

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

81-36
DUPL

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: Ruff (Philomachos pugnax)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ad. ♂ in winter (basic) plumage
3. Locality: Louisiana: "Magnolia Road"; East Mud Parish: Cameron
Lake Field Road, (Williams Exploration & Texaco)
4. Date(s) when seen: 20 March 1978
5. Times of day when seen: Not specified
6. Reporting observer and address: Thomas S. Schulenberg (LSU Mus. of Zool. DrawerMU Univ. Sta., Baton Rouge, LA 70393)
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: David Hunter, J. William Eley, Brad Lown
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10X, 50 Binoculars & 20X spotting scope, good condition
11. Distance to bird: 25-75 yards
12. Duration of observation: ca 30 min.
13. Habitat (general and specific): Mudflats or slightly inundated areas
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Feeding with Yellowlegs; also observed in flight
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):
General Aspect: A large, brown, rather chunky short-billed shorebird, noticeably larger than accompanying Lesser Yellowlegs; probably about same size as or just smaller than Greater Yellowlegs, but none present in immediate vicinity for direct comparison. In flight with Lesser Yellowlegs, conspicuous by larger size and broader wings.
Bill: A little longer than head. Shorter and stouter in proportion to bird's size than bill of Lesser Yellowlegs. Appeared dark, but color not certain.
Legs: Orange, fairly bright
Head: Details not seen; generally medium brown, with black patch on face at base of bill. Chin white.

Upperparts: Medium or light brown, somewhat mottled with numerous black spots. This pattern presumably effected by dark feathers with light brown edgings.
Underparts: Forepart of neck and breast washed with light brown, paler than back. Brown fading into clear white on lower belly. Flanks clear white with some black spots.
Wings: No obvious wingstripe in flight, although a paler line evident along bases of flight feathers (especially secondaries.)
Tail: A dark terminal band on tail, and a dark stripe down center. Sides of base of tail white, the white extending forward onto the sides of the body.

[Description copied from original notes, see attached sheet-- DBC]

16. Voice:

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

1) For its size and general shape (long-necked and -legged), it is relatively chunkier or heavier than other shorebirds.

2) It is primarily brown (as opposed to the gray and white of a Yellowlegs), at least in basic plumage.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): Photos taken by David Hunter and Bill Eley [but bird not recognizable and are in slide form, so are not included here--DBC]

19. Previous experience with this species: Have seen 3 other Ruffs in the U.S., numerous in Europe

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation;

b) after observation:

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: Prepared by DBCrider, Sec.

24. Date and time of writing this account: 19 May 1981

1978 Philomachus pusillus

1978 Philomachus pusillus Duple

20 MAR LOUISIANA: Cameron Parish, Magnolia Road

20 MAR LA. 15, 1978: Cameron Parish, Magnolia Road

One ♂ (very sized) in basic plumage feeding

Bill: A little longer than head. Slightly not shown

with yellow legs on mudflats or slightly

in proportion to bill's size than bill of last.

isolated areas. This bird had fairly bright

Yellow legs. Appeared dark but color not certain

orange legs, as did 2 of the 3 other Ruffs. 1

legs: Orange, fairly bright

have seen in the U.S. (these two were one at

Head: Details not seen, generally medium brown, with

Casper Christi, Bosses County, Texas, from October

black patch on face at base of bill chin white.

1968 to January 1969, and one I saw at

Leopards: medium or light brown, somewhat mottled

Martinez, Santa Costa County, California, 15-16

with numerous black spots. This pattern presumably

September 1974). The large size, Brown color,

occurred by dark feathers with light brown elongate

and orange legs suggested Ruff as soon as I

underparts: Forepart of neck and breast washed with

saw the bird.

light brown, paler than back. Brown fading into dark

This was the first Ruff recorded in Louisiana.

white on lower belly. Flanks clean white with some

We kept the bird under observation for about 30

black spots.

minutes, with the bird at varying distances (25-

Wings: No obvious wingstreak in flight, although a faint

75 yards) from us. I had available both

line evident along bases of flight feathers (especially

10 150 binoculars and a 20x spotting scope David

secondary)

Hunter took a few photographs of the bird at

Tail: A dark terminal band on tail and a dark stripe

~160' with a 400 mm lens, and Bill Eley made

down center. Sides of base of tail white, the white

separated at 150' with a 500 mm - at the moment

extending forward onto the sides of the body.

we don't know how they will turn out.

The following description is based on notes taken

The following two features seem to characterize

in the field immediately following the observation:

this species:

General aspect: A large, brown colored chunky

3) for its size and general shape (long, narrow and

short-billed shorebird. Noticeably larger than

-legged), it is relatively chunkier on head than

accompanying lesser Yellowlegs, especially about same

about shorebirds.

size as or just smaller than lesser Yellowlegs, but more

2) It is primarily brown (as opposed to the

present in immediate vicinity for direct comparison in

age and make of a yellowlegs, at least in basic

flight with lesser Yellowlegs, conspicuous by longer size

plumage.

