

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the LBRC Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or this format when submitting records for review (to assure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: LBRC Secretary, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

- English and scientific name: CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)
- Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): BREEDING PLUMAGE - COMPLETE? OR ALMOST COMPLETE!
- Locality: LA; VERMILION; — VINCENT REFUGE SET ASIDE. LA Hwy 699 @
LA Hwy 35 (NE
GNR)
5/13/91 SOUTH OF SOUTH BOUNDARY ROAD, WEST END OF BLACK TOP.
5/14/91 WEST OF WEST BOUNDARY ROAD, SOUTH END OF GRAVEL ROAD.
state parish
specific locality
- Date(s) when seen: 5/13/91 & 5/14/91 (THOUGHT TO BE DIFFERENT BIRDS)
- Times of day when seen: 5/13/91 1700 - 1730
*5/14/91 (REPORTED BY OTHERS - MID-DAY SIGHTING)
5/14/91 1500 - 1900
- Reporting observer and address:
CHARLES A. BUTTERWORTH; 400 HARNELL DR.; LAFAYETTE, LA.; 70503
- Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
5/13/91 - GEORGE BROUSSARD; 5/14/91 - GEORGE BROUSSARD,
5/14/91 - PAUL CONOVER & BROTHER, BILL FONTENOT, HENRY MILLER,
DAVE YATTON, DANNY DOBBS, ROB DOBBS.
- Other observers who independently identified the bird:
* ROBB DOBBS. (REPORTED 5 BIRDS)
- Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): 5/13/91 - GOOD: BRIGHT SUN FROM RIGHT OF OBSERVERS.
5/14/91 - FAIR TO POOR, BACK LIGHTED, BEST VIEWING WHEN SUN DIMMED BY CLOUDS.
- Optical equipment (type, power, condition): SPOTTING SCOPES; 3 KOWAS (20-60) X 27,
1 NIKON (15-45) X 60, 1 B&H 32 X 60 (OLD) - GOOD CONDITION.
- Distance to bird: VARIOUS 30 YD, 50 YD, 100 YD & MORE,
- Duration of observation: 5/13/91 30 MIN +
5/14/91 4 HR +
- Habitat: RECENTLY DRAINED MUDDY FIELD WITH SHALLOW PONDS,
OR RUDDLES, IN PREPARATION FOR PLANTING RICE.
- Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification): FEEDING: PROBING DEEP TO FULL LENGTH OF BILL
(THIS MAY HAVE OBSERVED ANY WHITE FEATHERING AT BASE OF BILL THAT MAY HAVE EXISTED BUT WAS NOT OBSERVED, I.E. MUD COVERED), PECKING SEMILAR TO LESSER YELLOWLEGS, FLIPPING SEMILAR TO RUDDY TURNSTONE. SUDDEN SHORT FLIGHTS WITH SANDPIPER FLOCK WITH WHICH IT WAS ASSOCIATING, I.E. MIXED FLOCKS OF LARGELY WHITE-RUMPED WITH SEMI-PALMATED AND WESTERNS. ALSO RUDDY-TURNSTONE, SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER, MANY DUNLIN, STILT SANDPIPER, & SOME BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.

LATE IN THE EVENING MANY HUDSONIAN GULLS WERE SEEN
AND ONE BLACK TURN. (DAVE PATTON, PAUL CONOVER & BROTHER,
STEVE GARY)

5/14/91 From 0600 - 1900; SEVERAL HUNDRED WHIMBRELS WERE
SEEN AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE DAY!

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

COMPARED IN SIZE CLOSELY TO DUNLIN BUT NOT SO CHUNCKY (CLOSE PROXIMITY COMPARISON) COMPARED IN SIZE FAIRLY CLOSELY TO KILLDEER BUT THINNER NECKED. (CLOSE PROXIMITY COMPARISON). ONE OBSERVER COMMENTED ON BIRD BEING WIDE WHEN FACING OBSERVER.

5/13/91 - RUSTY RED NECK AND BREAST EXTENDING TO LEGS, WHITE UNDER-TAIL COVERTS, SOME RUSTY MARKING AROUND VENT. DARK LEGS, JOINTS SEEMED DARKER, EYE RING APPEARED BROKEN WITH UPPER PORTION MORE OF AN EYE BROW LINE. LOWER FORWARD PORTION OF WING LIGHTER THAN MOTTLED CHEST NOT COLORED BACK. EYE SEEMED LARGE, POSSIBLY DUE TO EYE RING. 5/14/91 ONE POSSIBLY TWO BIRDS. (NOTE POORER LIGHTING) BACK SEEMED LIGHTER. FAINT GLIMPSE OF EYEBROW LINE, LOWER PORTION OF EYE RING NOT SEEN, WHITE AT BASE OF BILL NOT SEEN, WING BAR NOT SEEN. ALL SIGHTINGS CONFIRM SLIGHTLY DOWN TURNED BILL. - WHITE RUMP SEEN IN SHORT FLIGHTS.

16. Voice:

NOT NOTED.!

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

DUNLIN: PRESENT FOR COMPARISON, DIFFERENT BREEDING PLUMAGE, CHUNCKER THAN C.S.

RED KNOT: GENERALLY FOUND ALONG BEACHES. BILL SHAPE, NO EYE BROW LINE. LEG COLOR, I.E. DARK BLACKISH VS GREENISH. BACK COLORATION AND MARKING, I.E. BACK COLOR OF C.S. MORE BROWNISH-RED THAN GRAYISH OF R.K.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? ~~At what?~~):

BILL FOUJENOT } LAFAYETTE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY } CONTACT MUSEUM FOR
PAUL CONOVER } 318-268-5544 ; 318-235-6181 } PHOTOS.

19. Previous experience with this species: NONE

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

a) at time of observation: RTP - EASTERN BIRDS; NGS - BIRDS OF NA.
RTP - WESTERN BIRDS; AUDUBON SOCIETY MGB.
b) after observation: BEST ILLUSTRATION RTP - EASTERN BIRDS.

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation; notes made after observation (date: 5/13 & 5/14/91); _____ memory.

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

23. Signature of reporter: Charles A. Butcherworth

24. Date and time of writing this account: 9:45 pm 5/14/91

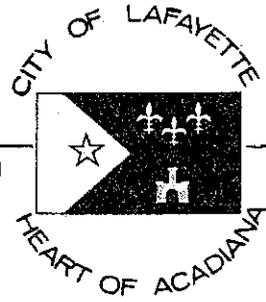
PTO FOR COMMENTS ON FIELD GUIDE ILLUSTRATIONS

Contb. 5/14/91

COMPARISON OF FIELD GUIDE ILLUSTRATIONS TO WHAT WAS SEEN:

- ✓ 1. R.T.P. EASTERN BIRD GUIDE. — MOST CLOSELY ILLUSTRATES WHAT WAS SEEN.
- ✓ 2. R.T.P. WESTERN BIRD GUIDE — GOOD ILLUSTRATION EXCEPT THAT CHEST COLORS MAY BE TOO REDDISH RUST BUT LACK OF WHITE AT BILL BASE IS WHAT WAS NOTED.
- X 3. N.G.S. BIRDS OF N.A. — NO EYE BROW LINE, NO EYE RING, WING BAR NOT NOTED, RUST COLOR OF BREAST EXTENDS PAST LEGS TO UNDERTAIL COVERTS.
- X 4. AUDUBON MGB — EYE RING (UNDER EYE) NOT PROMINANT, LIGHT PATCH ON LOWER FORWARD PORTION OF WING NOT EVIDENT, RUSTY RED EXTENDS FROM BREAST TO UNDERTAIL COVERTS — POSSIBLY A MORE ADVANCED STAGE OF BREEDING PLUMAGE?
- X 5. COLLINS' N.G.G. BIRDS OF BRITAIN & EUROPE — ILLUSTRATION LACKS EYE RING AND EYEBROW LINE. FORWARD LOWERED PORTION OF WING WAS LIGHTER IN COLOR. GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF UNDERTAIL COVERTS.
- X 6. COLLINS' POCKET GUIDE TO BRITISH BIRDS (#A2.) TOO MUCH WHITE ON THROAT. EYE RING BUT NO EYEBROW LINE. PORTION OF WING BELOW SHOULDER TOO DARK. WHITE AT BASE OF BILL NOT OBSERVED.

