

Accepted GR 10/25/74

Species: BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
 (Vernacular Name)

Tryngites subruficollis
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): September 6, 1974 Time Bird Seen: 9 AM to 9:30 AM

Locality: Cherry Creek Recreation Area

Nearest Town: Denver County: Arapahoe

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Optical Equipment: 10 X 50 binoculars and Bausch and Lomb 15-60 X Zoom Telescope

Light Conditions: Sun shining on birds from behind the observer

Distance from Bird (how measured): Minimum distance an estimated 75 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Typical plumage

Overall Appearance and Size: Medium size shorebirds with short bills, small heads, long necks, buffy underparts and dark, scaly upperparts and yellow legs.

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): Moderately short (somewhat longer than Killdeer), thin, black

Legs (shape and color): Moderately long (between Killdeer and Yellowlegs), yellow

Crown and Forehead: brown with fine black streaking Eye (color): Black

Nape: brown with fine black streaking Face: Buffy, white eye ring Throat: Buffy

Breast and Sides: Buffy, with a very few blackish spotting on extreme side of breast.

Belly and Flanks: Buffy

Undertail Coverts: Buffy-white

Back: Dark blackish-brown, with fairly wide white edges to feathers, giving a scaly effect

Wings: Blackish-brown, with some scaly pattern due to pale feather edges

Underwings: silvery

Rump: Brownish-black

Uppertail Coverts: Brownish-black

Upper Side of Tail: Not seen well enough to be sure.

Under Side of Tail: Not seen

Shape of Tail: Rather short, shape itself not well seen (largely covered by wings)

Voice: No calls heard

Behavior: Observed walking and feeding in the mud

Habitat: Muddy beach with lake on one side and open, grassy fields on the other

Prior Experience with this Species: 2 September 9-11, 1967 in Adams Co. (seen by several DFO Members); 2 September 3, 1968 at Cherry Creek Reservoir and 1 August 30, 1970 near Lake Babcock at Columbus, Nebraska.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Yellowlegs eliminated by smaller size and buffy underparts, shorter bill. Peeps eliminated by larger size, smaller head and longer neck, buffy underparts. Upland Sandpiper eliminated by smaller size, buffier underparts, lack of dark markings on breast and different habitat and lateness in year for Upland Sandpiper. Unringed plovers eliminated by different bill shape, buffy underparts, yellow legs and general appearance of a sandpiper as opposed to a plover. Actually, the birds were quite distinctive in appearance and did not closely look like any other species.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during X after observation; Memory

Signed: Robert Andrews Street Address: 1390 S Ivy Way

Date Prepared: Sept. 16, 1974 Town and State: Denver, Colorado

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