

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-09-27 16:34:54
Observer's Name	Mark Vass
E-mail	mvas1200@yahoo.com
Observer's Address	Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Ruff
Species (Scientific Name)	Philomachus pugnax
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Juvenile
Observation Date and Time	09-26-2015 4:30 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25195926
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Greencastle
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Greencastle Reservoir
Description	Found here on Sept. 25...I chased the bird the next day and upon arrival a group of birders were present with the bird in there scopes
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Spent most of the time I was there resting before flying off
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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-12-29 16:42:54
Observer's Name	Ian Gardner
E-mail	gardnie07@gmail.com
Observer's Address	Street Address: 8670 Presidents Drive City: Hummelstown State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 17036 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Michael David, Dale Gearhart, Mark Vaas, Geoff Malosh, Vern Gauthier
Species (Common Name)	Ruff
Species (Scientific Name)	Calidris pugnax
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Juvenile
Observation Date and Time	9-26-2015 3:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25192662
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Reservoir Road, Antrim Township, PA
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Greencastle Reservoir
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.792504, -77.688986
Habitat	Small water reservoir with a concrete base. Chain-link fence surrounding the reservoir. Some weedy vegetation is growing up between the cracks in the concrete edges.
Distance to bird	100 feet
Viewing conditions	Overcast, warm, with a slight breeze. Excellent viewing conditions
Optical equipment used	10x50 Leupold binoculars, 20-60x85 Vortex Razor spotting scope
Description	Medium-sized shorebird with upright posture (similar to Pectoral Sandpiper). Slightly larger than nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. Medium length slightly drooping black bill. Medium length dark green legs. Warm tan/buffy face, neck, and paler underside. Few darker feathers on crown and extending down nape to mantle. Mantle and wings have dark brown feathers with buffy edging. Bold white 'U' or 'V' on upper tail coverts seen in flight. Weak white wing stripe also seen in flight.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Seen standing, preening, and walking around the concrete edge of the reservoir. Very upright posture and methodical movements. Foraging briefly in the debris around the edge of the reservoir. A juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk strafed the shorebirds at the reservoir once and the Ruff flew off for roughly 10 minutes before circling the reservoir and finally landing again. It was regularly seen in the company of a few Lesser Yellowlegs.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

A medium-sized tan shorebird. Similar size and posture to Pectoral Sandpiper, but this bird had an entirely unmarked neck and breast. White 'U' or 'V' on upper tail coverts, and weak white stripe on wing eliminated any other shorebird species.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

Originally seen and photographed by Dale Gearhart. Seen by several people before, during, and after my sighting. Many photographs available.

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7pBR2Uy6rY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8K6Deb2cFE>

Are you positive of your identification? (Why or why not)

Yes, I am positive of my identification. This bird has several obvious ID features that are mentioned above. This was a life bird for me so I was very careful in my observation and documentation.

During

Sibley Guide App

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Video

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



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PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-01-09 02:42:13
Observer's Name	Michael David
E-mail	michaeldavid@gmail.com
Phone	4123906773
Observer's Address	Street Address: 7420 Ben Hur St City: Pittsburgh State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 15208 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Ian Gardner, Geoff Malosh, Mark Vass, Shannon Thompson
Species (Common Name)	Ruff
Species (Scientific Name)	Calidris pugnax
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Juvenile
Observation Date and Time	09-26-2015 4:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S25223917
County	Franklin
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Greencastle
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Greencastle Reservoir
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.792004, -77.689153
Habitat	concrete reservoir with shallow sloped edges
Distance to bird	Approx 120 m
Viewing conditions	sunny
Optical equipment used	Swarovski ATX-95 scope
Description	Medium-sized shorebird, similar in size to Lesser Yellowlegs. Long legs, neck appearing long when extended, and head small in proportion to body. Bill dark, medium length (equal or a little longer than width of head), and curved down slightly. Crisp pale borders on dark back feathers give a scaled appearance. Wings without a noticeable white bar in flight. Unstreaked below, with buffy color on breast and whitish lower belly. Face fairly plain, without contrasting supercilium. Dull yellowish/greenish legs.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Mostly resting/walking around on the edge of the reservoir. Flew away along with some Killdeer about half an hour after I arrived and was not seen again.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Among other differences - yellowlegs eliminated by leg color and bill shape. Much bigger than Least, Semipalmated, and Western Sandpiper. Bill shorter than Dunlin and Stilt Sandpiper, longer than Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Lack of streaking on breast eliminates Pectoral Sandpiper. White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers have black legs and different overall structure.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes - diagnostic photographs.

During

Sibley Guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[Ruff, Franklin Co. PA 3.JPG](#)



[Ruff, Franklin Co. PA.JPG](#)

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