

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD _____

UNUSUAL RECORD X

CFO-ORC FILE # 1998-50

ACCEPTED (7-0)

rec'd 9-28-98

Species: Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

Date: 19 September 1994

Number seen: two

Sex: unknown

Plumage: juvenile

Locality: Prewitt Reservoir

Elevation: ??

Nearest town: Merino

County: Washington

Time observed: about 18:00 MDT

Duration of observation: about ⁵~~10~~ minutes

Description: (The two birds were together and virtually identical, so I will describe them as one.) A sandpiper smaller than nearby Killdeer with a small head and a beady, dark eye on an unmarked buffy face. The bill was thin, short and dark; the chin was whitish. Virtually the entire underparts were unmarked buffy; a cleaner, more consistent color than any other species of shorebird present. The back was brown with wide buff fringing on individual feathers producing a scaly appearance. The legs were yellow. It foraged on the drier parts of the extensive mudflat at the west end of the reservoir; the only other shorebirds seen near it were Killdeer. I saw one of the birds raise one wing a couple times (similar to the breeding-ground display of males) and noted the clean white underwing and a distinct blackish comma at the wrist.

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 150 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with the majority in spring 1998 in Texas. I have seen 1000s each of Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, the two sandpiper species most readily confused for Buff-breasted. The species' shape and plumage pattern make it extremely distinctive with even mediocre views.

Light conditions: sun was low behind us

Optical equipment used: Kowa 30x wide angle

Distance, and how estimated: estimated at 175 feet minimum distance

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Sue Bonfield

Other observers who saw the bird independently: John Vanderpoel, Brandon Percival, Nick Komar among others

If photographed, type of equipment and film: did not photograph

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

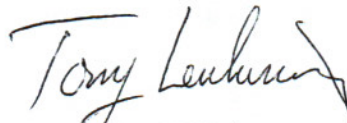
a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: none

This report was written from memory.

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Leukering". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

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

Date report was written: 20 September 1998