

accepted
JR 12/9/73

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER Tryngites subruficollis 2. Number: 1
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: Idalia
4. Date(s): May 11, 1973 5. Time bird seen: about 4:00 P.M.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):
Scaly-backed sandpiper definitely somewhat smaller than Wilson's Phalarope (close enough for direct comparison). Straight thin bill about same length as head. Entire underparts bright buff without spots or streaks of any kind. (See over)
7. Description of voice, if heard:
8. Description of behavior: *Soaking on partially dry mud near pond - not associating with other sandpipers on shore and in water*
9. Habitat--general: *pond in grassy plains country of eastern Colorado*
specific: *Partially dried mud at least 40 ft from water and any other shorebirds*
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:
(See over)
11. Distance (how measured?): *150 ft. (estimated)*
12. Optical equipment: *Bushnell 25x60 spotting scope*
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer): *Ideal. Observer almost directly between low sun and bird.*
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: *This species (also in breeding plumage) seen ~~once~~ previously (9/9/67) with Lois Webster, Thompson Marsh and others*
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?
16. Other observers: *Joyce W. Cooper*
17. Did others agree with your identification? *yes*
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation:
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:

Signature

Date Prepared: Oct 9, 1973Street Address: 1041 Field St.City and State: Subseward Colo. 80215

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper in full breeding plumage like this one is very easy to identify because of the conspicuous and distinctive color of its entire underparts. The Knot, ^(in breeding plumage) is, I think, the only North American bird that is likely to be mistaken for it — and the Knot is a much larger bird. Other birds which might conceivably be confused with it (summer Hudsonian + Bar-tailed Godwits, Dowitcher, Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Woodcock, Red Phalarope) are either much larger birds or have other conspicuous and highly distinctive field marks. As the Idalia bird was much too small for a Knot, I feel confident it was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. I hoped to get confirmation from birders on the Bonny Lake Spring Count the next day (May 12, 1973), but unfortunately the bird left. ^{same} the next we observed it.

John Cooper