

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: Number: (leave blank)
Location: Date: Time:
Bird Seen: To: Age/Sex:

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

Heron like in shape. Larger than a Green Heron, but smaller than a Great Blue Heron or Great Egret. Long, decurved bill; grayish head and long grayish neck; long, dark legs; feet similar to other large wading birds such as herons or rails with long separated toes.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Gray feathering on head and neck with streaking on the neck. Body with brown feathers, speckled with gray or whitish feathers on back and sides.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

None heard.

Description of behavior:

Foraging along the Potomac River shoreline. Walking slowly up and down stream along the exposed mud of the shore. Seen picking up small rounded objects with the tip of its beak. Head and neck swayed forward with each step.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

Deciduous woods and brush all along the steeply sloping bank, leading down to the river shoreline, which is comprised of sand and mud. Brushy growth along the base of the slope, with some grasses and downed trees.

Sand and mud shore area a few feet in width bordering the river.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

All three observers were standing on a wooded path at the top of the slope about 35 feet above the shoreline and about 25 to 35 feet north of the bird's location, or about 50 feet from the bird.

I was using Nikon 8x42 Monarch 7 binoculars. Another observer, Nancy, was using 8x42 Nikon Venturer LX binoculars. The third observer, Todd Fagan is currently away from home. I will provide information about him at a later date.

The bird was in declining daylight, with some back lighting by the river, but was nevertheless mostly well and clearly seen, though intermittently obscured by foliage.

Previous experience with this species:


Nancy and I are both very familiar with this species and have observed it well at numerous wetland areas in Florida as recently as February 2019.

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Nancy and I have seen many species of heron and egret, as well as rails and cranes, which may be similar to a Limpkin, but would never be mistakenly identified as one, by us.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)

If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Additional observer signature: 

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

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

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

This description was first written five days after the observation. I delayed, until asked to do so, as I had assumed that this bird would have been considered to be in Maryland rather than West Virginia.

I am submitting photographs of the bird taken by me as well as additional photos showing habitat and latitude, longitude, and elevation information.

Name: Elliot Kirschbaum

Address:

Date: August 22, 2021

Signature:

Additional information from an email:

The bird was on the shore on the WV side of the river. Unfortunately, the images I the I included in the package do not show the titles that I had given them.

The iPhone screen shot IMG_7353.PNG shows where the observers were located. The iPhone screen shot IMG_7357.PNG shows where the Limpkin was located. Both appear to be in WV, as shown on the USGS Topo map used by the iHike app. These screen shots are of the iHike app screen made as I was at at each of the specific locations.

I also made photos of the foraging area with my iPhone.

IMG_7355.JPG, looking downstream, shows the mud and weeds on which the Limpkin was foraging. and IMG_7356.JPG, shows the same area looking upstream.

IMG_7354.JPG is a general view of some of the nearby habitat.

The Limpkin was on the shore during the entire time that it was observed. It was never seen in the water.

Todd Fagan was using Swarovski SLC 10x42WB.

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee

Attn: Wil Hershberger

170 Stallion Ct.

Hedgesville, WV 25427

Or E-mail to:

