamon underwings and the very long bill proportions were seen clearly while the bird was in flight.
14) Description of behavior:	At 7:30 am, the bird was standing with Ring-billed Gulls in the largest pool of standing water on the public portion of Montrose Beach. It appeared to be resting. I did not notice any foraging behavior. Around 7:50 am, an off leash dog ran through the fluddle but the bird did not move. At 8:05 am, the bird and surrounding gulls flew south towards and around the point. At last view, it was being chased by a large gull. At 9:33 am, I was standing on the protected beach when the bird returned, flying from east (from the pier) to the west (to the public beach). The bird returned to nearly the exact same location in the fluddle on Montrose Beach. It was resting and preening. One Ring-billed Gull was showing aggression and dive bombed the bird, and it put up its wings in protection. Not long after this at approximately 10:15 am, the bird flew to the north. It appears to have landed in the area of Loyola University or Foster Ave. Beach.
15) Description of vocalizations:	None heard.
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	Montrose Beach is a wide yellow sand beach along Lake Michigan that is open to the public. After rainfall, large pools of water form on the beach ("fluddle"). The bird was standing in the shallow water near the edge of the largest fluddle on the beach. There is no surrounding vegetation on the beach, and a small algae mat where the beach meets the lake. Just north of the public beach is a fenced dog beach.

17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	8x42 binoculars
18) Distance/how measured?	We first saw the bird from a distance of at least 440 yards. Closest observation point approximately 200 yards. I am judging these distances looking at google maps, but not certain of accuracy.
19) Time of observation:	07:30 am
20) Total time of observation:	35 minutes during 1st observation, 42 minutes during 2nd observation.
21) Weather conditions:	Fair skies, 36-38 degrees Fahrenheit, light steady winds 10mph from the southwest
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	No experience. This was a life bird.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	Although originally identified from afar as a Whimbrel, we ruled out this identification as we got closer due to size (too large), crown color (absence of stripes), bill length (longer than expected for Whimbrel), and overall color impression (cinnamon wash not expected for Whimbrel). Marbled Godwit is of similar size to a Long-billed Curlew and also has a buffy/cinnamon wash and underwing, but this species was ruled out due to bill shape (upturned)
24) Were photos obtained?	Yes
25) If so, by whom?	Amanda Tichacek, plus many other observers
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	Sibley Birds app for iPhone, V2. Scott Latimer also used an app but I am unsure which one. Also consulted with Luis Munoz and Andrew Aldrich who joined us on the beach. Fran Morel had independently made the ID with Robert Hughes, who was in a different location on the beach.
27) How long after the observation were field notes recorded?	Added notes to eBird a few hours after observation.
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	48 hours
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	

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Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

e-mail: iorcommittee@gmail.com