

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

ACCEPT 7-0

NEW STATE RECORD _____

UNUSUAL RECORD X**Species:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)**Date:** 5 September 1994 **Number seen:** two**Sex:** unknown**Plumage:** juvenile**Locality:** Jackson Reservoir**Elevation:** ??**Nearest town:** Goodrich**County:** Morgan

PHOTO

Time observed: about 10:30 AM MDT**Duration of observation:** ten minutes

Description: (The two birds were together and virtually identical, so I will describe them as one.) A sandpiper larger than somewhat nearby Baird's Sandpipers and about size of not-so-nearby Pectoral Sandpipers. It had a small head with a noticeable dark eye on a plain buffy face. The bill was thin and dark and relatively short for a sandpiper, being shorter in length than the width of the head from front to back. The chin was whitish. The back of the neck was streaked, but the underside of the neck, and virtually the entire underparts, were unmarked pale buffy in coloration. The back was a medium brown with wide buff fringing on individual feathers giving the back a scaly appearance. The legs were a pale yellow. It foraged higher up the mudflat on drier ground than most all shorebirds in the vicinity. I saw the bird fly briefly once and it showed bright white wing linings that were, as far as I could see at that distance, completely unmarked.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): The bird was not heard.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen in excess of 40 Buff-breasted Sandpipers scattered in four eastern states, but with the majority in Cape May, NJ. I have seen 7000+ Pectoral Sandpipers, 1000+ Baird's Sandpipers, and untold 1000s of most North American species that even remotely resemble Buff-breasted (e.g. Lesser Yellowlegs). The species' shape, posture, gait, and plumage pattern make it extremely distinctive with even mediocre views.

Light conditions: sun was behind us and slightly to our left

Optical equipment used: Leitz 10x40; Kowa 30x wide angle

Distance, and how estimated: estimated at 125 feet minimum distance

Other observers who saw the bird with you:

Brian Johnson, 2328 Emens, Muskegon, MI 49444

Susan Blackshaw, 1530 Robidoux Cir., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Other observers who saw the bird independently: none of which I am aware

If photographed, type of equipment and film: (How is this relevant?) Brian Johnson photographed the bird; photo enclosed

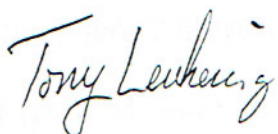
List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

This report was written from memory and with reference to the photos of the individuals reported.

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature: 

Address: Colorado Bird Observatory, 13401 Piccadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 29 November 1994

