

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Ruff How many? 1

Location? Red Rock Refuge

Type of Habitat? shallow pan

When? date(s): 7/28/02 time: 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Jim Sinclair, 800 N. B St, Indianapolis, IN

Others with you: \_\_\_\_\_

Others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Shorebird feeding with and in the style of stilts sandpipers. Much bulkier with shorter legs than the stilts with which it was feeding. Head plain w/ very faint dark eyeline. Bill was dark, slightly longer than the head with a slight droop of the distal half. Breast was a blotchy black, gray and white. Mantle was a medium gray-brown with prominent pale feather edgings on the wing. The bird was belly deep in water hence I never saw the legs.

Similar species: how eliminated:

I first thought the bird was a ♀ in the middle of molting from alternate to basic but upon consideration including the birds large size and the extensive black on the breast and flanks I believe this bird to be a ♂ about 75% molted into basic plumage.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

100-120 yds, excellent viewing conditions - no sun, no heat waves - no wind. 30x scope

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen one Ruff previously

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NBS Field Guide  
NAS Sibley Guide

How long before field notes made? 1/2 hr this form completed? 30 hrs

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).