

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Buff breasted sandpiper 2. Number 1
3. Location one marsh (south bridge)
4. Date: 22 July 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: 6:30 to 7 PM.

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

A very buffy, round-headed, long necked* sandpiper, noticeably smaller than killdeer with which it was feeding. Bird was evenly buff colored. The breast of adjacent killdeer ~~was~~ appeared white.

* The bird was not long necked in the sense of ^{black necked} ~~stilt~~ but looked more long necked than a peep.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: feeding on mud adjacent to marsh grass.

9. Habitat - general: mudflat next to open water -

specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Small round head, long neck appearance of long neck and even color eliminate Bairds.

11. Distance (how measured)? ~150 yds
(estimate)

12. Optical equipment:

Leitz 8x42 trinoculars
25X telescope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
bird was to the north with sun low in S.W.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

I've seen b.b. sandpipers on 8-10 occasions in Massachusetts
i. in Iowa

15. Other observers:

none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

consulted Peterson * Robbins & Zimin - no influence on description.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 day.

Signature: Carol S. Mueller Address: 408 Wales St

Date: 10 August 1980 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240