

APPENDIX II

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

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Species: Buff-breasted Sandpiper ; Tryngites subruficollis
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

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.

Dates (s): 9/2/85 & 9/8/85 not necessarily the same bird as the one on 9/8/85 had a badly injured leg
Time Bird Seen: 9:30 to 11:30
Locality: CF&I Lakes, Lake #2 (an injured Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen & photographed on 9/8/85 & last seen on 9-21-85 at CF&I in same area as 9/2/85 bird)
Pueblo, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state: 9/2/85 bird

Optical equipment: Bushnell 20-45X 60mm ScopeIf photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: Minolta SRT-201 Celestron 500mm f-8.0Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Juv.Light conditions: goodDistance from bird, and how measured: closest 25' guessed

Describe the bird's overall behavior: actively feeding zig-zagging mouse-like in dried aquatic vegetation glancing, not probing for food, occasionally glanced to raise its long (white underneath) wings above its head. Very active, & rarely stopping.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

actively feeding on dry parts of lake maybe 50' from the water with bank's S.P.'s which also preferred the drier part of the flat at CF&I

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Richard Bunn, David Blue, John & Virginia Maynard

L 2727 Main, C.S., CO

Westcliff, CS, CO

45 Indian Oaks, Manitou Springs, CO

* Injured bird acted differently, would crouch amongst dirt clumps, when flushed would fly low for 30-40 yards and freeze but didn't allow close approach. 1st bird virtually tame.

APPENDIX II Continued

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.

This was a medium size shoubed with a buff breast, extending to mid-belly, a short bill, yellow legs & a scaly back. 2 features made it a Junco, the back feathers were edgier buff not white as in adult alternate and the undertail coverts up to the lower belly was white not buff as in adult alternate. Crown densely spotted dark, entire face & throat down to lower belly buff. Entire back was scaly not unlike Bairds finch, legs yellowish, bill short about equal to length of head; spots on breast especially on sides, legs short, slight drop to tip of upper mandible

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

calls not heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bairds S.P. - Baird's has black legs; longer thinner bill, longer bill, buff ends higher up breast
Ruff - Ruff is bigger heavier looking, heavier longer ^{throat} bill, buff breast not extending as low as in
Buff-breasted

Prior experience with this and similar species:

New Bird for me!

Seen both other although buff only in alternate plumage

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

Name (print) : Bill Maynard

Mailing address: 372 Blue Windsor Ln.

Signature: Bill Maynard

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

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DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTING

FOR

THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites Subruficollis*)
Dates: September 2, 1985 Time Bird Seen: 1045 to 1100
Locality: C.F. & I Lakes
Pueblo, CO
Optical equipment: Bushnell Spacemaster II 20x45 Zoom
Photography equipment: Photo to be sent by Bill Maynard
Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Juvenile
Light conditions: Excellent
Distance from bird (and how measured): 10 meters (estimated)
Bird's overall behavior:

The bird was foraging in drying lakebed vegetation (due to a very low water level). It was in the immediate vicinity of Baird's Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalaropes, a Red Knot, a Juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher and many Killdeer although it remained at least three meters from the water's edge. It ate one larger insect (cricket size) while being observed. It seemed totally unconcerned with the observers, approaching quite close (10 meters).

Habitat of bird:

This bird was found in the moss-like vegetation of a very recently exposed lakebed.

Other observers:

Linda L. Blue
3145 Westcliff Dr. W.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Richard Bunn
2727 Main Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

William Maynard
372 Blue Windsor Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

John & Virginia Maynard
1320 Indian Oaks Pl.
Manitou Springs, CO 80906

Detailed Description (identifying field marks plus size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern, details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail).

This bird was noticeably larger than the nearby Baird's Sandpipers. It had a more upright posture with a longer, thinner neck and a rounded head. The eye seemed large in proportion to the head. The bird was reminiscent of an Upland Sandpiper, but smaller, with a shorter neck and with a relatively smaller eye. The face, neck, and breast were a very pale buff color and the belly was very light. There was spotting in front of the wings but these spots did not extend onto the flanks below the wing. The top of the head was heavily spotted. The back and wings were dark and appeared scaly. The bill was dark, thin and relatively short (less than the extended bill head length). The legs were long and yellow. When the bird flew, the underwings were very light with dark trailing edges.

Calls (and method of delivery):

No calls were heard.

Similar species elimination:

Upland Sandpiper: This bird was much smaller than an Upland Sandpiper, with a shorter neck. It also had a buffy face, neck, and breast. The eye as relatively smaller and the bill seemed thinner and shorter.

Ruff: This bird was smaller than a Ruff, with a shorter, thinner bill. This bird also had spotting on the sides of the neck and breast.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

First sighting of Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Familiar with all common Colorado shorebirds.

This report was written from notes made shortly after observation.

Name: David V. Blue

Mailing address: 3145 Westcliff Dr. W.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Signature: David V. Blue