

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Buff-Breasted Sandpiper How many? 1

Location? East of gearing in Marshall Co. on Marshall-Story Co. line

Type of habitat? A pond in flooded field with new corn coming up

When? date(s): May 14, 1986 time: 5:00 pm. to 5:40 pm.

Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscumb, Iowa

others with you: Beth Proescholdt

others before or after you: none

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.

As I was scoping a pond in a flooded field, I found an interesting shorebird 50-60 yards away close to other shorebirds, this bird was smaller than a Lesser Golden Plover in front of it and much larger than the Least Sandpipers nearby. It had a light brownish scaled back, bright yellow legs, a white eye ring, and subtle buffiness to its throat, sides, neck, and breast. It had pale buffy underparts with whitish undertail coverts and it was plain without any markings on its breast. When it spread its wings which it did fairly often, the topside and back and tail were all brownish of differing degrees. It had a small head with a short, stocky neck which reminded me of a mourning dove or a partridge head. It had a quite short bill and a darker, grayer look to its crown when it bent its head down, It was at the edge of the water and in the field as we watched it. Once when it was preening, it bent its wing

Similar species and how eliminated: toward us and we saw a bright white underlinings of its underwing with an edging of dark gray, A Reeve has white oval spots on tail and lacks the buffiness we saw. An Upland Sandpiper has longer neck and streakings on the neck and throat and lacks buffiness.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny with sun behind us giving us good lighting. Distances estimated. 22x Scope and 8x30 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen one Buff-breasted sandpiper, 1 Ruff, and many upland Sandpipers.
References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? while Viewing this form completed? May 25, 1986

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