

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Person Submitting: August Mirabella
Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454
augustmirabella@aol.com
215-368-0594

321-01-2002

Species: Ruff

Observers: Found by Devich Farbotnik 8/27 thru 8/5
Seen by: A. Mirabella and many others later

Date Seen: 10/4/02 & 10/5/02

Time: Late morning

Where Observed: Rohm & Haas, Bristol, Bucks Co.

Conditions: Sunny

Behavior & Habitat: Feeding in man made impoundment in mud & shallow water with Pectoral S. and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Description: The bird was larger than the Pectorals and about the size of the L. Yellowlegs but with stockier build. It had a pale buff head, neck, breast, and flanks. The cap and back of the neck were darker due to fine streaking and contrasted with the pale supercilium, darker eye line, and pale cheek. The lower belly and undertail were white. The bill was black with small spot of white feathers at the base. The legs were also darkish and longer than Pectoral's. The feathers of the upperparts were dark, fringed in white or off white.

Similar Species Comparison: Based on the buff color, I think the most likely error of the inexperienced would be to call it a Buff-breasted S. However, it is longer legged, larger, and stockier than that species. Unmarked buff breast among several other characteristics eliminates Upland S., Pectoral S., and both Yellowlegs.

References during ID: Sibley Guide to Birds; National Geographic Guide, etc.

References after ID: Sibley Guide to Birds; my videotape

Other Documentation: Videotape submitted with this report by A. Mirabella

Date of report: 10/12/02

Signature of Observer: August Mirabella

August Mirabella

RUFF 321-G1-2002

Bristol, Bucks Co

9/28/02

Devich Farbotaik

