

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 (perhaps 2) in winter (at least not breeding male) plumage
3. Locality: Louisiana: Vermilion Parish: ~ 5 km NW of Kaplan

4. Date(s) when seen: 16 December 1988
5. Times of day when seen: early afternoon
6. Reporting observer and address: David N. Pashley
School of Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries
LSU
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
David Winsate, Ken Rosenberg, Mary Corbett, Pat Murren
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
D. Wingate + K.V. Rosenberg
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Perfect light
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): 10x50 Nikon binoculars - good condition
11. Distance to bird: as close as 10 m
12. Duration of observation: 15 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific): First, on ~~edge~~ mudflat between drier, vegetated road + open water; Second in a wet, plowed field with little or no vegetation
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): Feeding; behaviour apparently typical of shorebirds
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):
Bigger + shorter-billed than adjacent Dunlin. Legs extremely bright yellow-orange. Plumage rather drab.

Note: After seeing the bird, Wingate, Rosenberg + I drove around to other areas. After about 1 hour, we saw a Ruff at a second locality approximately 1 mile from the first. The "first" bird had flown away in a north-by-northeast direction. The second sight was east-by-northeast from the first. The "first" and "second" birds looked about the same as each other. We decided, for little other reason than to be conservative, that these were two sightings of a single individual.

16. Voice: Not heard.

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

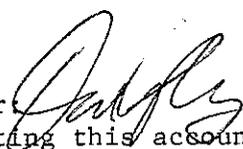
18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?): Not by me.
Rosenberg took photography that I have not seen. Not attached.

19. Previous experience with this species: None

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification
a) at time of observation; D. Wingate initially identified the bird; he has ~~been~~ seen the species many times on Bermuda. I looked at Peterson's Eastern guide.
b) after observation:

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

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

23. Signature of reporter 

24. Date and time of writing this account:

9 January 1984, 2 P.M.

DETAILS CARD: Fill out completely in the field; use back if necessary. CBC: CROWLEY Date: 12/16/88
 Species: Ruff Number/Age/Sex: ♀?
 Count Area/Parish: Vermilion Hwy 699 X 35
 Habitat: flooded rice fields
 Observer/s: David Wingate, K.V. Rosenberg, D. Pasik, P. Marra, M. Egan
 Distance From Bird: 20+m Optics Used: 20-60X scope
 Identification: (Include all field marks observed used to identify this species. Describe voice, if heard, and any behavioral characteristic used in identification).

- medium-sized, rather stocky sandpiper with shortish, straight-looking bill. Most prominent features were bright orange legs & very white underparts including up onto the face and around base of bill. Upperparts were grayish-brown with the appearance of white scaling throughout. Double white rump patch seen clearly in flight. - over -

- bird first seen 1/4 mi. W Hwy 35 on south side of 699 - with Dunlins + Western SP's. Flew ne. across 699, out of sight, with a group of LB Dowitchers + peep. Re-located (?) about 1 hr later, about 1 mile to the east, on n. side of 699, with a mixed group of Dowitchers, Yellowlegs, + peep. Both birds appeared identical in plumage. [I spent much time trying to get photos (should have 1-2 diagnostic) and did not get to critically study the bird for a more detailed description]
 - size seemed closest to Lesser Yellowlegs

written details by Ken Rosenberg -
 3x5 American Birds file card
 written at count compilation

> provided instead of a long Report Form.

