

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

18-89-13

Species: Ruddy Turnstone
(Vernacular name)

Arenaria interpres
(Scientific name)

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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): 16 Sept 1989 Time Bird Seen: 11:50 to 12:05

Locality: Cheraw Reservoir
Cheraw Osage County CO
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9-X30 binocs. ; KOWA 20-60X Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: - Plumage: juv "juvenile" - 1st winter

Light conditions: Excellent, sunny; sun from angle

Distance from bird, and how measured: 40-200 feet estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Constantly on the move. Walked along water's edge, but not in the water. Occ. probed the wrack on the edge. Found & ate a moth.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Plains reservoir, Sandy edge w/ lots of debris & rocks.

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.

Med-sized shorebird, about 9" long. Body slightly smaller than Killdeer, but tail end much less attenuated & blunter than Killdeer. Legs medium-length, shorter than Killdeer. Legs & feet orange. Dark brown above w/ feather edges buff-colored giving back & wings a scalg appearance. Ill-defined narrow whitish diagonal lines are one each wing, one on each side. Undersides white with dull, wide, blackish "U"-shaped at each side of breast. This color extends irregularly onto an otherwise brownish face. Crown streaked & darker. Bill is stout at base & tapered sharply at tip, with a vague up-ward tilt. Culmen is straight on wedge-shaped bill. In flight bird is flashy black & white patterned with a white wing stripe, upper wing, back and rump, and upper tail.

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:

Wedge shaped bill, U pattern on breast, orange legs and flashy flight pattern rule out all other shorebirds

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen many Ruddy & Black Turnstones in the 80's at seashores.

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

NAME (print): MARK JANOS

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205