

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Ruddy Turnstone Scientific Name: *Arenaria interpres*
 Date: 7/24-7/25/94 Time: ~ 9 AM each day Length of time observed: 15' each day
 Number: 1 on 7/24 Age: Adult^{day} Sex: didn't distinguish
 2 on 7/25 sexes.
 Location: Antelope Island Causeway

Lat/long: Elevation (if known): ~ 5200

Distance to bird: 20 yds Light conditions: bright

Optical equipment: 8x binoculars
 and 40x Bushnell
 Weather: clear spotting scope

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

Two birds were sighted on 7/25/94 and stayed on the causeway until at least the next weekend when I saw them again. I sighted one bird on 7/24/94 and went back on 7/25/94 to get pictures when two birds were seen. Both birds had orange legs and black and white chests and facial patterns. The black didn't cross the eyes suggesting the birds were no longer in full breeding plumage. One bird retained ruddy back color, while the second was further along in the molt and had the browner back color of non-breeding birds. Both birds were significantly smaller than the stilt and willet also seen in the photograph. Birds had a hunched and straight appearance different from ^{the shape of} Sandpipers.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Never heard call

Behavior: skittish, didn't seem to enjoy being admired.

Habitat: Beach along causeway

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

Black and white facial and breast pattern, orange leg color and "ruddy" mixed back distinguished from other shorebirds.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

~~Had seen turnstones in Peru at Pasacas Bay~~
First sighting of species.

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

National Geographic

Shorebirds: An Identification Guide

} Bird was identified
} by coloration, orange legs,
and black markings on
face and chest.

Significance of record in this area or the state:

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

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

Observer: Alan Godwin

Signature:

Alan F. Godwin

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Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Dan and Shiela Barnett

Carol Lenz

Date prepared: 8/9/96

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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