

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)
 2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): one, probable female
 3. Parish: Jefferson Davis
- Specific Localities: just SE/E of Hwy. 14 X Hwy. 99, Kevin M. Berken Farm, a few miles SW of Thornwell
4. Date(s) when observed: 22-23 September 2013, 23 October 2013
 5. Time(s) of day when observed: on 9/22, from about 3:00-4:30 PM; on 9/23, about 8:10 AM; on 10/23, late afternoon.
 6. Reporting observers and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
 7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): on 22-23 Sep., NONE. On 23 Oct., we had a group of Yellow Rails and Rice participants with us, including Dave Patton (?) who had been leading another field trip that day.
 8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): NONE.
 9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): on 22 Sep., it was overcast but light was OK (see photos). On 23 Sep. it was clear and lighting was OK (see photos). On 23 Oct. not sure about weather conditions but pretty sure it was sunny; bird was in a flooded field to our SE with the sun behind us.
 10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Leica trinovid 10 X 42's and through viewfinder of Nikon D300S (DLD); Leica ultravid 10 X 50's (SWC); Kowa 20-60X zoom telescope in good condition.
 11. Distance to bird(s): 50-300 meters.
 12. Duration of observation: about 45 minutes combined during four encounters.
 13. Habitat: shallowly flooded agricultural fields.
 14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

22 Sep.- SWC was driving an ATV on the Berken Farm and stopped to look at a concentration of shorebirds about 50 meters away in a flooded field close to the south side of Hwy. 14 about ¼ mile east of Hwy. 99. He quickly recognized a Reeve among hundreds of Long-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs and called DLD on his cell phone to alert her (DLD was at the Berken house). Within a couple minutes the shorebird flock flushed and most of the birds did not return to the field. SWC rejoined DLD and we drove our vehicle east on Hwy. 14 trying to relocate the Reeve. We found a concentration of shorebirds in a large flooded field on the north side of Hwy. 14 about 1/3 mile east of Hwy. 99. After scanning the field we found the Reeve foraging near a roosting flock of Long-billed Dowitchers and other shorebirds. DLD obtained distant photos (birds 200-300 meters out). Relatively soon thereafter the shorebirds flushed and departed to the north out of sight.

23 Sep.- DLD was walking near the original field east of the Berken house and miraculously spotted the Ruff flying past and managed to snap some photos as the bird headed north across Hwy. 14.

23 Oct.- The original field was packed with foraging and roosting shorebirds in the late afternoon. We were leading a YRARF group and arrived at the Berken Farm after another field trip group had arrived and were looking at the shorebirds in the field. DLD commenced to scoping the shorebirds and quickly located the Reeve, which we were able to show to everyone over about a 5-10 minute period. Other observers that showed up right after we were there could not locate the bird.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

See photos. Medium-sized shorebird, roughly same size as Lesser Yellowlegs, slightly larger than Stilt Sandpiper. Relatively long legs, appearing yellow-orange. Chunky build. Medium length bill, thicker at base, tapering to tip, and slightly drooped towards tip, blackish. Top of head and upper back grayish brown, rest of upper parts darker with pale fringes to back feathers causing scalloped appearance. Pale area around base of bill contrasting with darker upper face and top of head. Lower face and throat whitish. Breast pale washed with buffy brown. Rest of under parts whitish with dark flecks on sides of breast. In flight, large oval white patches on sides of rump, and primary molt obviously in progress.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): closest contender is Pectoral Sandpiper, which is clearly eliminated by the photos.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes, by DLD on 9/22/13 & 9/23/13.

19. Previous experience with this species: we have seen the species multiple times in AK (SWC), CA, and LA. We have now seen close to ten in LA.

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

a. at time of observation: NONE.

b. after observation: NONE.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

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

23. Date: 10 March 2015

Time: 6 PM









