

Accepted for 11/26/74

Species: KNOT

Calidris canutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 29, 1974

Time Bird Seen: 12:15 PM. to 12:30 P.M. - MDT

Locality: Jackson Reservoir

Nearest Town: Goodrich

County: Morgan

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Robert Andrews - 1390 South Ivy Way, Denver, Colorado 80222

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Bright, clear; Sunlight from directly behind observers; slight heat waves.

Distance from Bird (how measured): 175 feet (estimated)

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Winter (non-breeding)

Describe the circumstances on how you first came to notice the bird: While scanning a near-by small waterhole from atop the dam at Jackson Reservoir which contained a number of Kill-deers and assorted "peeps" (mostly Baird's Sandpipers), I noticed a rather pale, chunky shore bird feeding at the water's edge. The bird appeared a bit larger than the Killdeers with which it was associating with.

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The bird was feeding in a deliberate fashion with other various shore birds, occasionally resting and preening itself. After approximately ten or twelve minutes of feeding and resting it flew off to the north and disappeared.

Describe why you thought this species was rare or unusual: Have seen only twice before in Colorado - a spring record (May) from Cherry Creek Reservoir and a fall record from the Mile High Duck Club. The bird is on the rare bird list established by the CFO Official Records Committee.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, e.g., from perch, in flight, etc: The bird was silent during the entire period of observation. It gave no audible call upon taking flight.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird: Mud flat along a small water hole left after most of the large fresh water reservoir had been drained off for irrigation during the summer months.



Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings, tail and feet and legs. Describe only what you actually saw in the field:

A medium-sized, short necked and chunky shore bird appearing more plover-like than sandpiper-like. Overall grayish and white non-descript plumage. Short billed. The upper-parts mostly gray (top of head, neck, back, wings and end of tail); Underparts generally white or whitish-gray. Rump whitish (well observed when bird flushed). Wings with dark primaries and rather faint wing stripe (also well seen when bird flew off). Bill, short and dark. Legs not noted. Eye, dark. A bit larger in size than nearby Killdeers; much larger than nearby Baird's Sandpipers.

Prior experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

Seen twice before in Colorado and a couple of times in California. Over twenty years of experience from Long Island, New York where it is a very abundant fall and spring migratory shore bird, occasionally in winter.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Dowitchers have extremely long bill and white on rump extends far up on back. Yellowlegs show prominent yellow legs and more contrast between upper and lower parts, particularly on rump. Willet much larger, with strongly contrasting black and white wings when flying. Winter Dunlin is smaller, with down-turned bill and gray rump. Sanderling is smaller still and much white in winter with prominent wing stripe. White-rumped is smaller more the size of a Baird's Sandpiper which were present in good numbers nearby for comparison.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
A Field Guide to Birds, Peterson - substantiated the observation

This report was written from notes made during X after      observation; from memory     

Signed: Jack Reddall Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street  
Date Prepared: October 2, 1974 Town and State: Englewood, Colorado ZIP 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' SIGHT RECORD REPORT  
☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD ☐ NEW STATE RECORD

CFO-ORC FILE # 19-74-111

accepted JR 11/26/74

Species: KNOT

Calidris canutus

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 29, 1974

Time Bird Seen: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Locality: Jackson Reservoir

Nearest Town: Goodrich

County: Morgan

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Jack Reddall

4450 S. Alton St., Englewood

771-5308

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars; Bausch and Lomb 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

Light Conditions: Sunny, with sun coming from behind observers

Distance from Bird (how measured): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Nonbreeding

Overall Appearance and Size: A chunky, moderate-sized, grayish shorebird.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): moderate in length, thin, black

Legs (shape and color): somewhat short in comparison to body size; darkish

Crown and Forehead: gray

Eye (color): not seen

Nape: gray

Face gray-white, white eyebrow

Throat: white

Breast and Sides: whitish, with some light, obscure grayish markings

Belly and Flanks: whitish, with some light, obscure grayish markings, fewer than on breast

Undertail Coverts: white

Back: grayish, with thin white edges to feathers, giving a slight scaly effect

Wings: grayish, with some white edging, giving a slight scaly effect (less noticeable than

on the back)

Underwings: not seen (in flight, wings grayish with white wingstripe)

on the back)

Rump: grayish-white

Uppertail Coverts: white with some gray  
markings

Upper Side of Tail: pale grayish

Under Side of Tail: not seen

Shape of Tail: fairly wide, fairly short, rounded

Voice: Not heard

Behavior: Observed wading and feeding in shallow water and mud flats, preening and in  
flight.

Habitat: Shallow water and mud flats at edge of large plains reservoir

Prior Experience with this Species: 25 on February 28, 1973 at Alameda, California  
and 1 September 15, 1973 on Tower Road, Adams County, Colorado.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Dowitchers eliminated by much shorter bill,  
lack of white extending onto upper back. Dunlin eliminated by lack of droop in bill,  
smaller size and of Dunlin and dark rump in Dunlin.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after X observation; Memory \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Robert Andrews Street Address: 1390 S. Ivy Way

Date Prepared: October 25, 1974 Town and State Denver, Colorado

ZIP 80222

Return to: JACK REDDALL