

# 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 male
3. Locality: Vermilion Parish  
Specific Locality: 30.064771, -92.245608; on Gladu Road just west of Hwy 700, Kaplan
4. Date(s) when observed: 15 and 20 Jan 2018,
5. Time(s) of day when observed: ca. 3:40-4:00
6. Reporting observer and address: Paul Conover, Lafayette, LA
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Phillip Wallace
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): Clear, late afternoon sunlight from behind me hitting the bird.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss 10s, Nikon D3300 with 200 mm lens, Nikon Fieldscope 20-60x, Samsung S8 phone camera
11. Distance to bird(s): From about 100 yards down to about 25 yards
12. Duration of observation: about 20 minutes, until I lost the bird on 15 Jan, a shorter duration on 20 Jan
13. Habitat: Flooded field with emergent grasses
14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation: When first seen, the bird was sleeping in a mixed flock of yellowlegs and dowitchers. Upon being startled by something, the flock got up en masse and relocated. The bird began to move around, and after a while, the flock moved again, this time closer to me. Within a few minutes the flock startled again and the bird appeared to cross a levee to another field. Searching that field a few minutes later, I was unable to relocate it.
15. Description:  
  
A large, bulky shorebird with white underparts, a scaly light brown back, a white bridge over the bill base, and orange legs.  
  
Underparts bright white, with inconspicuous pale grayish marbling across the lower neck and upper breast, continuing onto the flanks.  
  
Upperparts overall a scaly warm brown. Some scapulars medium brown with the medium brown tapering to the shaft distally and light brown filling in the ovals on each vane subterminally, and the feather fringed broadly

with pale buff or whitish. Tertiaries thinly fringed, dark brown-centered, with regularly spaced light brown notches creating a sawblade pattern. Rump broad and white with dark line down center, tail dark but barely extending beyond white rump. Dorsal half of head and neck grayish brown, chin and throat white, white extending onto face to the bottom of the eye then broadly over bridge of bill, creating a white "face." White eye crescents above and below eye.

Legs about like yellowlegs, perhaps shorter, orange. Bill about the length of head, thin, broader at base and narrowing to tip. Bill dark, weakly pale-based. Eye dark.

In terms of length and wingspan, probably smaller than Greater Yellowlegs, but very heavy-bodied, probably with more body mass than Greater Yellowlegs.

16. Similar species: Bulkier in build than Greater Yellowlegs and with orange legs, stouter bill.

17. Voice: Not heard.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Photos by me

19. Previous experience with this species: Only in Louisiana, where I've seen perhaps a half-dozen.

20. This description is written from memory and photos.

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

22. Date: 01/17/2018 (Updated on 4 Jul 2019 to include 20 Jan 2018 sighting)











