

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Buff-breasted Sandpiper How many? 6-10Location? Coralville Reservoir - on Babcock Lake RdType of habitat? Wet field - mud & grassWhen? date(s): 9/11 or 9/18 time: 5<sup>00</sup> PM toWho? your name and address: Carl Thompson 1116 Muscatineothers with you: Deb Quadeothers before or after you: Bernie & Cal Knight showed us the birds

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

On first several tries, Carl & Bernie would drive up and stop, but when I followed in my car the flock would fly off and settle down either further ahead or behind (Maybe they don't like orange, noisy vw). The birds were "peep" sized, maybe slightly larger and very buffy breasted. The birds looked similar to small upland plovers in that they had necks, unlike other peeps. The back and head were dark with the face and underparts buff. Bill was short and dark. Leg color was not observed. New birder with me was clearly able to see field marks and correctly identified the bird from the back.

We finally got better looks later.

Similar species and how eliminated: Upland Sandpiper would be bigger with even more neck and a thinner neck.

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

If yes, explain:

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

Late afternoon, long shadows, clear, 100 ft (est)9x35 binocular 20-45x scopePrevious experience with species and similar ones: Never previously seen

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? None, this form completed? 11/15/84

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240