

RECORD #: 23-B-06

IDAHO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

SPECIES:

White-rumped Sandpiper

REPORTER:

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DATE REPORT PREPARED:

6/1/06

DATE SIGHTING OCCURRED:

June 1, 2006

LOCALITY OF OBSERVATION:

About 50 yards upstream from the green Canyon Rd. Bridge over Sheridan Creek, near Island Park, Fremont County

HABITAT:

Silt deposits along Sheridan Creek caused by recent flooding which had receded at the time of the sighting.

CONDITIONS:

Bright sunshine, light wind, temperature about 75 degrees. Sun was high in the sky. Distance to birds between 40 and 10 yards. Binoculars used are 10 x 42 Nikon Premier and scope is a Swarovski 80mm HD at up to 60x.

DID YOU TAKE NOTES?:

No, not at all

DID YOU CONSULT FIELD GUIDE OR OTHER REFERENCES?:

No, not at all

WHAT GUIDE(S) OR REFERENCE(S) DID YOU CONSULT?:

DESCRIPTION:

Small Calidridine with medium length bill, elongated or attenuated overall shape and size as in Baird's Sandpiper. Other species present for size comparison include Spotted Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. Primaries extend obviously beyond tail. Upperparts quite contrasty. Scaps black centered with buff tips and brighter golden buff edges. Tertials were dark brown centered and buff tipped. Head overall grayish with rufous-tinged crown and auriculars. Bill black, medium length (for a small sandpiper) with red base of lower mandible. Legs black definitely with no webbing present between toes. Underparts white, breast crisply and heavily streaked with black. Streaks extend along flanks to undertail coverts. Tail grayish brown with unbroken white uppertail coverts seen numerous times at close range while preening, stretching and once flying a short distance.

BEHAVIOR:

Foraging, preening, and roosting for about 2.5 hours. Once both birds flew a short distance, maybe 50 yards, to a different location and continued foraging. The only interaction with other birds noted was avoidance of Ring-billed Gulls that were foraging in the same area.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE BIRD, AND WHAT CLINCHED THE IDENTIFICATION FOR YOU?

When I first looked at the birds through binocs I suspected they were White-rumped Sandpipers. At close range with the scope the first diagnostic field mark I noted was the red base of the lower mandible.

HOW DID YOU ELIMINATE SIMILAR SPECIES, AND WHAT WERE THEY?

Only two small Calidridines have long primary extension beyond the tail, Baird's and White-rumped. Western Sandpiper is very similar in plumage but the wings do not extend beyond tail and the base of the bill is not red. Western also has webbing between the toes which this bird did not have. Baird's Sandpiper is buffy overall and does not have black streaks on the flanks. Baird's also has buff background color to breast and a striped tail, not the entirely white uppertail coverts of these birds, and the bill is entirely black.

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES (AND SIMILAR SPECIES):

I have seen White-rumped Sandpipers only three times. I have seen hundreds of Baird's annually, mostly in fall when adults are in worn plumage, for at least the past six years.

GENERAL BIRDING EXPERIENCE:

13 years

WERE PHOTO(S), VIDEO, AND/OR AUDIO OBTAINED BY YOU?:

Photo