

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpul@bellatlantic.net

331-01-2003

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Ruff Philomachus pugnax
Subspecies (if known) N/A

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) MALE

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): Adult - molting from breeding plumage

DATE OF OBSERVATION 8/19 - 8/20 TIME 6pm - 6:30pm (original)

LOCATION (city, borough, township) Bradford, Foster township, McKean Co.

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) Bradford Sewage Treatment Ponds

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name John Fedak
Address 26 Race St
City Bradford State PA ZIP 16701
e-mail (optional) jfedak@chadnet.net phone (optional) 814 362 1052

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

N/A

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) sewage treatment pond with low water + grass/weeds

DISTANCE TO BIRD 100 - 125 yards

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) partly cloudy, sun at my back

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Kowa TSN2, Leica 8x42

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz"= e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): larger than a Killdeer, short and dark bill, legs were pinkish red to red, Body was plump, head looked small, The color of the body was very dark brown. The belly was very dark brown, The flanks were a very dark brown, almost black color (I originally thought it could have been shading but didn't seem to be.) The head and neck were an olive brown, yellowish color that reminded me of a Heron's sparrow and there was a lighter patch on each side of the head in front of the eye.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The bird fed like a common least or pectoral sandpiper, no bobbing, but it did like to hide in the grassy dune

VOCALIZATIONS

None heard

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

A could not get a photo

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____

If collected (by permit), location and number of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

coloration + size eliminated it from most species leg color, coloration + smallish head eliminated pectoral length of bill eliminated spotted redwing which to me closely resembled most coloration and was something to think about + the neck didn't seem as long as field guides suggest

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it

I first didn't know for sure it was a ruff, it was in my mind but I have only seen 1 and it was white-ish. I tried to rule out everything else first and asked for help on the internet. A pectoral was seen today and really left me decide on Ruff.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

1 time at Bamberg Hook with a whitish bird

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) yes, I ruled out other species

REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation National Geographic + Shorebirds
After observation National Geographic + Shorebirds + internet

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 8/24/03

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER 