

UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

COMMON NAME: White-rumped sandpiper SCIENTIFIC NAME: Calidris fuscicollis
 DATE: May 29, 01 TIME: 6:30 Am LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 2 hours
 NUMBER: 7 AGE: adult SEX: ?
 LOCATION: Ogway NWR.
 COUNTY: Utah LATILONG: ELEVATION:
 DISTANCE TO BIRD: 30 to 40 meters
 WEATHER: clear, no wind
 LIGHT CONDITIONS: Bright.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD:

These were small shorebirds, preep size. Appeared brownish-gray overall. Since there were 7 white-rumped Sandpiper and they were in varying stages of reaching full breeding plumage, I will describe one of the birds that seemed to be in full breeding plumage. Long wings with primary tips extending well beyond tail (in some birds the primary tips actually seem to curl upward as the birds were feeding). Black bill slightly drooped at the tip. Base of the lower bill yellowish-red. Blackish legs rather short. White ~~on~~ rump visible as the bird (birds) would occasionally stretch out their wings. (I actually never saw the birds fly). A thin, white wing stripe was also visible when the birds extended their wings. Underparts white with parallel rows of black streaking extending from the throat and sides of the neck down through the breast and on either side, extending well into the flanks. The black streaks were smaller in the throat area and became larger as they extended down to the breast & flanks. Crown reddish brown as was back. Whitish supercilium. Feathers of the mantle, scapulars & tertials dark brown edged in buff.

SONG OR CALL AND METHOD OF DELIVERY: not heard.

BEHAVIOR: mostly feeding in among shallow water in among grass & plants of a flooded field. The group of 7 stuck very closely together & sometimes they went on quick feeding frenzies then would settle down and be more sedentary.

HABITAT: Area was a flooded mud flat with water plants & green grass in shallow water

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW WERE THEY ELIMINATED:

Bairds Sand piper: both are long winged but the white-rump alone can differentiate the 2 species. Bairds not as streaked through the breast. Plumage not streaked like white-rumped sand piper. Overall color more brownish than gray like white-rumped. Other feps - not as long winged, do not have white-rump.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

this is my 1st sighting of white-rumped sand piper.

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

Shore birds: an Edwents fraction guide
Sibley - guide to birds

DESCRIPTION FROM: NOTES TAKEN AT TIME OF SIGHTING X, NOTES MADE LATER _____, FROM MEMORY _____

OBSERVER: Terry Sadler
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SIGNATURE: 

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OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Kathy & Joel Beyer, Dennis Shultz

DATE PREPARED: June 22, 01

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL: PHOTO _____, DRAWING _____, TAPE _____, OTHER _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO: UTAH BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
1581 NORTH 1040 WEST
OREM, UT 84057

OR EMAIL TO: matt@utahbirds.org