

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: Buff-breasted Sandpiper Scientific Name: *Tryngites subruficollis*

Date: 9/3/95 Time: 9:15 a.m. Length of time observed: 30 min.

Number: 2 Age: Juvenile Sex:

Location: North side of Antelope Island Causeway just inside entrance.

Latilong: Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 50 yds Light conditions: Bright

Optical equipment: Bushell spotting scope (up to 45x).

Weather: Sunny.

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

Birds were smaller than Killdeer and the same size as Starlings with which they were mixed. Birds had definite sandpiper shape, but were straw colored. Birds had yellow legs, speckled dark feathers on crown, nape, and on back-side ~~of the~~ and side of the neck. The wing feathers were brown and outlined with straw-colored edges.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: No calls while birds were observed.

Behavior: Poling in mud flats along stream near Great Salt Lake.

Habitat: Mud flats along water puddles and stream.

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

Pattern of dark feathers on the neck and eye were inconsistent with Upland Sandpipers. Rust crown and white underbody of Pectoral Sandpipers were missing. Too small for a Ruff. Coloration pattern inconsistent with Peeps.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

I have seen Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Sanderlings, Semipalmated, Weston, Baird's, and Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Dowitcher in Utah and instantly knew they were not in the above species. I had never seen Ruff-breasted Sandpipers before. Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Peterson's Guide to Western Birds and Shorebirds, An Identification Guide (Hayman, Marchant, and Prater).

Significance of record in this area or the state: 3rd sighting 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: Alan Godwin

Signature: Alan L. Godwin

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Other observers who independently identified this bird: (members of Audubon Birding Group). Anna and Stan Gwiazdowski, Maxine Martz, June Ryburn, Jim and Dorothy Byrne, Clara Elwell, Mary Garcia, Betty Fife, and Yvonne Stroup.

Date prepared: 9/13/95

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