

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

CBRC FILE #: **2003-18**

**RESULTS:**

Species: (Common Name) **Ruff** (Scientific Name) **Philomachus pugnax**

Date(s) of occurrence: **10-06-02**

Number of birds seen: **One**

Sex:

Plumage: **Juv. (?)**

Exact location: **Lake Meredith**

County: **Crowley**

Nearest town: **Ordway**

Elevation: **4312 ft.**

Length of observation: **45 minutes**

Time(s) of observation: **Around noon**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Tony Leukering, Larry Semo**

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): **MOB**

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: **Clear & calm**

Optical equipment used: **Leica 8 X 42 & Leica Televid 77 Spotting Scope with 20-60X zoom.**

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): **30 ft.**

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? **Yes.**

If so, are you submitting photos? Yes. [Pic\ruff.jpg](#)

Who took the photograph(s)? **Me.**

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: **Lake shore.**

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: **Walking along the edge of the shore feeding.**

**DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report.** Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. *Important Note: I believe Stan Oswald found and ID'ed this bird. Please see photo.*

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted:

**SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report.** Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration:

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **None.**

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): **I consulted Larry & Tony.**

This report was made from (check one) ☒ **notes made from photographs.**

Date and time of written report: **02-02-2004**

Reporting observer: **Rachel Hopper**

Signature: *Rachel Hopper*

Reporting observer's address: **1721 Cottonwood Pt. Dr.**

City: **Ft. Collins**

State: **CO**

Zip: **80524**





**Rachel Hopper**  
**Crowley County**  
**10/06/2002**



**2003-18**

**Ruff**

Photos by Larry Semo – 10/6/02, Lake Meredith, Crowley Co, CO







## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)

Rec'd 3/12/03

Species: Ruff (Common Name) Philomachus pugnax (Scientific Name)Date(s) of observation : Oct. 5-6, 2002Number of birds seen : 1 Sex : M Plumage : juvenileExact location : Lake Meredith, Crowley County, north shoreCounty : \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest town : Ordway Elevation : \_\_\_\_\_Length of observation : 1.25 hours Times(s) of observation : 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m.Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: E. Jane Oswald, Duane Nelson on the 5thOther observers who independently saw the bird(s) : about 8 Denver area birders on the 6th (Ira SanderLight conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's position) : High sun looking south, good lightOptical equipment used : binoculars, Nikon scope at 30XDistance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted) : 25-40 yardsWas bird photographed? : videotaped If so, have you submitted photographs? yesWho took the photographs? self

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred :

We found the bird with some yellowlegs walking along the shore of the lake, which was down about five ft., creating an extensive muddy shoreline. It usually stayed in water one to four inches deep.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification) :

I first noticed it was slightly bigger than the lesser yellowlegs with a shorter, much thicker bill. The ends of the feathers on its lower back were curled up.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings, and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Describe other details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches, or copy of field notes): It had a light buff breast and throat and cheeks. The back was dark with lighter scaly edges to the feathers. Its legs were yellowish. The feature I noticed most when trying to pick it out from the yellowlegs it was usually with was the shorter, thick bill.

Describe bird's call or song:

didn't hear it

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them :

It was most similar to yellowlegs but had that different bill. The bill seemed as thick as a willet's, but was half the length of that bird. It was longer legged than nearby dowitchers and had a different feeding pattern

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?  
none with ruff, but very familiar with yellowlegs and dowitchers and willets

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation) :  
used Sibley while looking at the bird

This report was made from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ or after \_\_\_\_\_ observation, or later from memory XDate of written report : 03/06/03Reporting observer : Stan Oswald Signature : Stan OswaldObserver's address: 1208 Washington Ave., Rocky Ford, CO 81067Send report to : Tony Leukering, P.O. Box 660, Brighton, CO. 80601



# COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

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Please make check payable to Colorado Field Ornithologists.

Mail your check with this form to:

Raymond Davis, P.O. Box 481, Lyons, CO 80540

For more information, visit our website at:

<http://www.cfo-link.org>

# COLORADO BIRDS

The Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly

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Lyons, CO 80540

expires: 04/03

Stanley & Rebecca Oswald  
Stan Oswald Photography  
1208 Washington Ave.  
ROCKY FORD, CO 81067-2143

2003-18

CFO-RC FILE # rec'd 5/6/03

RESULTS:

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY)

SPECIES: RUFF (Common Name) PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX (Scientific Name)DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION: OCTOBER 6, 2002NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 SEX: MALE PLUMAGE: IMMATUREEXACT LOCATION: NORTH SHORE OF LAKE MERIDETHCOUNTY: CROWLEY NEAREST TOWN: ORDWAY ELEVATION: 4200'?LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 1 HOUR TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 1-2:30 pm

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW THE BIRD(S) WITH YOU:

RACHEL HOPPER

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S):

STAN OSWALD, DUANE NELSON, TONY LEUKERING

LIGHT CONDITIONS (QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION):

PARTLY INTO THE SUN

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

10x BINOCULARSNO-BOX TELESCOPEDISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 50 YDS CLOSESTWAS BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? YES IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS?           WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? RACHEL HOPPER

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

MUDDY SHORELINE OF A GREAT PLAINS RESERVOIR.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

FEEDING IN SHALLOW WATER, OFTEN PICKING INSECTS OFF THE WATER SURFACE.  
ALSO USING BILL TO PROBE MUD, AND TO PREEN ITSELF FOR SEVERAL MINUTES.



DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE THE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

OBVIOUS SHORE BIRD; LARGER THAN NEARBY LESSER YELLOWLEGS AND LARGER BODY THAN LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS. MEDIUM LENGTH DARK BILL WITH SLIGHT DROOP AT THE END. FACE AND UPPER BREAST BUFFY; LOWER BREAST AND UNDERPARTS WHITE. UPPER FEATHERS VERY BRIGHTLY FRINGED WITH RUST COLOR - REST OF FEATHERS DARKER. MIDDLE BACK FEATHERS STUCK UP, AND WERE EASILY BLOWN BY THE WIND. WHEN FLYING AND PREENING, THE WHITE RUMP AND U-SHAPED WHITE PATCH ALONG THE SIDES WAS VERY DISTINCTIVE. STREAKED CROWN, DARK EYES AND FAIRLY BRIGHT YELLOW LEGS. THE LARGE SIZE INDICATES A MALE, AND THE PLUMAGE INDICATES A JUVENILE.

DESCRIBE BIRD'S CALL OR SONG:

NONE HEARD

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

THE U-SHAPED WHITE PATCH ON THE RUMP AND ALONG THE REAR UPPER FLANKS IS DIAGNOSTIC. THE BREAST AND FACE BUFFY COLOR IS ONLY SIMILAR TO JUVENILE SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (MUCH LONGER BILL) AND BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (MUCH SMALLER BIRD). LESSER YELLOWLEGS WERE SMALLER, NON-BUFFY UPPER BREAST, DIFFERENT SHAPE AND FEEDING.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES?

SEEN SEVERAL TIMES IN ENGLAND, AND TWO BIRDS WINTERING IN CALIFORNIA. HAVE SEEN THE JUVENILE PLUMAGE A COUPLE OF TIMES BEFORE.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE (DURING OBSERVATION) AND SIBLEY GUIDE (AFTER OBSERVATION)

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ OR AFTER ☐ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY ☐.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 10/6/02

REPORTING OBSERVER: PETER R. GENT

SIGNATURE: Pete R. Gent

OBSERVER ADDRESS: 55 S 35th St  
BOULDER  
CO 80305

**SEND REPORT TO:**

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
c/o BILL LISOWSKY  
2919 SILVERPLUME DR.  
FT. COLLINS, CO 80526



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD        UNUSUAL RECORD   X  

**Species:** Ruff (*Pharomachus pugnax*)

**Date:** 6 October 2002

**Number seen:** one

**Sex:** female?

**Plumage:** Juvenal

**Locality:** Meredith Reservoir, north shore

**Elevation:** ~4250'

**Nearest town:** Ordway

**County:** Crowley

**Time observed:** late afternoon

**Duration of observation:** ~15 minutes

**Description:** Nancy Gobris, Larry Semo, and I chased the Ruff that Stan Oswald had found the day before and ran into Rachel Hopper at the site. We spent at least 45 minutes searching for the bird (and Rachel had spent another hour prior to our arrival) until, finally, Larry found it right in front of us as I was studying an interesting golden-plover (which, unfortunately, flew off as we were trying to get closer to the Ruff). We studied it for quite some time and then I went searching for the interesting golden-plover (to no avail).

The bird was obviously a Ruff as there just is not any species that is particularly similar, having a very odd shape. It was a sizable shorebird (taller than most other shorebirds present) with a black, medium-length bill (just longer than the depth of the rest of the head) and relatively long, yellow legs. The bird was chunky and hump-backed with a head that appeared too small for its body. It was buffy-brown on its head and chest with the color on the chest fading to white on the lower belly and vent. There was a thin, but distinct, eyeline that extended behind the eye, but was absent in front of the eye. Each of the upperparts feathers, scapulars, and greater coverts were dark, fringed with buff. The sides of the blackish rump were white and the tail was white basally and black distally.

Similar species eliminated: Greater and Lesser yellowlegs are eliminated on coloration, rump pattern, upperparts and wing patterns, and shape. Marbled Godwit is ruled out on size (the bird was too small), bill length and coloration, and leg length (legs were too short).

**Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):** No vocalizations heard.

**What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species?** I had seen six Ruffs previously in NY and NJ. I have seen 1000s of both yellowlegs species and 100s to 1000s of most other North American species with which Ruff might be confused.

**Light conditions:** sun was to my right

**Optical equipment used:** Leica 32x

**Distance, and how estimated:** estimated closest approach of ~20 meters



**Other observers who saw the bird with you:** Nancy Gobris, Larry Semo, and Rachel Hopper

**Other observers who saw the bird independently:** Stan Oswald, Duane Nelson, Christopher L. Wood

**If photographed, type of equipment and film:** Nikon Coolpix 995 through a Leica 32x

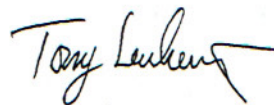
**List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:**

**a) at time of observation:** none

**b) after observation:**

**Reporting observer:** Tony Leukering

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Leukering", written in a cursive style.

**Address:** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80603

**Date report was written:** 17 January 2004 from review of my pictures and from memory