

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

89-54

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 (Reeve), *Philomachus pugnax*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 ♀ basic
3. Locality: Louisiana: Vermillion Parish: 3.0 mi. N. of Kaplan (from railroad tracks)
4. Date(s) when seen: 21 Oct. 88 and 23 Oct 88
5. Times of day when seen: 1145-1245; 1600-1700
6. Reporting observer and address: Al + Gwen Smalley, 88 Egret St, New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: Mac Myers, first spotted + correctly identified bird.
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: On Oct. 23, Cardiff, Bittmann, Remsen, m. ob.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Overcast, excellent viewing conditions. Actually better on 23 Oct, because sun was low in sky, behind observers.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10 x 40 Zeiss, 27x Bushnell Scope.
11. Distance to bird: 60 yds ±.
12. Duration of observation: 1 hr.
13. Habitat (general and specific):
Rice field. Scattered vegetation. Always in vegetation. Did not venture into deeper water (like Stilt S.)
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): feeding, preening. we did not see it 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):
About size + shape of Yellowlegs. Bill short, black, slightly
downcurved, tapering, approximate shape of Pectoral Sandpiper (but a little slimmer). Head small. Legs light coral or pinkish (this is how Mac first spotted bird)
Eye stripe broad, high (over eye), and better defined behind eye. Upper breast suffused with gray, belly + undertail coverts white. Primaries, secondaries, and tertiaries dark with moderately broad, clearly defined margins, "fresh" looking.

¹ Lesser

Broad white area on side of rump, while preening. Some spotting on side of breast.

The back feathers, especially the tertials, "fluffed up" in the wind.

The head & neck looked almost sooty compared with the bold black remiges, with their conspicuous linings.

16. Voice: none

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

Stilt Sp - longer bill, greenish legs.

L - Yellowlegs - Yellow legs, straight bill.

We did not notice any resemblance to any regularly occurring shorebird of our area

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

We tried, but results were not good.

19. Previous experience with this species: Moderate experience in FL, CA, WA, LA (Gwen), and Africa (Al + Gwen).

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

a) at time of observation; none

b) after observation: Geo Guide, Haymen et al. (we had a chance to check books over the weekend, then go back & check bird again).

21. This description written from: X 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:

28 Oct. 1988

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NOTE: This record already in circulation as submitted by A. + G. Smalley

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1. Common and scientific name: Ruff (Reeve) Philomachus pugnax
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 female - apparently adult basic
3. Locality: Louisiana: Vermillion Parish: Hwy 35 + 700 intersection.
3 mi. north of intersection of Hwys 35 & 14 (Kaplan)
4. Date(s) when seen: 21 October 1988 (seen again 23 October 1988)
5. Times of day when seen: 1145-1215
6. Reporting observer and address: Buford Mac. Myers III
730 Frenchmen St, New Orleans, LA 70116
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
A + Gwen Smalley
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
seen by D. Dittmann, S. Cardiff, V. Rensen, m.d.b., 23 Oct, collected at a later date by Cardiff.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): very good.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
10x40 Zeiss excellent; 22x60 scope - good.
11. Distance to bird: as close as 50-60 yds.
12. Duration of observation: 30 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):
Partially flooded rice field.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Walking and feeding, preening, often partially obscured by vegetation.
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 like Lesser Yellowlegs, but not as leggy; definitely leggier than adjacent Dunlin. Overall a very distinctive shape, rather small round head, plump round-backed appearance. Bill appeared all dark, shape similar to Pectoral, perhaps slightly thinner and slightly decurved. Chin whitish. Head whitish gray, faint eye line more noticeable behind the eye. The nape and upper back were scaly gray. The wings and remaining back were strongly patterned with dark feathers edged with light, the dark was gray, but appeared to have some brownish tones lacking elsewhere on the bird. The upper breast was whitish gray with slightly darker very fine barring. The remaining underparts were whitish except for some irregular spots/blotches at the sides of the breast. The legs were bright pink or ~~pink~~ yellowish-pink depending on the light. (over)

When the bird preened, extensive white at the sides of the upper tail coverts were visible. We had direct comparison with both Yellowlegs, Dunlin and Dowitchers.

16. Voice: N/A

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):
I think that the pattern of coloration and overall size/shape eliminate other species. This is a distinctive species.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):
attempted but failed - bad exposure.

19. Previous experience with this species:
Two Reeves seen previously in LA.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation; Prater, et al; Geographic Guide
b) after observation:

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

22. Are you positive of your identification? yes. If not, explain:
this bird was collected about two (?) weeks later by S. Cardiff

23. Signature of reporter: Buford M. Myer III

24. Date and time of writing this account:

27 April 1989 7:20 pm.