

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: RUDDY TURNSTONE

Scientific Name: AREMARIA INTERPRES

Date: SEPT. 6 1990

Time: ± 12:30 P.M.

Length of time observed: 3 MINUTES

Number: 1

Age: JUV

Sex:

Location: BEAR RIVER REFUGE

Latilong:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: ± 20 YARDS

Light conditions: EXCELLENT

Optical equipment: ZEISS 10x40

Weather: CLEAR, WARM, LIGHT BREEZE

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

LOOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH KILLDEER & CLOSE TO THEIR SIZE ALTHOUGH MORE COMPACT, SHORTER-NECKED, SHORTER-LEGGED, SHORTER-TAILED. BILL SHORT & CHISEL-SHAPED, THICK AT BASE AND SHARPLY POINTED AT TIP WITH ILLUSION OF BEING SLIGHTLY UPTURNED, APPARENTLY ALL BLACK. HEAD BROWN OVERALL WITH PALER AREAS ON FOREHEAD, REGION OF SUPERCILIUM, & MALAR REGION, AND WHITE ~~AND~~ ^{ON} THROAT, GIVING THE HEAD A STRONGLY VARIEGATED LOOK BUT WITHOUT SHARP LINES OF CONTRAST BETWEEN THE DARK & LIGHT AREAS. UPPERPARTS (BACK, SCAPULARS, WINGS) LOOKED ENTIRELY WARM BROWN WHEN STANDING, WITH NARROW PALE EDGINGS TO ~~THE~~ THE SCAPULARS & THE LARGER COVERTS, FOR A SUBTLE BUT NEATLY DEFINED SCALLOPED EFFECT. ON THE UNDERPARTS, BELOW THE WHITE THROAT, THE CENTER OF THE CHEST WAS VERY NARROWLY WHITE, BUT TO EITHER SIDE OF THIS STRIP THE CHEST WAS PALE BROWN; THE BROWN BREAST PATCH ON EACH SIDE HAD A HEAVY BLACKISH-BROWN LOWER BORDER WITH A ROUNDED LOWER OUTLINE, CONTRASTING STRONGLY WITH THE WHITE OF THE LOWER UNDERPARTS. LEGS RELATIVELY SHORT, DULL PALE ORANGE. IN FLIGHT A STRIKING PATTERN WITH A LONG WHITE WING BAR, LONG WHITE STRIPE DOWN CENTER OF LOWER BACK, TAIL WITH WHITE BASE AND BLACK TIP.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery:

NONE HEARD

Behavior:

DURING OUR OBSERVATION, THE TURNSTONE (& ITS KILLDEER COMPANIONS) WERE JUST WATCHING US NERVOUSLY — ONCE THEY ALL FLEW OUT & CIRCLED ONCE, CAME BACK TO THE FLATS

Habitat:

DRIED-OUT FLATS ADJACENT TO CHANNEL

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

NOTHING IS VERY SIMILAR EXCEPT BLACK TURNSTONE, WHICH WOULD LOOK DARKER AND DULLER OVERALL IN ANY PLUMAGE, PARTICULARLY LACKING THE OBVIOUS PALE AREAS ON THE FACE & CHEST, & WOULD USUALLY HAVE DARKER/DULLER LEGS.

IDENTIFIED THE BIRD AS A JUVENILE BECAUSE IT HAD RELATIVELY FRESH PLUMAGE, NEAT PATTERN OF PALE EDGINGS ON UPPER PARTS (& LACK OF ANY TRACE OF RUSTY THERE), & NO SHARP CONTRASTS ON THE FACE

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

VERY FAMILIAR WITH ALL NORTH AMERICAN SHOREBIRDS (ALL EXCEPT ESKIMO CURLEW!) AND WITH MOST EURASIAN SPECIES

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

NONE

Significance of record in this area or the state:

APPARENTLY RARE ANYWHERE IN UTAH

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

ONE POOR BUT DIAGNOSTIC SLIDE ATTACHED

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later _____ from memory _____

— IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGHTING

Observer: KENN KAUFMAN

Signature:



Address: 7934 SABINO SUNRISE CIRCLE
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85715

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

ELLA SORENSEN

Date prepared: 20 OCT. 1990, FROM NOTES TAKEN 6 SEPT.

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120