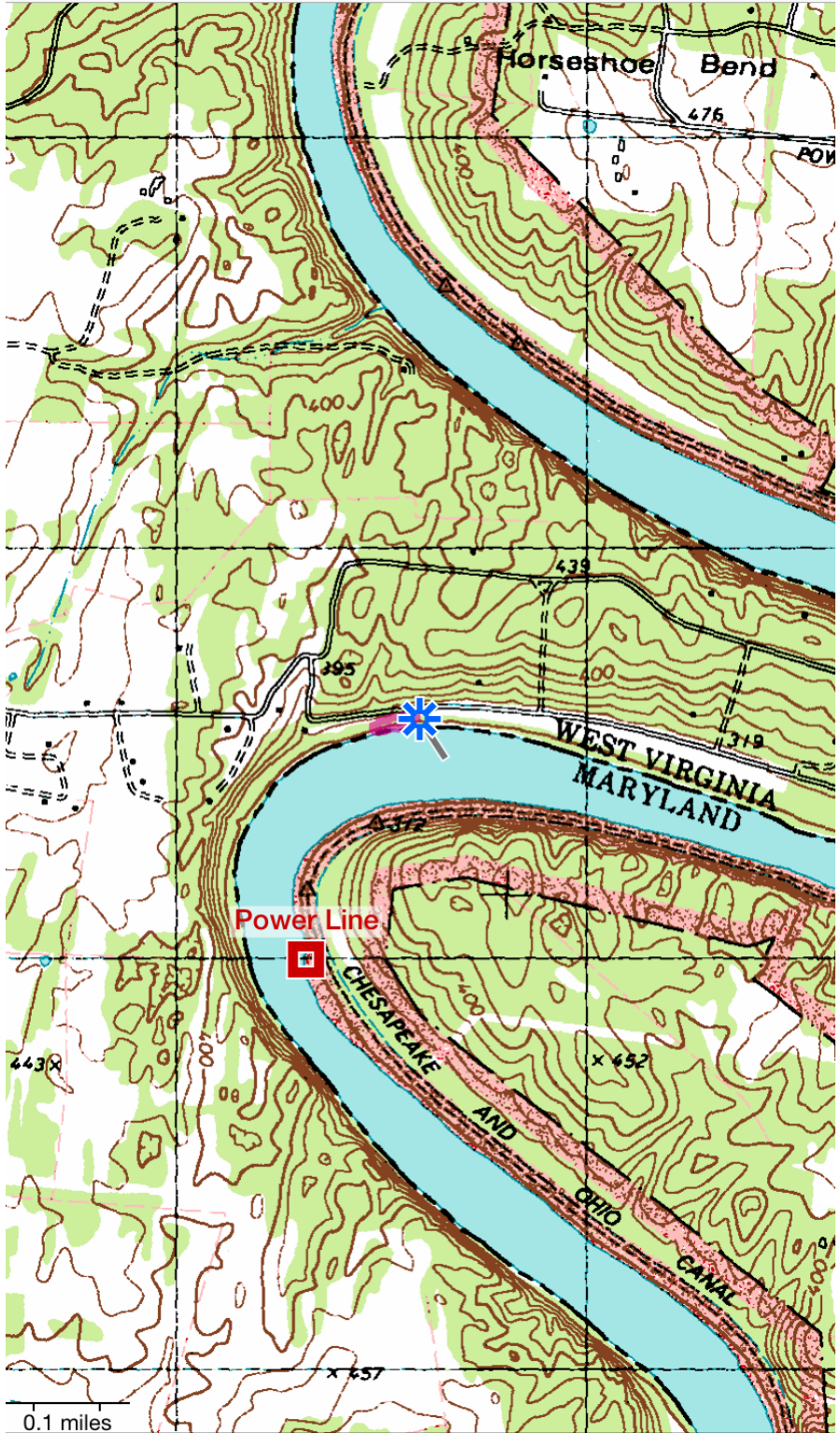
wilhershberger@mac.com

10:52

LTE 95%

39.46216° N ± 16 feet
77.79403° W ± 11 feet
323 feet ± 11 feet

Help Mark
0:09 0.20 miles



This is where the observers were located.

