

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PAPE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

19-89-15

Species: Tryngites subruficollis
(Vernacular name)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
(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.

Date (s): 3 September 1989 Time Bird Seen: 6:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Locality: Chatfield Lake State Park
Littleton, Colo. Nearest town, county and state: Douglas / Jefferson County

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 Binoculars; KOWA 20-60X TSN-4 Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: — Plumage: Probably juvenile

Light conditions: Excellent, Bright, low sun from west.

Distance from bird, and how measured: Estimated from 25-250 feet.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Wary. Walked in grassy area on long golden-yellow legs. Associated with a group of about 12 Baird's Sandpipers & one Killdeer. When approached too closely, it flew off with acrobatic, veering and flickering flight ~~som~~ reminiscent of a Common Snipe. Once, at water's edge, sat back on long legs, folding them under itself like a stork.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Grassy, wet lawn-like area at Plum Creek Delta, also lake edge, stony & muddy shore.

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

Vic Zerbi

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.

Medium-sized sandpiper, about 9" long and long-legged & long-necked. Smaller-bodied & longer-legged than a Killdeer; taller & bigger than a Baird's Sandpiper. Basically a plain tan bird. Face plain buff-colored with a large, dark eye staring out from center of face. Indistinct, whitish eye-ring. Crown speckled & weakly streaked blackish. Round head with steep forehead. Feathering of face extends far out on bill, further on the underside than on the upper side. Undersides pale buff, becoming off-white on lower belly. Faint barring on breast caused by feather rows. Dark spots on sides of breast in faint rows. Back overall darker - feathers dark brownish to black with distinct white edges forming rows of scallops. Wing feathers dark brown distally, tan proximally with white & buff edges. Legs golden-yellow. Bill black, med.-long, straight with tapered end. In flight, flanks & underwing linings are white. Uppersides plain brownish in flight like

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

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Upland Sandpiper larger, longer-necked, without white underwings. No other Sandpiper has distinctive buff-color, large staring eye. Feathering of bill is diagnostic.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I saw one in Galveston Texas 21 April 1984

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

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
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Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
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