

Species: Ruddy Turnstone
(Vernacular name)Arenaria interpres
(Scientific name)FALL

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 8/10/95 Time Bird Seen: 10:00am to 10:15amLocality: Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Callao, Junb Co., Utah
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: Kowa TSN-4 Spotting Scope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: BreedingLight conditions: ExcellentDistance from bird, and how measured: 150 yds., Visual EstimateDescribe the bird's overall behavior: walked the shore line (out of the water) apparently looking for food. would occasionally peck at the shore. Did not see it turn a stone - the shoreline consisted mainly of mud and sand. Occasionally it would stop and look around (probably at me).Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Ibis Unit - shallow marsh w/ little vegetation aside from saltgrass on exposed areas. The bird worked ~~in~~ a band (~10ft) of mud/sand shoreline on a shallow island between the saltgrass and the water. The island also had stilts, western sandpipers, snowy plovers, greater yellowlegs, and phalaropes ^{off and around it.}
Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):None. 8/28/95 - A second Ruddy Turnstone (winter plumage) has been seen in Ibis Unit on several occasions. This bird has been independently verified by: Jay K. Banta, Fish Springs NWR, Box 568, Dugway, UT and ~~_____~~ Terry Sadler, 887 Germania Ave., Murray, UT 84123

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field. At first glance, I thought it was a black-bellied plover by size and shape (not uncommon in migration). A closer look w/ the spotting scope revealed strong rust mixed w/ black on the back, a black bib, and a black + white "harlequin" pattern on the head and neck. Legs were bright orange. I did not take special note of the bill, however I can say that it was not particularly long or short as I would have noted this. Belly below the bib was pure white.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: Did not call.

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Wasn't a black-bellied golden plover by strong rust on back and black bib as opposed to black from the neck continuing through the belly. Also, harlequin head pattern diagnostic from the plovers. Black Turnstone does not show rusty back.

Prior experience with this and similar species: Only Ruddy Turnstone I had seen previously was a winter plumage bird well picked up on Etulism patrol at Benton Lake NWR in MT. This drew attention to the fact that they could be here. Hoped that if I saw one it would be in breeding plumage making Field ID much easier. I have seen golden and black-bellied plovers on many occasions. I have not seen a black turnstone. I have a BS in WLMgt, and have conducted bird counts for 27 years.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation; from memory .
on cassette tape.

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