

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 juvenile
3. Locality: Louisiana: Cameron Parish; Second Bayou Field (Mobil), ca 2.5 miles N Holly Beach
4. Date(s) when seen: 4 September 1976
5. Times of day when seen: ca 1630 - 1700
6. Reporting observer and address: Tom Schulenberg, 569 Maxine Dr., Baton Rouge, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: Bruce Crider, Bill Eley, Gary Graham, Bob Kennedy, Ross Kreamer, Bob Newman
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: none
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): generally overcast (light even)
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Bunnell 10x50 Custom binoculars, several telescopes (20x and up)
11. Distance to bird: not too far (to within 20 feet)
12. Duration of observation: ca 20 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):

open expanse of exposed mud near marsh; many shorebirds present, including Buff-breasted, Baird's, Stilt and Pectoral Sandpipers

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):
feeding, by picking from surface of exposed mud; flew a short distance during observation, then resumed feeding; did not appear to associate with other shorebirds in any organized way, although sometimes fed near other birds
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):

Body size about that of Pectoral Sandpiper (several feeding nearby), but appeared slimmer, with longer legs and bill. General impression was of a slender, scaly, long-legged sandpiper.

Upperparts generally gray, but each feather noticeably tipped with buff. This was particularly conspicuous on the back and wing coverts, where the buff edgings produced a prominent "scaly" pattern. A fairly distinct supercilary was clear buff.

The throat and breast were clear buff, similar to the color of the supercilary. There were two or three faint gray streaks at the side of the breast.

In flight: rump white, contrasting with darker tail. Remiges very dark, with a conspicuous white stripe along the base of the secondaries, extending out onto the primaries.

Legs black.

Bill black, thin, long (noticeably longer than nearby Pectorals), slightly but distinctly curved throughout

16. Voice: silent

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

There are only 2 species that could be considered similar:

- ① Stilt Sandpiper - is slightly larger; usually has pale legs; lacks prominent wing-stripe
- ② Dunlin - lacks white rump; has shorter legs, more hunched posture; breast is generally gray (adult winter) or streaked (other plumages)

White-rumped Sandpiper (which isn't at all similar) has shorter straight bill, shorter ^{legs} ~~bill~~, smaller size, less conspicuous wing-stripe, etc. etc.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): No

19. Previous experience with this species: at time of observation, I had seen about a dozen Curlew Sandpipers, most in winter plumage in Europe or Africa; however, I had seen one bird similar to the Cameron bird in California in 1974

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: none

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; X notes made after observation; _____ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter:

Thomas A. Rehr, beg

24. Date and time of writing this account:

15 April 1984