0.1 miles

My Location Track Waypoints Routes Map List

11:02

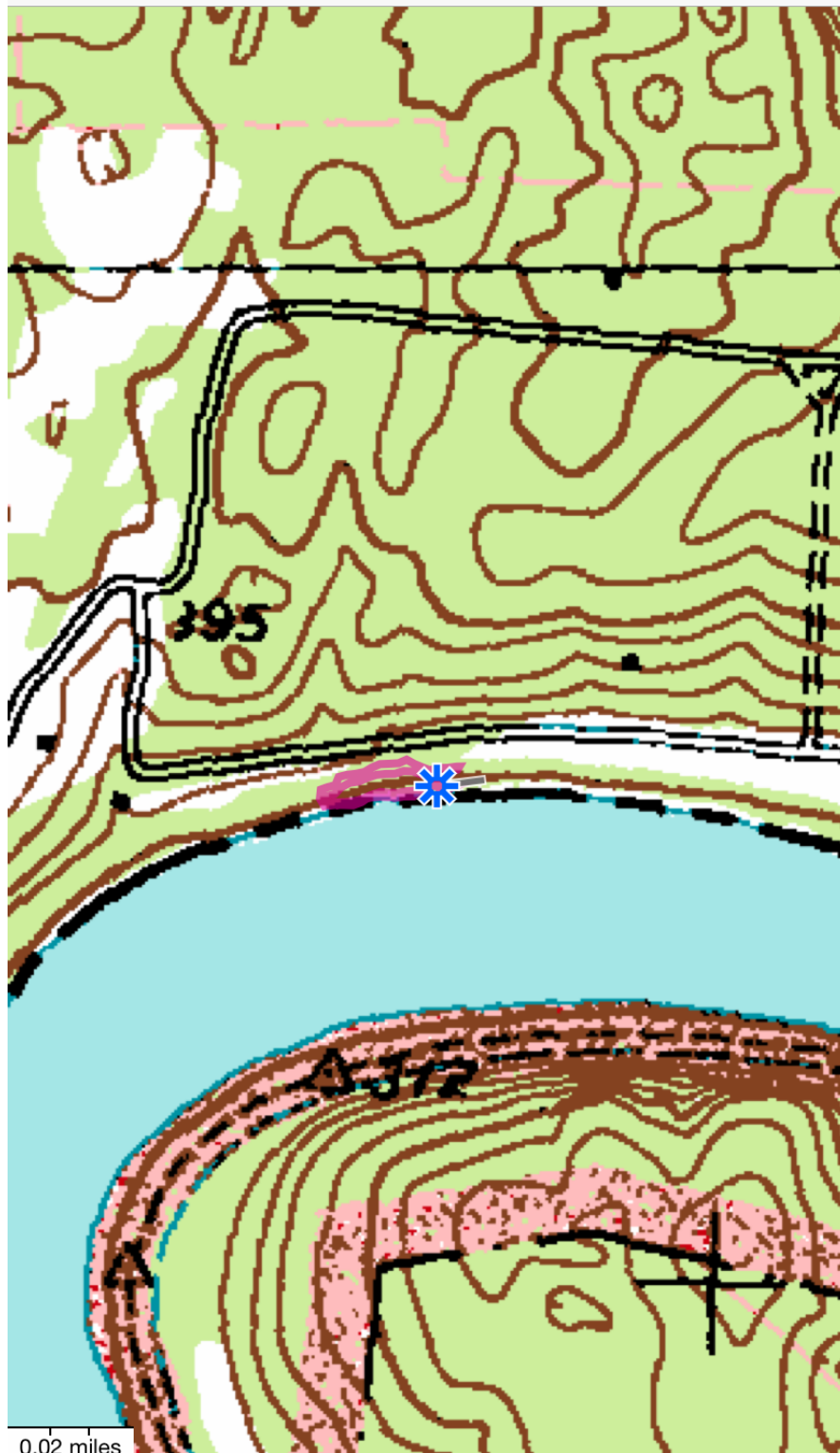
LTE 93%

39.46203° N ± 16 feet
77.79422° W
288 feet ± 11 feet

?
Help

Mark

0:18 0.36 miles



This is where the Limpkin was located.

0.02 miles

My Location

Track

Waypoints

Routes

Map List

Looking upstream, from where the Limpkin was foraging.



Looking downstream, shows the mud and weeds on which the Limpkin was foraging.



A general view of some of the nearby habitat.



The Limpkin was on the shore during the entire time that it was observed. It was never seen in the water.