LAFAYETTE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
PLANETARIUM AND NATURE STATION
PHONE: (318) 268-5544
FAX: (318) 261-8041
637 GIRARD PARK DRIVE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70503-2896



23 May 1991

Dear Donna :

Enclosed is a completed LBRC report form with accompanying photographic evidence stemming from a sighting of a Curlew Sandpiper found adjacent to the Vincent Mini-Refuge in Vermilion parish on 14 May.

Though, the photos/slides leave much to be desired (we had tremendous backlighting problems due to the sun setting directly behind the bird), I hope that crucial features such as the thin, completely decurved bill, chestnut breast, throat, face & belly vs. creamy lower belly & vent, and "blond" wing coverts are discernable enough to support this sighting. Slides are best viewed with projector about 2 or 3 feet from the screen. If I can be of any further assistance please write or call.

Bill

P.S. I will send the best photo that I have, AS SOON AS it comes back from the copy place.

REPORT FORM

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1. English and scientific name: Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): one adult in breeding plumage
3. Locality: Louisiana; Vermilion Parish, Vincent Mini-Refuge
state parish
muddy field adjacent to west boundary of Vincent Mini-Refuge (see map)
specific locality
4. Date(s) when seen: 14 May 1991
5. Times of day when seen: 3:45-5:00PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Bill Fontenot, Lafayette Natural Hist. Mus.
637 Girard Park Drive
Lafayette, LA 70503
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:
Charles Butterworth, George Broussard, Paul Conover, Henry Miller
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): some backlighting problems; improving to excellent light during periods when sun was partially obscured by clouds.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Kowa TSN-2 Variable Power. Photos produced using this scope lens onto a Nikon FTN w/photo adapter.
11. Distance to bird: 30-100 yds. (varied as bird moved).
12. Duration of observation: 1 hr. 15 min.
13. Habitat: muddy field
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification): flight characteristics much the same (direct w/rapid wingbeats) as the Dunlin and White-rumped Sandpipers which this bird associated with. In feeding, it was consistently observed to push its bill very deeply (at least 75% of its length) into the mud. It's not known whether this habit is typical of the species, or was simply a function of the food item selection on that particular day and in that particular field.

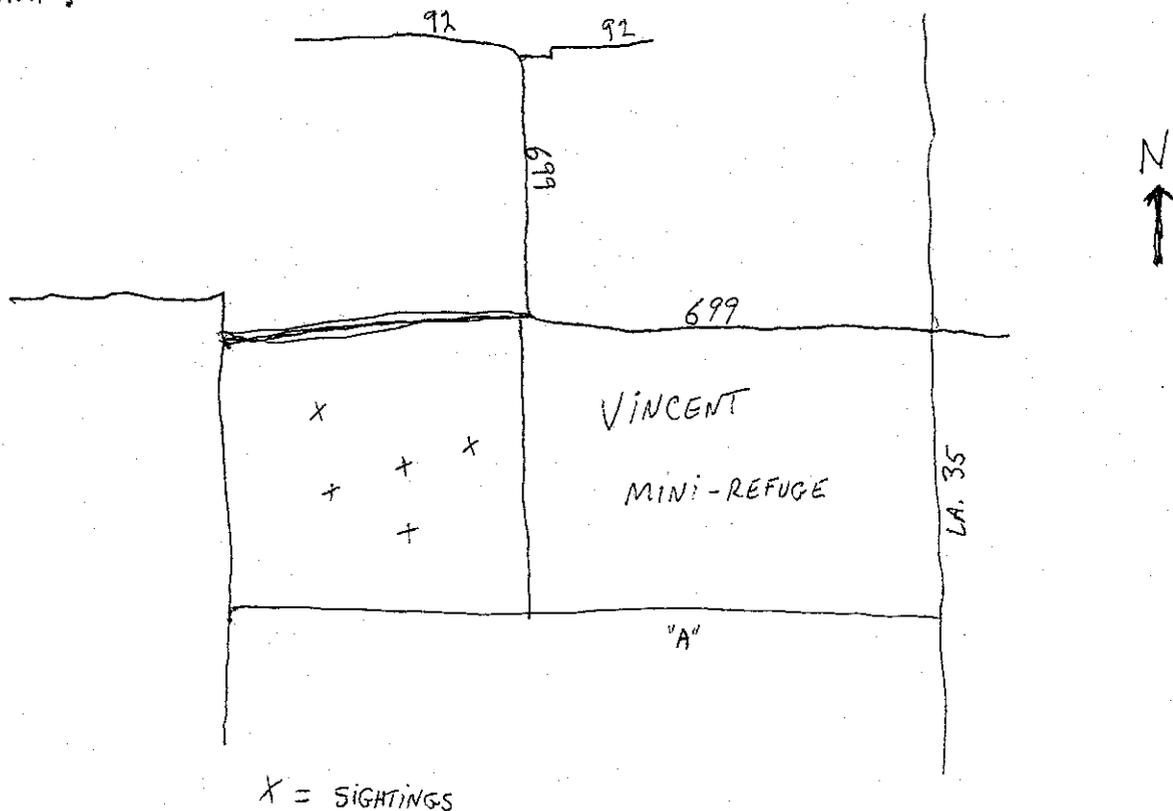
DESCRIPTION of 14 May 1991 Curlew Sandpiper sighting (contd)

