

Species: Buff-Breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites auripennis*  
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): August 23, 1976 Time Bird Seen: 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm approx  
 Locality: Bar Lake  
 Nearest Town: Brighton County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>2 others</u>		
<u>Bob Andrews</u>		
<u>Steve Larson</u>		
<u>Carolyn Bright</u>	<u>1717 Madison Ave Pueblo CO 81003</u>	<u>561-2358</u>

Optical Equipment: VC 20 and 30 power Bushnell scopes + 7x35 binoculars  
 If photographed, type of equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Light Conditions: excellent  
 Distance from bird (how measured): estimated from 300 ft down to 50-75 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: unknown Plumage: fall

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

*Looked like miniature Upland Sandpiper head and neck shape but neck shorter with buffy breast and distinctly brown scaly back. Fed along shore line - wasn't nervous spent considerable time just standing & resting*

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

*Head and neck very distinctly shaped. comparative to Upland Sandpiper but comparable in size to Pectoral Sandpiper. reasonably short dark beak. eye ring we discussed at length. the buffy brown scaled back pattern which is distinctive to the species as well as the buffy neck and breast altho extreme underparts were lighter there was no question in any of our minds but that it was a Buff-Breasted Sandpiper. also yellowish legs. It was only the second one I had seen but I had studied considerably about them. I don't recall flushing the bird but I do remember watching it tipped up feeding so that the rump could be clearly seen. It was buffy brown with no white and (OVER) no white on flanks*

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

no call heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

bare shore line along low water line - no vegetation  
close - Barr Lake fresh water shallow - other shore birds  
scattered

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Upland Sandpiper nearly same profile but neck + legs  
longer - much larger - coloration much different

Pectoral Sandpiper has thinner more typical sandpiper  
beak - streaked breast abrupt cut-off line on lower breast  
with white belly - darker rump.

Ruffous Reeve has whitish patches near base of tail  
Bill longer, thinner

Buff Breasted Sandpiper's plain brownish unstreaked  
breast + neck into underparts plus profile really makes  
it stand out.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Considerable experience with Upland Sandpiper  
as a boy and teenager because it nested where I grew up  
near North Platte, Nebraska. I have also seen Pectoral  
Sandpipers on many occasions - one Sharp-Tailed Sandpiper  
near Boulder, 1975 - and one other Buff-Breasted Sandpiper  
near Pueblo Oct 1968

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of North America - Golden Field Guide

Birds of Colo. Bailey & Heidreich - numerous other references.

This report was written from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ after ☒ observation; from memory ☐

PRINT NAME: DAVE A GRIFFITHS

SIGNATURE: Dave Griffiths DATE: Nov 2, 1976

Street Address: 1717 Morrison Ave

Town and State: Pueblo Colo

ZIP: 81005

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Vernacular Name) Tryngites subruficollis (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 22-24 August 1976 Time Bird Seen: About 2 hours to total

Locality: Barr Lake State Park

Nearest Town: Brighton County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bruce and Jeanne Webb	Joe Roller	John and Judy Ward
Dave and Carolyn Griffiths	Carol Youngson	
Steve Larson	Bill Lybarger	

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars; 15-60X B&L Zoom telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: in most cases, sunny with sun shining on the bird

Distance from bird (how measured): various; minimum estimated 50 ft.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: probably immature

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Observed feeding on muddy shoreline, usually in company with Baird's Sandpipers. When feeding or walking, it bobbed its head back and forth like a dove, and generally maintained a horizontal stance when foraging. When foraging, it walked a few steps, paused to probe the mud with 3-5 quick sewing-machine like stabs, then walking on. Once, it ran along the shore in the manner of a Sanderling. Flight was rapid and snipe-like. Stayed further from the water (never wading into the water) than the other shorebirds present, at least much of the time.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Medium-sized shorebird, body size approximately same as a Baird's Sandpiper but differently shaped. Body long, fairly slim, long, thin neck and smaller, square head (slimmer, with less full chest, longer, thinner neck and smaller head than a Baird's). Legs about 50% longer than those of a Baird's, yellow (not a real bright yellow however). Bill moderate in length (about length of head), thin, black and slightly decurved at tip. Eyes black. Forehead buffy, unmarked. Crown buffy with numerous blackish streaks, starting at the eye and extending to the rear of the crown, leaving nape buffy but unmarked. Back and wings blackish-brown, each feather edged fairly broadly with white, giving a scaled appearance. Wings long, extending to or perhaps somewhat beyond the tail. ~~Rump and tail not seen well.~~ Throat, face and breast rich buffy in color, unmarked except for blackish-brown streakings extending from neck onto the sides of the neck and (less strongly) onto the sides of the breast. Face pattern nondescript, consisting only of a fairly inconspicuous white eye-ring. Buffy color less strong on lower breast and ending at the legs, the remainder of the underparts off-white (this is why I think the bird is probably an immature-others that I have seen have had the buffy color extending all the way onto the undertail coverts). In flight, underwings distinctly silvery. Upperings pattern not seen well, appeared to be mostly brown with a single, not highly conspicuous wingstripe. Rump mostly dark with white on sides, tail not closely examined but appeared to be mostly dark, perhaps becoming darker toward the end of the tail.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Muddy shoreline of moderately large, plains irrigation reservoir.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Baird's Sandpiper-Although buffy below and scaly above, it is much less buffy with breast streakings, a plumper, chunkier bird, thicker bill, black(not yellow) legs, thicker bill, lacks silvery underwings, has a superciliary line not an eye-ring. Ruff-Has two oval white patches on side of rump(which is diagnostic). Would also be larger, and there are probably other plumage differences as well. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper-Immature is also richly buffy on underparts, but the color is somewhat different(more orangish), but it has a rusty cap and strong white superciliary line. The two species are really quite different.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have seen thousands of Baird's Sandpipers in Colorado in spring and especially in fall. I have seen the Buff-breasted Sandpiper several times: (2) Tower Road Adams Co. 9-11 September 1967; (2) Cherry Creek Res. 3 September 1968; (1) Lake Babcock near Columbus, Nebraska 30 August 1970; (2) Cherry Creek Res. 6 September 1974. I have never seen a Ruff(or Reeve). I have the Sharp-tail once(Lafayette-26 October-1 November 1975).

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?  
Standrd guides consulted afterward, all supported the identification.

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

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews SIGNATURE: Robert Andrews DATE: 15 Oct 1976

Street Address: 1390 So Ivy Way Town and State: Denver, Colo 80224 ZIP:     

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110