

2001-79

CFO-ORC FILE # ACCEPTED

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐

UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Buff-breasted Sandpiper | Tryngites subruficollis
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): 21 September 2001

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Adult breeding?

Locality: Perrito Reservoir (west shore) Elevation: 4000'

Nearest town: Merino County: Washington

Time(s) observed: 4-5 PM

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 20 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

?

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

very good: full sun from behind me

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): B&L Elite binoculars (a scope) (did not have)

Distance, and how measured: 50 yards

If photographed, type of equipment and film: —

Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Feeding mostly by itself, delicately picking insects from the surface of dry mudflat (well away from water; other shorebirds, except for one Baird's Sandpiper, which came close briefly). Feeding action reminded me of Solitaire Gull in shallow water, constantly turning and whisking to mop up mudges.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.

Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

Bird was very similar in size to Baird's Sandpiper, perhaps very slightly larger. Long-legged. Legs orange-yellow (pale shade). Overall color sandy-buff, grading from dry sand/tan toward the lower flanks/wing tips to peachy-buff toward the head. From the distance I was, the head and neck was very warm pale orange with slight pink glow. Bill straight, needlelike and fairly short. Eye black and stood out on side of pale face. Could not study wing feather detail, but got the impression there were several (5-6?) very dark-centered lower scapulars, with pale borders as would be present in adult breeding plumage. In flight there was no white on upper tail. Did not note underwing pattern.

Description (continued):

Could not tell if bases of upper & lower mandibles were off-set because I was too far away. Stance was usually fairly upright.



Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Not close enough to pick out which note it gave when all the nearby shorebirds (including the Buff-breast) flushed on two occasions.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Receding shore of reservoir. Bird was on an area of fairly dry, packed mud/sand well away from water, which

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species? surrounded it on 3 sides.

Much longer-legged than Bairds. Not as big or long-billed as juvenile Buff and no white in tail/rump area. Leg color and unique color of head area distinctive.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I had seen a few at Jumbo Res years ago and 100+ in Southeast Texas as recently as last Spring (2000).

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: Sibley

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: 22 September 2001

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

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