

1 Sep. 1974

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Dear Hugh:

I didn't receive the form used for rare observations. However, I will attempt to anticipate the information desired and will include as much data as I can remember in this letter concerning the sighting of the Wandering Tattler.

The date was Sept 1, 1974 during the early afternoon (1:30-2:30 PM). The weather was sunny and warm with light winds. There had been no unusual storm activity anywhere in the west, including British Columbia, to possibly force the bird off course.

When I first sighted the bird I said "This can't be". I had always had to go to the Pacific coast to see the Tattlers. The bird was sitting on a mud bar

in the Farmington Bay waterfowl ^②
management refuge. His yellow legs
all gray body and light supercilious
eye stripe indicated to me that
it was a tattler. However, I had
to be absolutely sure and to do
this I forced the bird to fly.

The all gray wings back and tail
seen in flight belong to only one
shorebird in North America, the
Tattler. Having seen this I had
no doubt whatsoever in the bird's
identity. I watched him for a
while as he flew down to
another mud bar looking for food.
The bird seemed healthy and
behaved normally.

I hope that the information above
is all that is needed. If further
information is needed please let me
know.

That was the only rare bird
I've seen around this fall. I did
note a Cattle Egret in the same
refuge on Oct 18 and a couple of

Bonaparte's gulls on Nov 3 also in Farmington Bay, but these occasionally visit the area and didn't warrant the same excitement as the Tattler.

Paul Adams is the only other birder who I've told about the tattler. I believe he has reported it to Prof. Behle, but I'm not sure of that. Both of us were not anxious to have someone shoot the bird for a specimen, so that may have delayed Paul's report to Prof. Behle.

Sincerely yours
Vernon E. Kousky