

## LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## REPORT FORM

81-18

DUPL.

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Mongolian Plover (Charadrius mongolus)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad., breeding plumage
3. Locality: Louisiana: Grand Isle, E. end near Parish: Jefferson  
U.S. Coast Guard Station
4. Date(s) when seen: 22 April 1975
5. Times of day when seen: Not specified
6. Reporting observer and address: J. Chester Littlefield
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
David N. & Ellen L. Doubleday
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Excellent, bright sunlight, no heat waves, no wind (see enclosed article)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
11. Distance to bird:
12. Duration of observation: One and one-half hours
13. Habitat (general and specific): Tidal flats beside the pond at the E. end of Grand Isle.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):  
See attached article.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):

See attached article (Am. Birds) 31 [2]; photographed

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Compared with specimens at MCZ Harvard (See attached article)

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

Yes; by David N. Doubleday; see attached article and photos.

19. Previous experience with this species:

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; Birds of North America. Robbins, et al. 1966  
(See attached article)

b) after observation: Kobayashi (1956), Falla, et al. (1966), Gooders (1969),  
Slater (1970), and Heinzel et al. (1972); also specimens MCZ (see att. article)

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes  
made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: Report assembled by David B. Crider, Secretary

24. Date and time of writing this account: 9 February 1981

23 March 1976

Mr. J. Chester Littlefield  
15 Governors Avenue  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

Dear Mr. Littlefield:

Late last week I received from Dr. Dan Purrington copies of your photographs of the Mongolian Plover and a copy of the manuscript that you have sent to AMERICAN BIRDS. First, let me congratulate you and Mr. Doubleday on this remarkable observation. It certainly demonstrates that the two of you are highly astute field ornithologists. My only regret is that I did not hear about the bird so that I could have gone down to Grande Isle to see it. I wish that it had been collected despite the excellence of your photographs. I simply like to see all such bizarre extralimital records backed up by a specimen whenever possible, especially when the record is the first for the state and the species is polytypic.

As you may not know, the research collections at this institution are the fourth largest university-centered collections in the United States. They are exceeded only by those at Harvard, The University of Michigan, and the University of California. We maintain the most complete records possible of the birds of Louisiana and for this reason I would greatly appreciate your providing a copy of one of the photographs of the Mongolian Plover for our files. The photographs Nos. 2 and 5E would be my choice. I shall happily reimburse you for any expenses incurred in getting copies of these photographs made.

The fairly recent third edition of LOUISIANA BIRDS gave the number of species on the state list as 411. Your record raises the total to 412 and an Allen's Hummingbird collected recently brings us up to 413. In 1955, when the first edition of LOUISIANA BIRDS appeared, the total was only 378. It is amazing how the list continues to grow.

I understand that THE AUK refused your manuscript. Although I endorse the policy of publishing most distributional records in AMERICAN BIRDS, I think an exception might have been made with regard to the record by and Doubleday of the Mongolian Plover.

Dr. Purrington suggested that I return the original photographs directly to you instead of sending them back to him for transmittal to you. I am taking the

Mr. J. Chester Littlefield

-2-

23 March 1976

liberty of keeping the photostatic copy of your MS for our files. I hope you do not object.

With best good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Lowery, Jr.  
Boyd Professor of Zoology and  
Director, Museum of Natural Science

GHL:mb  
cc: Dr. R. D. Purrington

COPY

**TULANE UNIVERSITY**

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

*Department of Physics*

March 8, 1976

Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr.  
Museum of Zoology  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear George:

I'm sorry it has been so long since we talked, but I shall try to find the time to make it to the museum some time soon. I am sorry also that I was out of town for Bob's soiree; it must have been great!

I am forwarding to you the data and photographs of the Mongolian Plover at Grand Isle last spring. It has taken me forever to get this stuff. Donnie Norman and I tried to verify the record by going down 5 days after the fact but failed to find the bird. I had heard of the observation only third hand, and as it came to me, it didn't sound convincing. But I guess the photographs speak for themselves! I also tried to get hold of you at home that following weekend, and failed.

Littlefield wants the photographs back after we have examined them, so if you want to contact him for copies for the museum files, you could return the originals directly. Otherwise I'll handle that problem. The article, according to Arbib, will be published in AB soon.

