

32-1987

DOCUMENTATION OF LATILONG PARE BIRD SIGHTING
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Upland Sandpiper
(Verhacular 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, as 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): 8 August 1987 Time Bird Seen: mid- to late morning (?)

Locality: rest area off westbound I-70 west of Green River, Emery County, Utah
(in the San Rafael Swell?)
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: _____

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: _____

Light conditions: bright sunlight

Distance from bird, and how measured: dead bird seen as close as 1 m.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

dry, very rocky tumbled hills, dead bird lay about 5m from the parking lot of a rest area along I-70

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

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.

Although the bird appeared to have been dead a day or two, it was immediately identifiable as an Upland by size, shape, & proportions. The head was small in proportion to the body. The eye sockets appeared large. The bill was straight and short, about the length of the head. The neck was long and thin. The body was plump and round. Upperparts were mottled black and tan. Underparts were white but for dark streaks on the neck, and some chevron-marks visible on the sides and flanks. Legs appeared moderately long. Soft part color had faded.

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

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Yellowlegs: longer bill & legs, more white in upperparts, different proportions
Solitary Sand: shorter-necked; would have appeared darker above, no tan or buff in plumage
Stiff Sand: longer legs & bill, different plumage characters
Pectoral Sand: smaller, different breast pattern, different proportions

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have seen this species in migration and on its breeding grounds more than I can recall, and have also studied museum skins of uppies.

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

NAME (print): Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr.

Mailing address: P.O. Drawer 6Y, Miss. State, MS 39762

Signature: Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr.

Return Form To: CFO Records Committee
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, CO 80205

Starkville, Mississippi
18 January 1988

Dear Mr. Kingery,

Here is the description of the Upland Sandpiper.
Denny Ingold and I saw in August in Utah. Sorry
it's so late.

The details given are a bit sketchy due to my
memory of the event having faded somewhat. Hope
these will suffice. I regret not having retrieved
the skin — I had a stuffing kit in my car, but
didn't want to fool with the smelly carcass, so I
left it where it lay.

If I can be of any more help, please contact
me.

Sincerely yours,
Malcolm F. Holts, Jr.

Mr. Kingery,
 We were passing through
 on our way to the AOU meeting
 in Frisco. Thought you might be
 interested in this record.

Malcolm F. Hodges
 P.O. Drawer 67
 MISS STATE MS
 39762

Liter 1415
 H

Upland Sandpiper

1

Date 8 August 1987

Location Rest Area along I-70, Emery County, Utah

Observers Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr., Danny J. Ingold

Significance Unknown (rare for this area?) Dead bird
 found on cliff beside Rest Area — had been
 dead for at least a couple of days, but still
 easily identifiable.