

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

10
~~18~~-89-14

Species: Red Knot
(Vernacular name)

Calidris canutus
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 27 August 1989

Time Bird Seen: 9:30 am to 9:40 am

Locality: Lake Meredith

Ordway, Colo. Crowley, County
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 9x30 Nikon Binoculars KOWA TSN-4 20-60X Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: Breeding (but faded)

Light conditions: Thin overcast but light O.K. and at back.

Distance from bird, and how measured: at least 400 yds. estimated.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Wading right at water's edge like a small pcp, never venturing out into water like larger sandpipers. Very flightily, moving twice in 10 minutes before flying off to S.W.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Lake edge.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

None

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Large, chunky sandpiper about 12" long. Slightly larger-bodied but shorter-billed and -legged than nearby Long-billed Dowitcher (though roughly dowitcher-sized rather than like a peep). Med-long bill (slightly longer than head) is dark, thick and barely drooped. Face, throat, breast & belly deep ruddy, nearly red. Darker red on belly, then abruptly white vent & undertail coverts. Uppersides ornately marked — darkish gray with gold & whitish feather edgings. Back is plainer gray than scapulars, with 2 striking diagonal lines (scapulars). Med.-long legs.
Not seen in flight.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery—i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Few other shorebirds are reddish underneath.
Godwits larger, with up-turned bills.
Red Phalarope smaller, white-faced, with yellow bill; different habits.
Dowitchers much longer-billed & smaller-bodied; not 2-toned underneath.
Sanderling (breeding-plum) smaller, different reddish color.
Curlew Sandpiper with longer, down-turned bill.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I saw Red Knots twice in April 1984 at Galveston TX.

I've never seen Curlew Sandpiper or breeding-plumaged Red Phalarope, but have seen others mentioned.

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

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
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