

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: Ruff (*Philomachus Pugnax*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 adult (?) male in inbetween plumage (see description)
3. Locality: Louisiana: New Orleans Parish: Orleans  
(UNO Campus)
4. Date(s) when seen: 8/12/80
5. Times of day when seen: 8:30 AM - noon
6. Reporting observer and address: North Melkin, 2468 Dauphine, Apt B., N.O., LA 70117
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
None
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:  
Mac Myers, David Muth, Lucille McCook, Carolyn Morillo
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): In good morning light
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 7X50 Binoculars and 20-power scope (both in good condition) - actually saw it w/o equipment & knew what it was.
11. Distance to bird: 20 feet to 100+ yards
12. Duration of observation: Total of about 1 1/2 hours
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
Short grass habitat of field between parking lot and London Canal at UNO
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): resting, walking, feeding, and flying.
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):
  1. Brown scalloped back (much browner than Pectorals with which it at times associated).
  2. ~~Head~~ Grayish, unmarked head and neck
  3. Orange yellow legs
  4. Long, black scalloping on chest, looping over ~~its~~ sides onto the back.
  5. Larger than Pectorals, both taller and larger bodied

6. Unlike pictures in books the bill appeared all dark, except for a very thin light colored streak on lower mandible

Although I had never for certain seen a Ruff, the bird looked very much like the 1978 UNO bird as photographed by Fred Berry.

16. Voice: ?

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

Pectorals - bigger and black ~~to~~ scalloping  
Yellowlegs - much bigger bodied and headed, scalloping,  
very brown back and very gray head and neck.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

No.

19. Previous experience with this species:

None

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

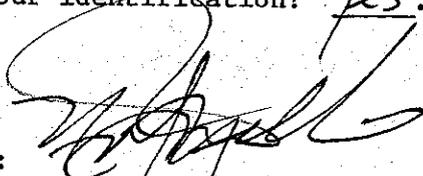
None

b) after observation:

Checked Robbins, Peterson, and Heinzel et al.

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation;  notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory.

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



23. Signature of reporter:

24. Date and time of writing this account:

10/17/80 2:30 PM (since secretary of committee seems not to exist I saw no reason to write it earlier.)

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1. Common and scientific name: Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad in breeding plumage): 1 (post-breeding remains of nuptial plumage?)
3. Locality: Louisiana: Orleans Parish: Main Campus of University of New Orleans, NW corner of campus
4. Date(s) when seen: 12 August 1980
5. Times of day when seen: 1000-1035 CDT
6. Reporting observer and address: B. Mac. Myers 730 Frenchmen St. New Orleans, LA 70116 (504) 945-5998
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: N. Nelkin, David Muth, Lucile McCook, James Whelan
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: Norton Nelkin found the bird earlier that same morning.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good, in the open; the bird was seen in several different positions relative to the sun including down sun and cross-sun.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x50 Bushnell binoculars; 15-45x50 Swift scope
11. Distance to bird: various, as close as perhaps 60 feet or less.
12. Duration of observation: appx. 35 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific): short grass

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):

walking, feeding, standing, flying. The bird's walking gait was conspicuously "herky-jerky", somewhat like Buff-breasted Sandpiper, vaguely chicken-like.

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):

(Transcribed from notes made in the field; the only changes made have been writing out words abbreviated in the field account and making minor grammatical corrections)

The bird was with up to 16 Pectoral Sandpipers and 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers. It was substantially longer than any of the Pectorals and was about twice the body bulk of the smaller Pectorals. Its gait was different; herky-jerky, somewhat like Buff-breasted, vaguely chicken-like. Chin and upper throat - white, contrasting sharply with breast which was heavily marked with black which gradually diminished to scattered black scalloping on lower breast. Belly - whitish or light gray. Head appeared light gray; actually it was very finely streaked. There was a fine, slightly darker line through the eye. Eye - brown. Crown and back of head slightly darker due to heavier concentration of the fine streaks. Upper back and scapulars heavily marked with black on a ground color of rich brown. Lower back and wings rich brown with lighter highlights and also lightly marked with black. Underwings whitish. Rump and tail had dark median area separating two conspicuous white oval patches. Tip of tail - dark.  
(over)

The legs were ~~an~~ a rich buttery yellow. The bill was a darkish gray brown. The basal area of the lower mandible possessed a small area which was lighter, sort of a dull straw color.

16. Voice: *silent*

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

The striking dark markings (presumably (?) remains of nuptial plumage), yellow legs, oval white patches of rump and upper tail eliminate any species I know of. The dark markings were definitely not the result of oiling. The peculiar gait was also characteristic of the only other individual of this species which I have seen.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

*not to my knowledge*

19. Previous experience with this species:

*1 bird in similar plumage in New Orleans two years before this observation.*

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

a) at time of observation; Peterson, Robbins. Field Guides

b) after observation: Peterson (Europe); Heinzel, Fitter, Parslow (Europe); Bent; Pough; King, et al (S.E. Asia); Coes; Ridgway; etc.

21. This description written from:  notes made during observation, and immediately  notes made after observation, memory.

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

*YES*

23. Signature of reporter: *B. Mac. Myers (Buford M. Myers III)*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

*15 December 1980; 2030 CST.*