I hope you and Jean are well and look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Purrington  
Professor of Physics

rdp/jd

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*)  
Committee Member's Name Bruce Crider Date of Review 12 February 1981  
Circulation: First X; Second \_\_\_\_\_; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision:

Accept

Reject, origin questionable

Reject, Identification questionable

X  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please print or type):

*Photo unmistakable*

(Use reverse and add additional sheets, as necessary)

Louisiana Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover

Committee Member's Name Van Remsen Date of Review 13 Feb. 1981

Circulation: First ; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept   
Reject, origin questionable   
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):

Photo leaves no doubt -

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover  
(Charadrius mongolus)

Committee Member's Name Horace H. Jeter Date of Review 20 Apr 81

Circulation: First ; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept   
Reject, origin questionable   
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print):  
*Should have copy of <sup>color</sup> photos on file before accepting.*

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover  
(Charadrius mongolus)

Committee Member's Name BUFORD M. (MAC) MYERS III Date of Review 29 APRIL 1981

Circulation: First ✓; Second \_\_\_\_\_; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision: Accept X  
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please type or print):

A copy of the photo needs to be in the  
L.S.V.M.Z. files.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover  
(Charadrius mongolus)

Committee Member's Name Purvington Date of Review 5/4/81

Circulation: First ; Second \_\_\_\_\_; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision: Accept   
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please type or print):

Accepted with missivings. The photos (color) <sup>in</sup> must be found. They were sent to me, I examined them, and sent them to Lowery. I can confirm the identification, but the documentation as circulated is ~~is~~ inadequate. The photographs I saw were in color and of good quality and left no doubt as to the correctness of the identification.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover  
(Charadrius mongolus)

Committee Member's Name Harland D. Guillouy Date of Review 18 May 1981

Circulation: First ; Second \_\_\_\_\_; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision: Accept   
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please type or print):

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover  
(Choradrius mongolus)

Committee Member's Name James R. Stewart Date of Review Sept 26, 1981

Circulation: First ; Second ; Third .

Decision: Accept   
Reject, origin questionable   
Reject, identification questionable

Comments (please type or print): Needs better documentation for committee to evaluate, i.e., original of photograph.

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover

Committee Member's Name Tom Schulenberg Date of Review 16 April 1984

Circulation: First \_\_\_\_\_; Second X; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision:

Accept X  
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, Identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please print or type):

I have seen the color prints that Purrington refers to, which now seem to be lost. Although it would be nice to have these photographs on hand, they are not essential for confirmation of this remarkable record. Even the black-and-white photograph clearly shows that the prominent, wide breast-band is not black, and gives an indication of the relative size of the bill. Greater Sand Plover has a heavier bill, more along the lines of Wilson's Plover (I have seen both Greater and Lesser [= Mongolian] Sand Plovers together in Basic Plumage in Kenya). I am not familiar with the two other (very unlikely) red-breasted plovers, but the authors analysis is convincing. Furthermore, both of these species (C. asiaticus and C. veredus) have largely white faces, lacking the black on the face of the Mongolian Plover that is so prominent in the picture.

Although Littlefield et. al. do not comment on this, there is recognizable geographic variation in the Mongolian Plover. Central Asian populations have more extensive black faces, with little or no white on the forehead. Siberian populations have white foreheads; not surprisingly, the bird in the photograph has a conspicuous white forehead also.

(Use reverse and add additional sheets, as necessary)

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover

Committee Member's Name Van Rensen Date of Review 19 Apr. 84

Circulation: First \_\_\_\_\_; Second ✓; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision:

Accept ✓  
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, Identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please print or type): photo leaves no doubt

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover  
Committee Member's Name H H Jeter Date of Review 6 Oct 84  
Circulation: First \_\_\_\_\_; Second ✓; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision:

Accept ✓  
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, Identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please print or type):

*Apparently a high quality photograph was  
critically examined by several competent individuals  
at one time or another.*

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form Mongolian Plover

Record Number 81-18 Species Charadrius mongolus

Committee Member's Name Purvington Date of Review 11/19/89

Circulation: First \_\_\_\_\_; Second ; Third \_\_\_\_\_.

Decision:  
Accept   
Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_  
Reject, Identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please print or type):

Louisiana Ornithological Society

Bird Records Committee

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species MONGOLIAN PLOVER

Committee Member's Name BUFORD MAC. MYERS III Date of Review 14 JAN 1985

Circulation: First     ; Second X; Third     .

Decision: Accept X  
Reject, origin questionable       
Reject, identification questionable     

Comments (please type or print):

THE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN FOUND ?

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Validation Form

Record Number 81-18 Species Mongolian Plover

Committee Member's Name David Muth Date of Review 11/03/84

Circulation: First \_\_\_\_\_; Second \*; Third \_\_\_\_\_. (1st for reviewer.)

Decision:

Accept \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Reject, origin questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Reject, Identification questionable \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (please print or type):

The loss of the photos is immaterial to the question before the committee. If we are to reject records simply because physical evidence is lost, then we have rendered the existence of the committee superfluous. Indeed, physical evidence is not, by itself, proof of anything. If the Bird Range of the LSUMNS should burn to cinders tomorrow, I would not be inclined to throw out the Louisiana List, but rather would continue to evaluate records on the basis of the quality of the review and reviewers in the secondary literature. There is no question but that a diagnostic photograph of a Mongolian Plover was taken, that it was so identified by numerous experts, and that there is good reason to accept the claim that it was taken of a bird at Grand Isle April 22, 1975.

*David Muth*

