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## LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

## Report Form

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

1. English and Scientific names: *Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea)*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):  
1, either molting into alternate plumage or a dull (female?) bird, already in alternate.
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) Vermilion Parish, Near Kaplan.  
Specific Locality: about 1/4 mile E of intersection of Hwy 35 and Gladu Rd, on Gladu Rd.
4. Date(s) when observed:  
5/6/02
5. Time(s) of day when observed:  
5:30 PM
6. Reporting observer and address:  
PAUL CONOVER  
501 Adrienne St, LAFAYETTE, LA 70506
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *Identified* the bird(s):  
DAVE PATTON
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
Great. I was on Gladu looking due North into the field. The ~~sun~~ sun was still fairly high in the WNW. Birds were lit up against a dark background. The bird was often against a background of mud, providing good color contrast.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
Kowa 20-60x;
11. Distance to bird(s):  
First seen at around 50 yards. The bird flew/foraged to within 30 yds.
12. Duration of observation:  
1.5 hours
13. Habitat:  
Draining field, mostly flooded but w/ mud flat. Bird was feeding at the mud/water line, in water puddles and on the middle of the flat itself.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

Fed actively. Took long strides and walked w/ body on the horizontal, bill pointed downward.

I was working a large flock of shorebirds on the flat; dunlin, turnstones, stilt sandpipers & peeps. This bird stood out. Luckily it only changed locations a few times, actually coming very close once.

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

Medium-sized shorebird (similar in size to Dunlin) with long black decurved bill and fairly long black legs (intermediate in length between Stilt Sandpiper and Dunlin). Overall rusty red. On face, red streaked with whitish; red most pronounced on auriculars. Crown apparently red w/ brown streaking. Supercilia paler than auriculars, and chin whitish. Red of throat, breast and belly with whitish fringe, giving underparts a wavy or scalloped look. Feathers at base of femurs white. Vent & undertail white w/ some red barring. Mantle molting, with new alternate feathers coming in in patches. These new feathers dark w/ broad white edges; in effect, a dark chevron. Retained basic feathers grey w/ faint dark shafts (wing coverts largely retained). Tail ~~to voice~~: dark, uppertail coverts white w/ some darker transverse barring. Rump therefore whitish (w/out dark median band). Underwings white, upperwings grayish with darker trailing edge and broad whitish wingbar formed by white tips of greater and primary coverts and perhaps pale bases of primaries. Eyes dark, bill and legs black.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

Similar species: Overall color eliminates Stilt Sandpiper & Dunlin. Bill shape eliminates dowitchers. Safe to say this bird is impossible to misidentify.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes. Videotape.

19. Previous experience with this species: One previous encounter, perhaps 10 years ago. Extensive experience w/ all expected species.

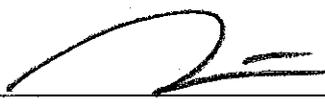
20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:  notes made during the observation (  notes attached?);  notes made after the observation (date: );  memory.  video

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

23. Signature of reporter: 

Date: 5/7/02 Time: 2:40

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Louisiana Ornithological Society's

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1. English and Scientific names: CURLEW SANDPIPER, *Calidris ferruginea*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 IN ALTERNATE PLUMAGE
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: ~~VERMILION~~  
(parish)  
GLADU ROAD JUST EAST OF LA 35  
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed:  
11 MAY 2002
5. Time(s) of day when observed:  
~ 10:15 - 11:00 AM & 5:30 - 5:45 PM (CDT)
6. Reporting observer and address:  
JOSEPH P. KLEIMAN  
15913 MALVERN HILL  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70817
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):  
JOANNE KLEIMAN, LATER GARY PONTIFF, OTHER LAKE  
CHARLES BIRDERS
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):  
DAVID MUTH, MAC MYERS, PAUL CONOVER, ROGER BREED-  
LOVE, OTHERS
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): GOOD IN AM AS MY VANTAGE POINT WAS TO  
SSE OF BIRD
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
LEICA TELEVID, 20 TO 40X, GOOD
11. Distance to bird(s):  
~ 50-100 YDS.
12. Duration of observation:  
~ 30 MINUTES OFF & ON
13. Habitat: A DRYING CRAWFISH POND, BACK PART OF  
POND WETTER THAN PART NEARER ROAD

14. **Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation** (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):  
 FEEDING ON WET MUD OR SOMETIMES IN THE WATER WITH A PROBING MOTION SIMILAR TO THAT OF DUNLIN
15. **Description** (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; include if possibly: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species, body bulk, shape, proportions, bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species): A DUNLIN-SIZED SHOREBIRD - RICH CHESNUT-RED HEAD AND UNDERPARTS EXCEPT FOR THE WHITISH UNDERTAIL COVERTS - A MUCH DARKER RED THAN THE RED UNDERPARTS OF THE NEARBY DOWITCHERS - BLACK BILL SLIGHTLY DECURVED THE WHOLE LENGTH - IT GAVE THE BIRD A DISTINCTIVE PROFILE WHEN COMPARED TO THE NEARBY DUNLINS - BILL LENGTH RELATIVELY LONG (N THAT OF STILT SANDPIPER BUT MORE DECURVED THAN STILT S.) BACK GAVE A REDDISH, MOTTLED APPEARANCE, DISTINCTIVE ALSO
16. **Volce:**  
 NOT HEARD
17. **Similar species** (include how they were eliminated by your observation):  
 DOWITCHER (SP) - COLOR MUCH RICHER, BILL LENGTH, SHAPE DIFF  
 RED KNOT - BILL LENGTH, SHAPE DIFF  
 STILT SAND. - UNDERPARTS DIFF, BILL SHAPE DIFF, STILT S. BILL DECURVED ONLY AT TIP
18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained?** (by whom? attached?):  
 I DIDN'T GET ANY BUT I PAUL CONOVER MAY HAVE (ON THIS DAY)
19. **Previous experience with this species:**  
 SAW IT ONCE IN SPRING IN LA, SEVERAL TIMES IN SPRING IN ONTARIO & MICHIGAN - SEEN IN EUROPE AND ISRAEL ON A FEW OCCASIONS
20. **Identification aids:** (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):
- at time of observation: RECOGNIZED SPECIES IMMEDIATELY WHEN FOUND BUT DID DISCUSS IT WITH OTHERS DURING OBSERVATIONS
  - after observation:  
 NONE
21. This description is written from: \_\_\_ notes made during the observation (\_\_\_ notes attached?); \_\_\_ notes made after the observation (date: \_\_\_);  
 ✓ memory.
22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: YES
23. **Signature of reporter:** Joseph P. Klerman 5/15/02 9:00 PM  
 (date) (time)