

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: Red Knot Calidris canutus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): Sept. 19, 1993Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: ? Plumage: Basic (winter)Locality: Blue Lake Elevation: 4000' (1212 meters)Nearest town: Las Animas County: BentTime(s) observed: 0917-0935 DSTDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 18 min.Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): noneLight Conditions?Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): noneGull sun from behind me - all sides illuminated as they walked about. - Clear sky.

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): Bushnell 10-30x 50mm scope
Swarovski 8x56 BinocularsDistance, and how measured: 25 meters (est)If photographed, type of equipment and film: -Who else photographed the bird? -Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): Walking about on muddy shore and in shallow water of pool formed as reservoir receded; among other species of shore birds. Probing mud with bill using a slow, deliberate movement and stabbing at shrimp floating on the water's surface. Leisurely, calmly feeding.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 observed in the field: Stocky build; pale gray back and wings with black primaries. Crown same gray with grayish tinge to cheeks and upper breast, white underparts. Legs yellow-green (shorter than Dowitcher or Stilt Sandpiper). Prominent white eye brow. Bill dark, medium length, and sturdy - noticeably shorter than Dowitcher or Stilt Sandpiper - and straight.

cont. -

Description (continued):

Overall size about same as Killdeer nearby. Larger than Sandpeeps, Baird's Sandpiper and Pectoral Sandpiper in immediate area. Slightly smaller than Black-bellied Plover and Long-billed Dowitchers nearby. Whole community feeding quietly and peacefully. Tail white, finely barred with gray.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): none

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird: Shallow pools and surrounding mud flats. Cattle grazing in adjacent pastures. Reeds, broken or nibbled off by cattle, growing along edges, extending into water in some areas.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Dowitchers: longer bill, feeding style fast "sewing machine". has thinner bar on tail, white wedge up back; sides and flanks with some bar. Longer legs.
Stilt Sandpiper: longer, thinner bill, slightly down curved; feeding style similar to Dowitcher; longer legs.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Have seen Red Knot 4x in 1992 & 93 in Colo. and 1x in Texas
Have seen all other species mentioned several times in Colo. & Tx.

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

- a) at time of observation: National Geo: ^{guide to} Birds of N. Am. - to confirm I.D.
- b) after observation:

This report was written from notes reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____

Date and time report was written: Sept. 25, 1993

Reporting observer: KARLEEN SCHAFIELD Signature: Karleen Schafield

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Return to:
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