Additional field marks appeared as the bird took flight on several different occasions. As it alternately joined in small flocks of Dunlin and mixed flocks of Semipalmated, Western, and White-rumped Sandpipers, its very deep, dark overall coloration made it highly conspicuous. In flight, it displayed an immaculate white rump patch, along with a thin but distinctive (more so than in the Dunlin or peeps) white line along the inserts of the primaries and secondaries on the upper wing.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: At least two of the 5 observers mentioned the presence of an additional individual of this (reported) species as I was busy photographing. They were well aware of the bird that I was working on and of its position (at that time, about 30 yards away, and directly in front of us) in the field. They indicated the presence of this additional individual to be about 100 yds. to the left (south) of the bird that I was photographing. Additionally, I received a call at the museum at 2PM earlier in the day reporting that a birder (Rob Dobbs) had located "several" Curlew Sandpiper in this same field sometime between 10AM and noon on 14 May. I have banded with this individual twice before and feel that he is capable of separating most of the common resident and migrating shorebird species in our area. Also, Butterworth and Broussard mentioned that the bird which I was photographing was "different" in minor details from the individual that they observed and reported from a field adjoining the southern boundary of the mini-refuge on 13 May. Finally, Paul Conover reported a movement of the bird that he and I photographed (the same bird described in this report) into a field containing newly sprouted rice and at least 3" of water. This occurred sometime after 5PM on 14 May.

see "A"
below

MAP:



Donna-

By now you may have received word of Curlew Sandpiper sightings in Vincent Refuge May 13-14, '91. One was seen on the 13th & apparently the discoverers of the bird were watching an individual a few hundred feet from me while I was photographing. This one May 14th Two is amazing. A fellow reported having seen "several" in the same fields earlier in afternoon of 14th, but he was out searching for the birds & may have seen something else. I do not know the guy or his abilities but I think that they could easily be determined; we'll see.

R

P.S. am developing another roll of Curlew Sandpiper shots which may be better than these.



CURLEW SANDPIPER / PEEPS

91-26

VINCENT MINI-REFUGE - VERMILION PARISH, LA.

NOTE THIN DECURVED BILL

photo by: BILL FONTENOT



91-26
Curlew Sandpiper 14 May 1991
Vincent Mini-Refuge - Vermilion Parish, LA.
(Golden/Tawny/Buff Coverts evident)

photo by: BILL FONTENOT



Curlew Sandpiper / Killdeer

91-26

VINCENT MINI-REFUGE - Vermilion Parish, LA.

NOTE CREAMY LOWER BELLY/VENT

photo by Bill FONTENOT



91-26

Curlew Sandpiper. May 14th 1991. P. Conover
Vermilion Parish, LA.