

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Buff-Breasted Sandpiper

Scientific Name: Tryngites subruficollis

Date: Sept 27, 1992 Time: 10:30 AM

Length of time observed: 25 min

Number: 1 Age: Juv.

Sex: ?

Location: SALT WELLS FLATS, Box Elder Co. Utah

Latilong: Z

Elevation (if known): 4215?

Distance to bird: 50yd to 50ft

Light conditions: Excellent - Am Sun coming from side

Optical equipment: BINOS 10x35
SCOPE 15-40x65

Weather: LIGHT BREEZE, Cool/clear

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

shorebird noticeably larger, longer legged, longer necked, and more upright than the Baird's s.p.'s that it was with. The overall shape was a plump long necked (when in alert position) and smaller ^{square} headed shorebird with a large black eye. The bill was black, thin and relatively short (Approx proportion length of a B.B. Plover's bill but much thinner). The medium length legs were a light yellowish color. The upper parts were a medium brown with all back, coverts, and flight feathers edged with bright buffy white giving the bird a very scaly look rivalling the accompanying Baird's. All under part were soft buff with no markings visible. The buff faded to white on the belly & ventral coverts. The face was the same buff color as the underparts making the eye really stand out. The crown was mottled or streaked brown. when flushed, the under wings were stark white contrasting with underpart color. The trailing edge was dark as was a line at the ~~cost~~ primary underwing coverts. The wing beat seemed more deliberate than the frantic wingbeats of the Baird's. The flight feathers were slightly darker than the rest of the upper parts, as was the tail. Rump brown. No wing lines detected. Wings seemed proportionately long & thin.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NONE heard

Behavior:

Picking at food, would stop and stretch neck & look around

Habitat: IN very shallow water around pickle weed. Water was less than 1/2" deep.

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

Ruff - longer, thicker necked, longer bill, underwing has no dark marking at primary under wing ^{Coverts}

Upland Sandpiper - longer, longer billed (slightly), underparts marked w/ chevrons

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

Buff Breasted - saw the bird in 1990 at Bear River

Ruff - none

Upland - none

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

All descriptions taken in field, but Nat. Geo. & Shorebirds - Hayman et al were consulted

Significance of record in this area or the state:

2nd in state

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

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

Observer: Craig L. Kneedy

Signature:

Address: 314 S. 4500 W.

West Point, Utah 84015



Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared:

10/10/92

Return this form to:

Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120