

Middlewestern Prairie Region  
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Buff-breasted Sandpiper 2. Number: one / one
3. Location Hendricksons Marsh, ~~XXXX~~ Story County, Iowa (both)
4. Date: 1 September 1984 & 3 Sep 1984 5. Time Bird seen: 1. seen three occasions 1 min to 10 minutes between abt 4 & 5 pm  
2. 15 minutes or so in mid-afternoon
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) fair sized sandpiper, buff head neck & breast; some dark speckles on breast by bend of wing; feathers on back nearly black with pale buff edges; yellow legs; beak dark; white under wing when flying; no discernable eye ring or eyebrow stripe.  
The 3rd September bird was paler below on belly & around legs with fewer speckles on sides by 'wing bend', had slight trace of eye ring. Otherwise same as other bird.  
1 Sep bird west side of Hendricksons Marsh; 3 Sep bird North east side
7. Description of voice, if heard: ?
8. Description of behavior: 1 Sep bird bathed twice; walked around in weeds along mud flat; rather winding or twisting flight; 3 Sep bird just walking around in weeds along shore - somewhat nervous.
9. Habitat - general: lake & marsh  
specific: lake edge - mud flat - weedy area along mud flat
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: don't know of any sandpiper so much buff colored.
11. Distance (how measured)? 25 to 300 feet 1 Sept  
40-150 feet 3 Sept
12. Optical equipment: 7 x 35 and 20 X 80 binoculars 1 Sept
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): 1 Sept mostly clear, sun to my back, bird usually either north or east of me.  
3 Sept 50% SW of me bird to east.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: never seen before 1 September.
15. Other observers: 1 Sep Mark & Beth Proescholdt 3 Sep Jack Holloway & Tim Grotheer
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes, yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
Birds of North America Golden Press  
A Field Guide to the Birds Peterson
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? wrote notes while observing bird on 1 Sept; 3 Sept wrote some notes abt 15 minutes later.
- Signature: Ann M. [unclear] Address: 1120 Maunster
- Date: 5 Sep 1984 City, State: Ames Iowa 50010