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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

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

Species: Buff-breasted Sandpiper | Tryngites subruficollis
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 5 September 1981Number of birds seen: 4 Sex: ? Plumage: Locality: Prewitt Reservoir Elevation: Nearest town: County: WashingtonTime(s) observed: ~0800Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): periodically over ~ 1 1/2 - 2 hrs.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Peter Gent

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):
variable, but generally with bright sunlight on birds from behind observersOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10 x 50 binoculars; 15-60x telescopeDistance, and how measured: minimum estimated distance - 20'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):

Two birds were solitary and two were associating with each other. All seen in general area of Killdeer and Baird's Sandpipers. All were seen on dry, bare mudflats well back from the water and wet mudflats. Observed walking and foraging on mudflats. Not all shy; we walked up within 50' of the pair, and they foraged to within 20' of us, showing no particular concern or interest in us.

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 observe in the field:

Head: face rich buffy with distinct white eye-ring; crown and nape heavily streaked with dark brown.

Breast: rich buffy (2 solitary birds) or light buffy (pair); a few small brown flecks at sides, otherwise unmarked

Belly: light buffy (2 solitary birds) or whitish (pair).

Undertail coverts: whitish.

Wings: brownish, with white feather edgings

Underwings in flight: silvery

Rump: brown

continued

Description (continued):

Back: blackish or brownish-black, with wide, strongly contrasting white feather edgings, producing a pronounced scaly pattern. Center back feathers browner, with less conspicuous pale edgings in the pair than in the solitary birds.

Legs: rather long, yellow.

Bill: moderately short, straight, black.

Iris: black

Overall size: slightly larger than a Baird's Sandpiper, but much less chunky with longer neck, smaller head and longer legs.

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:

Dry mudflats at edge of plains irrigation reservoir

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Easily.

Reeve's (usually) somewhat larger, has longer bill, distinctive rump pattern

Baird's Sandpiper - see above

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

I have seen thousands of Baird's Sandpipers and other peeps in Colorado.

I have seen 8 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Colorado.

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

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____ from memory _____
Date and time report was written: _____

Reporting observer: Robert Andrews Signature: _____

Address: _____

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

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