

# First record of Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* for Azerbaijan

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While preparing birdtours to Azerbaijan, Gennadi Tamliani and JvO visited the Caspian coast north of Liman (38° 52' 24" N, 48° 48' 50" E), Azerbaijan, on 31 January 2017. Amidst a variety of waders foraging in the wetlands two Long-billed Dowitchers *Limnodromus scolopaceus* proved to be present. Soon the birds flew out of sight but after several hours one bird was found again. It was studied for about an hour, during which photos were made. Since Patrikeev (2005) does not mention the species and no records occurred up to and including 2016, this is the first for Azerbaijan.

Description (Plates 1, 2): Medium snipe-sized wader which in flight showed a thin but obvious white wedge to the back and prominent white trailing edge to the wing. The head showed obvious dark lores and a dark crown. Flanks were banded, the lower flanks and undertail-coverts more spotted. The bill was long, straight and greenish. Legs were of medium length and greenish. The voice was also heard—a rather sharp, monosyllabic 'kjiép'. The bird was aged as a second calendar-year, based on the pattern of scapulars, mantle feathers, coverts and tertials and the lack of contrast between breast and belly (van Duivendijk 2011).

The identification can be narrowed down to three species *ie* Long-billed, Short-billed *L. griseus* and Asiatic Dowitcher *L. semipalmatus*. The latter can be ruled out based on structure, pattern of upperparts and colour of bill and legs. The combination of the wing-tip falling level with the tail-tip, lack of primary projection, completely dark centres to tertials with pale fringes of even width, dark crown not reaching hindneck and a pale, rather short supercilium just reaching beyond the eye, together with the monosyllabic call all indicate Long-billed and rule out Short-billed Dowitcher (van Duivendijk 2011).

Within the OSME region, records of Long-billed Dowitcher are also known from Israel (2), Kazakhstan (2), Oman (rare) and one record for the UAE (OSME 2017).

## LITERATURE CITED

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**Plate 1.** Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* second calendar-year bird, Caspian coast north of Liman, Azerbaijan, 31 January 2017. © Jos van Oostveen



**Plate 2.** Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* second calendar-year bird, Caspian coast north of Liman, Azerbaijan, 31 January 2017. © Jos van Oostveen