

## Whimbrel – Mason Co.

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

### Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Like the Cabell County Whimbrel, these birds were part of an invasion of this species into the state this spring. Although the photographs were taken from a great distance, they adequately show that these birds are Whimbrels. In addition, according to the report, their identity was confirmed by a more experienced birder.

CM2: A wonderful record for an uncommon bird in the state. I was able to view the flock of Whimbrels personally. Whimbrel is a fairly unique bird in appearance. While some discussion on eliminating Long-billed or Bristle-thighed Curlew would have been ideal and welcomed in this instance, the photographs are enough to eliminate those species from reasonable possibility. Furthermore, both of those species would be even more unlikely than Whimbrel, with the closest confounder (Bristle-thighed Curlew) being extremely unexpected. The bird was seen and identification confirmed by many experienced birders. Therefore, a vote FOR this record is warranted in my opinion.

CM3: Photodocumentation eliminates any other similar species.

CM4: Although the submitter did not current experience with this species, she contacted another WV birder, who confirmed the sighting as Whimbrels. The photos taken by Josh Holland show shorebirds with decurved bills, in proper habitat, and striped heads can even be seen on the first photo. It was great habitat to support the reason why these birds landing there. I support this sighting.

CM5: I vote to include the Mason County sighting of the Whimbrel record for the official State List. The WHIM was photographed which is acceptable by our bylaws. The written evidence provides some details of the found WHIM. This reviewer would like to have seen more data in the structure and plumage sections. The observer does include photograph to provide evidence of the birds' identity. The observer reports previous experience and his report differentiated from the other large shorebirds. Therefore, this report in my opinion meets the standards set by the by-laws for inclusion on the official State List.

CM6: Nice supporting photos.

CM7: The photos provided are not of high quality, making positive identification a bit difficult. However, the relatively long, downward-curved bill of this medium to large wading bird is indicative of Whimbrel or one of the curlews. The bill is shorter than expected for a curlew, though. Additionally, curlews lack the distinctive head stripes of Whimbrel and despite the poor quality of photos, at least a few of the individuals had the distinctive head stripes. Thus, I agree with the identification.