

only because
of date: previous
IA observations
May 2 on

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species White-rumped Sandpiper 2. Number: 2
3. Location South shore of Coralville Reservoir, Johnston Co., Iowa
4. Date: 4/10/1977 (early!) 5. Time Bird seen: 4:20 to 4:35 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): about one inch shorter than nearby 50+ Pectoral Sandpipers; back pattern similar, but more grayish brown; only a few black marks on otherwise white breast; bill black, straight, shorter in relation to head than Pec's; legs blackish; tail black, wing tips extending slightly beyond tail tip; upon alighting, thin wing stripe seen; rump not white on ground, and bird not in scope field while flying off; chunkier than Pectoral, body position not horizontal (like Baird's). Also prominent white superciliary stripe.

7. Description of voice, if heard: single thin, high pitched note
8. Description of behavior: vigorously probing mud, immersing bill to base

9. Habitat - general: mudflats
specific: S of Sandy Beach area, Coralville Reservoir

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: than the small peeps
Pectoral: smaller - direct comparison possible, no bil. Dart, not yellowish legs. Voice not "krip". Baird's: same size, but lack of scaly bill, no buff wash on breast, wings not as long as Baird's, tail not so slim, body position not horizontal. Semipalmated-Western: about 1 inch bigger, one present in flock

11. Distance (how measured)? est. 100-150 feet
12. Optical equipment: 7x35 Binoculars, window-mounted 20-45x Zoom Scope

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): bright sunshine; sun-observer-bird angle about 160°

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: seen several in similar plumage in later spring (May) in Iowa; also Baird's, more often in fall, birds. (9 in Sept. '76). (1978, '73, '75, '76) Direct comparison with Pectorals and a putative Western possible

15. Other observers: _____
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: Regular field guides, Reilly, Bent etc. - after the fact; found illustrations inconsistent and generally unsatisfactory; closest resemblance to Robbins p. 129 in shape, but plumage less gray, apparently transitional to summer plumage on p. 124; "most birds in U.S. in non-breeding plumage" (Reilly p. 971)

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? next AM, but wrote a note the same evening about early peeps in IA, 1977

Signature: U. H. S. L. M. I. Address: R#6

Date: 4/11/1977 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240