

## VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER Scientific Name: TRYNGITES SUBRIFCOLLIS  
 Date: SEPT. 6 1990 Time: 10:00, 11:00-11:15, 11:30-11:35 Length of time observed: ± 20 MINUTES  
 Number: 1 Age: PROB. JUV. Sex:  
 Location: BEAR RIVER REFUGE

Latilong:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: AS CLOSE AS 15 YARDSLight conditions: EXCELLENT - FULL SUNOptical equipment: 10X40 ZEISS; SWIFT ZOOM SCOPEWeather: CLEAR, LIGHT BREEZE

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

MEDIUM-SMALL SANDPIPER, CLOSE TO SIZE OF WESTERN SANDPIPER OR A BIT LARGER, THOUGH NOT SEEN IN DIRECT COMPARISON. VERY DIFFERENT SHAPE, WITH STOUT BODY & SLIM NECK, "PIGEON-HEADED" LOOK, PETITE BILL.



UNIQUE HEAD SHAPE WITH STEEP FOREHEAD, FLAT CROWN, STEEP NAPE. BILL ABOUT AS LONG AS HEAD OR SLIGHTLY SHORTER, THIN, NEARLY STRAIGHT BUT WITH A SLIGHT DROOP AT THE TIP; BILL LOOKED PALE AT BASE BUT EXACT COLOR NOT NOTED. FACE CONSPICUOUSLY PLAIN WARM BUFF, SO THAT BLACK EYE WAS VERY OBVIOUS; MAYBE A LITTLE PALER IMMEDIATELY AROUND EYE, FOR VAGUE EYE-RINGED EFFECT. FINE BLACKISH OR ~~OR~~ DARK BROWN STREAKING ON FOREHEAD & CROWN; NAPE NOT OBVIOUSLY STREAKED, BUT DULLER & BROWNER THAN FACE. CENTER OF UPPER BACK VERY DARK, ALMOST BLACKISH-BROWN, WITH LIGHTER EDGES; SCAPULARS NOT AS DARK, MEDIUM-BROWN WITH PALE BUFF EDGES; COVERTS PALER BROWN, WITH CONSPICUOUS PALE BUFF EDGES, VERY STRIKING ON GREATER COVERTS; POSSIBLY HAD DARKER SUBTERMINAL MARKS INSIDE THESE PALE MARGINS. FACE, FORENECK, & UPPER BREAST WARM BUFF, VIRTUALLY UNMARKED, FADING GRADUALLY TOWARD WHITISH ON BELLY, FLANKS, & UNDERTAIL COVERTS. LEGS YELLOW, SEEMING A LITTLE LONGER PROPORTIONATELY THAN THOSE OF WESTERN OR BAIRD'S.

DISTINCTIVE SHAPE IN FLIGHT, ROUND-BODIED & SMALL-HEADED; WINGS & TAIL LOOKING LONG IN FLIGHT, SIMILAR TO EFFECT OF BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - IN FLIGHT, UPPERPARTS LOOKED VERY DARK; NO APPARENT PALE WING STRIPE; RUMP & UPSIDE OF (SLIGHTLY ELONGATED) TAIL UNIFORMLY DARK AS SEEN FROM A DISTANCE. UNDERSIDE OF WINGS WHITE, CONTRASTINGLY PALER THAN BUFFY BREAST.



Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NONE

Behavior:

FORAGING QUIETLY NEAR WATER'S EDGE MOST OF THE TIME, PICKING DELICATELY AT THE BRINE FLIES SWARMING THERE; SOMETIMES STANDING MOTIONLESS AMONG ROCKS AT EDGE OF ROAD; WHEN APPARENTLY NERVOUS, WOULD STAND VERY UPRIGHT, STRETCHING NECK UPRIGHT; FLIGHT GRACEFUL & FAST, REMINISCENT OF SOLITARY SANDPIPER;  
Habitat: OFTEN FLYING FAR OUT OVER IMPOUNDMENTS & RETURNING TO NEAR WHERE IT HAD FLUSHED.

HABITAT ATYPICAL: EDGE OF DIKE ROAD, MUDDY MARGIN & ROCKS, RATHER THAN EXPECTED FIELDS OR DRY FLATS; PROBABLY ATTRACTED BY ABUNDANCE OF BRINE FLIES

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

NOTHING IS CLOSELY SIMILAR.

VAGUELY SIMILAR SPECIES WOULD INCLUDE JUV. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (VERY DIFFERENT HEAD & BACK PATTERN); ♀/JUV RUFF (LARGER, DIFFERENT TAIL PATTERN); UPLAND SANDPIPER (DIFFERENT HEAD & UPPERPARTS PATTERN, AND HEAVILY MARKED BREAST). ALL OF THESE ARE DIFFERENT IN SHAPE AND IN MANY OTHER DETAILS.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

HAVE SEEN THIS SPECIES DOZENS OF TIMES; FAMILIAR WITH VIRTUALLY ALL SHOREBIRDS KNOWN FROM NORTH AMERICA

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

NONE

Significance of record in this area or the state:

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

ATTEMPTED PHOTOGRAPHY, WILL SEND SLIDES IF THEY TURN OUT

Description from notes taken at time of sighting \_\_\_\_\_ notes made later \_\_\_\_\_ from memory \_\_\_\_\_

Observer: KENN KAUFMAN

Signature:

Address: 7934 SABINO SUNRISE CIRCLE  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85715



Other observers who independently identified this bird:

BIRD WAS ORIGINALLY SPOTTED & IDENTIFIED  
BY ELLA SORENSEN

Date prepared: SEPT. 6 1990

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen  
3868 Marsha Drive  
West Valley City, Utah 84120