

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



[IMG_7629.PNG](#)

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