

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-06-03 15:35:14
Observer's Name	Mary Birdsong
E-mail	marybirdsong@gmail.com
Phone	8148735598
Observer's Address	713 E 32nd St Erie PA 16504 United States
Names of additional observers	none
Species (Common Name)	curlew sandpiper
Species (Scientific Name)	calidris ferrunginea
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	perhaps immature
Observation Date and Time	06-02-2017 11:40 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	erie
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Millcreek Township (Erie County)
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Presque Isle State Park, Gull Point
GPS coordinates of sighting	42.169905, -80.062138 (42° 10' 11.7" N 80° 03' 43.7" W)
Habitat	pallustrine sand plain
Distance to bird	50-75 yards (I'm not great at judging distance)
Viewing conditions	mix of sun and clouds, heat shimmer present
Optical equipment used	Nikon Monarch5 10x42; Zeiss Diascope 85mm
Description	The bird was about the size of a dunlin and was hanging out with dunlins. It appeared dark in the head (with maybe some rufous spots) which extended to the throat which seemed streaked to me. Primaries appeared to extend beyond the tail. It was clean white underneath. The back seemed a basic brown with some rufous touches. Legs and bill seemed dark/black. The bill was longer than dunlin and more noticeably or evenly down curved.

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

It was foraging with other shorebirds in a flat sandy beach pond in the southwest of the Gull Point sand spit. It's feeding behavior was similar to the dunlins but it seemed to have a rounder head and it put its face in the shallow water more. It walked along the shore with a dunlin at one point and its gait was similar to dunlin. I did not see it fly.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

The difference in bill shape and length in comparison to dunlin is what first caught my eye, along with its clear white underside. It was larger than the white-rumped and semi-palmated sandpipers that were nearby.

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

I am the seasonal shorebird monitor at Presque Isle and feel comfortable knowing when I have something different at hand. I thought curlew sandpiper, but knowing it was a rarity, I sent my description and photos to Jerry McWilliams who suggested I submit it to you. The photos I'm sending were taken with an iPhone6S through the scope from the observation platform there. They are not great. I will submit to eBird once I have confirmation here.

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

I am not entirely positive, as I could not get a closer look, due to access restrictions at Gull Point. But with Jerry's recommendation, I feel confident enough to submit it!

During

Sibly app

After

Jerry McWilliams; the Shorebird Guide

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[Archive.zip](#)

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