

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - 31 July 2000- Washington Co., CO
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Common Name: Buff-breasted Sandpiper **Scientific Name:** *Tyngites subruficollis*
Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex:** ? **Age:** adult
Locality: **Colorado:** Prewitt Reservoir, WASHINGTON **County**
Date(s) Seen: 31 July 2000 **Time:** 8:30 am
Reporting Observer: Christopher L. Wood, 3465 S. Otis Court, Lakewood, CO 80227
Other Observers: None.
Conditions: calm, sunny, 80 F **Optical Equipment:** Leica APO Televid scope, 32x wide.
Distance to Bird: 75-150 meters
Duration of Observation: about 10 minutes.
Habitat: Far up on shore of a reservoir, near grasses.
Details

Kid 2/18/01 wsl
7-0 (A)

While scanning through a couple thousand Baird's Sandpipers I found this bird. It was farther up on the shore on drier sand than most of the other shorebirds. As the bird walked, it moved its head like a Mourning Dove. After I watched it for a few minutes it flew to the far southwest side of the reservoir.

It was different in shape from the numerous Baird's Sandpiper, being slightly larger, longer necked and with primaries reaching only the tip of the tail. The upperparts were worn, though not heavily so. Some of the wing coverts were slightly abraded and the upperparts lacked the clean contrasty look of juvenile shorebirds.

The mantle, nape and cap were fairly uniform with dark feathers with buff colored tips. The wing coverts were dark with worn pale edging. A couple greater coverts appeared all buff-colored. The overall appearance of the upperparts was buffier and darker than the numerous Baird's. The dark eyes contrasted with the plain buffy face and foreneck, which were the same buff color as the breast and belly. The sides of the breast were spotted black. The undertail coverts and belly closest to the undertail coverts were white. The legs were yellow. In flight, the underwing was white with conspicuous dark tipped greater coverts, and darker trailing edge to the flight feathers.

NOTE: This may be the first conclusive fall adult Buff-breasted in Colorado, and is the first for the "summer season."

Vocalizations:

None

Similar Species:

Baird's are smaller, dark legged, lack the extensive buffy wash and look completely different! Pectoral Sandpipers have streaking across the entire breast. Uplands are larger and lack the buffy tone to the underparts and have a noticeably longer tail. Nothing suggested any kind of hybrid.

Tape recordings / Photos?

None

References:

None

Description from: __XX__ Contemporaneous notes; __ Later notes; __ Memory.

Experience with Species:

I have seen a couple hundred Buff-breasted Sandpipers, all in the fall, mostly in WI, MN, IN and NJ. I have seen one previously in Colorado, a juvenile in August.

Are you Positive of the Identification? Yes.

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