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CFO-ORC FILE # 19-91-29

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD : : UNUSUAL RECORD (x)

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Red Knot : Calidris canutus
(Scientific name)

Date(s): 7/24/91

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: unk. Plumage: Breeding

Locality: Nee Noshe Reservoir Elevation: 4100'

Nearest town: between Eads and Lamar County: Kiowa

Time(s) observed: 1400-1500

Duration of observation: 15 minutes

Others who saw the bird with you (names and addresses): None

Others who saw the bird independently: None

Light conditions in relationship to bird: Afternoon sun on 100 degree day.

Optical equipment used: Bushnell 20 x spotting scope.

If photographed, type of equipment and film: Not able to get camera out in time.

Who else photographed the bird? None

Describe the bird's behavior: I was standing in shallow water with my scope on a pair of Least Terns, trying to study their breeding behavior at a distance that didn't alarm them. Two shorebirds flew in together. Their calls were unlike any of the other shorebirds I had encountered (described later) during the summer. They landed about 40 yards from me, on the point of an ephemeral island in Nee Noshe Reservoir. They stood and loafed. I took out my notebook to sketch and write notes on them, and as I prepared to take pictures, they got up and flew away together.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually saw in the field.

The birds were medium-sized, about the size of a Killdeer. The most striking field mark was the extent and color of the

The most striking field mark was the extent and color of the face, throat and breast: a bright orange/buff. The undertail coverts on one of the birds was white, on the other, a paler buff than on the belly. The whole underside was unstreaked and unpatterned, save for a restricted area of streaks on the side of the throat and some spots or light barring on the flanks. The bill was dark, and broader at the base than at the tip. The tip of the bill was blunt. There was a dark line extending from the base of the bill, that continued through the eye, and angled down behind the eye. This field mark was more pronounced on one of the birds. The top of the head was darker than the rest of the face. The backs had a scalloped look, with pale edgings to the feathers on the back. The legs were short, and gray/green in color.

Describe bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): The call, given in flight, was loud and musical. It consisted of two syllables, the second higher in pitch. Transcribed it sounded like KWAA - WAA (saying it's name?).

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: Sandy beach on an island in a large reservoir.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? Most similar in coloration is Short-billed Dowitcher, but it has a much longer bill and a prominent white rump extending up the back. call TU - TU - TU.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen immature Red Knots in Colorado on three previous occasions, all in September, in 1983, 1984 and 1987. I have seen several in breeding plumage in Texas. To my knowledge, these are the only July birds ever documented in Colorado (not surprising since adults migrate before immatures).

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

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: National Geographic

This report was written from reports made during (x), after observation (), from memory ().

Date and time report was written: 8:30 pm. 1/15/92

Reporting observer: Duane Nelson

Signature:



Address: 1619 Ford St. Golden, CO 80401

All reports will be maintained with the Curator of Zoology, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO 80205.