

BIRD SIGHTINGS DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) **How many?** 1 adult

Location: Iowa, Polk co., Saylorville Reservoir, Sandpiper Recreation Area

Habitat: Near lakeshore of large manmade lake in mixed hardwood forest, agricultural cropland. Wet mudflat in deep ditch (outflow channel from small pond along entrance road to parking lot).

Date: 7 August 1998 **Time:** 9:10am to 9:30am

Observer: Michael D. Overton, 1316 S Duff #93, Ames, IA, 50010

Other Observers: None.

Observers Before and After: None.

Description:

Size: Similar to Spotted Sandpiper, smaller than Solitary Sandpiper (all three species were foraging in the same area).

Shape: Appeared longer and thinner than Spotted Sandpiper, posture less erect. Wing-tips extended well beyond tip of tail on standing bird. Appeared very long winged in flight.

Bill: Black, moderately long, very slightly down-turned at tip, diffuse yellowish area at base of lower mandible.

Eyes: Dark brownish black.

Head: Streaked dark brown on pale brown with buff to pale rufous crown and auriculars (crown darkest), distinct narrow white supercilium extending to just beyond auriculars, lores dark brown.

Throat: Chin and throat unmarked white.

Back: Feathers blackish brown with buff to gray edges, scapulars with strong pale rufous edges.

Rump: Feathers blackish brown with buff to gray edges.

Breast/Belly: White with distinct blackish brown streaks (spots) from lower neck across breast to upper belly and extending along flanks.

Wings: Dorsal: Primaries and secondaries dark blackish brown, tertials blackish brown with indistinct lighter edges, all coverts paler brown than flight feathers and with grayish edges. Very narrow gray-white wingbar from tertials to inner 1 or 2 primaries (fringe of greater coverts). Ventral: Grayish white, no details noted.

Tail: Dorsal: dark blackish brown, uppertail coverts unmarked white. Ventral: not noted.

Legs/Feet: Black.

Vocalizations: None.

Behavior: Foraging on mudflat. When deliberately flushed it flew about 20 yards and resumed foraging.

Similar species and how eliminated: Other *Calidris* sp. except Baird's eliminated by amount of primary extension beyond tail on standing bird. Eliminate Baird's Sandpiper by white uppertail coverts.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification: No.

Viewing conditions: Cloud cover not noted, approx. 40 yards(estimate), Leupold 12-40x60@40.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Numerous sightings; however, I initially reported this bird to the IA RBA as an immature. I had not looked in any references and the bright colors on the crown, auriculars and scapular fringes fooled me. Later, after consulting Hayman's Shorebirds, I realized my mistake. Sorry!!

References consulted before writing description: Hayman (see above).

How long before field notes made? At time of observation. **this form completed?** 2 months.