

Species: Upland Sandpiper (Plover)
(Vernacular name)Bartramia longicauda
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): Sept 13, 1980 Time Bird Seen: 4:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.Locality: Causeway to Antelope Island
Syracuse, Davis Co. Utah
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 3 Sex: _____ Plumage: _____Light conditions: clear + sunnyDistance from bird, and how measured: 15-20' (estimate)

Describe the bird's overall behavior: The first bird was standing on a rock about 1 foot from shore, about 15-20' from us. It stood looking ~~at~~ while we took turns describing the bird. Then with difficulty we scared it to get wing markings. It flew about 20 feet to two other Upland Sandpipers and a Black-bellied plover. We got the guide book out and checked off all distinguishing marks. The again we watched the three U. plovers + BB plover fly away as a group.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Great Salt Lake

causeway

About half way across the G.S.L. causeway on the rocks. No vegetation at the spot.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Don + Nancy Hadley 111 E. 3700 South Bountiful UT.
(Sept 14, 1980)

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

1. small head, long neck, tail long, extending well beyond folded wings, long legs, short ^{dark} bill.
2. The overall color was brown. Dark and mottled on back. The front struck me especially. It was mottled was a brownish ^(as opposed to white) background and little dark lines. Sometimes three meeting at a point Y or as. ~~There~~ V. There were no outstanding wing markings when the bird flew but when the bird was stationary there was a dark line made by the outer feathers on the wing. Crown was dark—eye big, black, and beady surrounded by white. Bright white above the bill.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard, including method of delivery—i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

On Sept 18 5 observed. Add white unstreaked belly to description. Birds were much more wary but finally settled down. They stand: tall, straight + unmoving when observing the observer. Three of the five were strongly mottled in front and somewhat.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:
The short bill eliminates such birds as the marbled godwit etc.
The buff-breasted sandpiper is too small and has no mottled breast or dark crown or etc.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

None with the Upland Pt. Sandpiper. We have seen many M. godwits, Yellowlegs etc.

This report was written from notes made during X after ___ observation; from memory ___.

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