

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: **Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One, presumed non-breeding (perhaps second-year) male in basic plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **Jefferson Davis Parish**

Specific Locality: **off Illinois Plant Rd. (ca. 0.5 mi. N of parish line, ca. 1.5 mi. S of LA-14), ca. 3 mi. S of Hayes**
4. Date(s) when observed: **27 July 2012**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **2:45-4:15 PM CDT**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler
Lancaster, PA**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **none**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **Dave Patton on 28 July,
Mary Mehaffey, Janine Robin, Jay Huner et al. on 31 July.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light)

**Generally partly cloudy to clear sky with optimal PM sunlight. Sun angle high.
Some sun glare and backlighting issues but not adversely impacting identification.**
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Kowa TSN 881
Angled 88mm scope w/ 20-60x optical zoom, Canon Powershot SD1100 IS (all
equipment in excellent condition).**
11. Distance to bird(s): **ca. 150 meters**
12. Duration of observation: **approx. 1.25 hrs**

13. Habitat: **Open agricultural land in rice/ crawfish-growing region. Recently disked and partially flooded, cultivated ag. field within complex of fallow ag. fields, overgrown fallow fields, flooded aquaculture impoundments, freshwater borrow pits/ irrigation canals, wooded edges, riparian corridors, brushy edges, roadside scrub, in rural residential area.**

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

Actively feeding in flooded sections (preferring to stay in standing water) with mixed-spp. aggregation of shorebirds. More closely associated with both yellowlegs spp. but generally in loose association with all shorebirds present. Movements quick and deliberate as it methodically fed over a broad area. Occasionally resting to preen, etc. but only for very short periods of time. Almost always in motion. Never observed in flight.

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):

A large, stocky shorebird with generally brownish upperparts and pale underparts. Buffy brown head, crown, and nape. Whitish forehead (and bill base) and lower face (below eye). Dull gray-brown upperparts with pale-fringed upperwing coverts and scapulars (rendering a scalloped appearance). Pale gray-brown wash on upper breast contrasting with very white lower breast, flanks, and belly. Sparse gray-brown flecking on sides. Overall blackish bill with orange at base (suggestive of male). Dark brown irides. Yellow-orange legs and feet. Brighter bare part coloration suggestive of male.

Perhaps a non-breeding male retaining basic (winter) plumage due to retarded plumage maturation or hormonal deficiency. Perhaps summering south of breeding grounds. Very unlikely (much too early) a southbound adult completed with prebasic molt.

16. Voice: **Silent.**

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

Both yellowlegs spp. eliminated by overall size, structure, and plumage. Much larger, stockier than Lesser Yellowlegs (LEYE). More robust bill than either yellowlegs spp. Bicolored bill eliminates both yellowlegs spp. Paler brown

upperparts and generally unmarked white underparts unlike both yellowlegs spp. Extensive white on face eliminates both yellowlegs spp.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Yes, digiscoped photos attached. Photos by Devin Bosler.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Very familiar with this species from a few previous encounters in U.S. (CA, NY) including one other individual in LA (Cameron Prairie NWR, Cameron Parish on 23 Sep 2007).**

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

a. at time of observation: **none**

b. after observation: **National Geographic Complete Birds of N.A. (Alderfer et al. 2005)**

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

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

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **19 January 2013** Time: **11:00 PM EST**











