

Species: SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER

(Vernacular Name)

Erolia acuminata

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): October 26, Nov 1, 1975

Time Bird Seen: 3 PM

to 3:30 PM

Locality: Prince Lake #2, about 1 mile no of Lafayette, Boulder Co. (abt. 9 AM Nov 1)

Nearest Town: Lafayette

County: Boulder

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPH
Bruce Webb	Harold Holt	Arch McCallum
Steve Larson	Bill Lybarger	Thompson Marsh
Jack Reddall	Mildred Snyder	Barry Knapp

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars, 15-60X B&L telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used: Not by me

Light Conditions: excellent, sun shining on bird from behind observer (both days)

Distance from bird (how measured): minimum of 300 ft. Oct 26, 150 Nov 1

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: Immature

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird was seen feeding in typical shorebird behavior along muddy shoreline of small pond, occasionally in short grass bordering the mudflats. One the first day, the bird was in company with 4 Pectoral Sandpipers and 2-3 Killdeer, on the second sighting listed above, the bird was alone.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

About the same size and shape as the Pectoral Sandpiper, perhaps just slightly smaller. Crown rich reddish-brown, with small blackish streaks. Back, nape, wings brown with pale feather edgings. Rump and tail color and pattern not seen by me. Strongly defined white supercilially line. Face whitish, perhaps with a touch of buff, throat similarly colored. Breast a rich tawny-buff color, unmarked except by a very few small brownish marks at the side of the breast. Breast color moderately strongly defined from color of belly. Belly and undertail coverts white, unmarked (I was never close enough to see the very small, obscure undertail coverts that were seen by other observers). Wing pattern never seen in flight. Bill moderately long, straight, dark in color (virtually same as Pectoral). Legs moderately long, greenish-yellow in color.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I heard none.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Muddy shoreline and short-grass meadow at edge of a small farm pond in agricultural country.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Pectoral Sandpiper-Quite similar in appearance, but note 3 major points: crown not noticeably reddish; superciliary line not nearly as strong; breast streaked and not buffy. Even in the(aberrant) absence of breast streaks , breast would not be a strong buffy color as the color of breast in Pectoral is more whitish. Other significant points(undertail covert markings, shape of tail feathers)were not seen by me.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper-also very buffy, but color goes much farther onto belly. Also has eyering, not a superciliary line, more scaly upperparts, more erect carriage.

Ruff(Reeve)-Apparently not so richly buffy, more uniform underparts (not a white belly), does not have a strong superciliary line.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

No prior experience with Sharp-tailed. Have Pectorals many times in Colorado, especially in fall, including many earlier this fall. Have seen Buff-breasted several times in Colorado in fall. None with Ruff or Reeve.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

This report was written from notes made during after X observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: Robert Andrews

SIGNATURE:

DATE: Nov 3, 1975

Street Address: 1390 So Ivy Way

Town and State: Denver, Colorado

ZTP: 80

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER

Erolia acuminata

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): OCTOBER 26

Time Bird Seen: 3:15 PM to 4:30 PM

Locality: 1½ miles north of

Nearest Town: Lafayette, Colorado

County: Boulder

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHO

Mary

Optical Equipment: 7x35 binoculars & 20x scope

If photographed, type of equipment used: *camera with 400 mm lens & 2x adaptor*

Light Conditions: *bright sun*

Distance from bird (how measured): *135' measured on lens.*

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: *immature*

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

feeding on mud flats close to water.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Bird was feeding with 3 pectoral sandpipers. This one bird was very similar in size and shape with the pectorals and differed from them by being darker on the back with a rufous cap and a wide white eye-line and a buffy chest not sharply cut off.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

not heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

mud flats

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Photos should be conclusive

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

none with this species

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

This report was written from notes made during ✓ after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: H.R. Holt SIGNATURE: H.R. Holt DATE: 11/2/75
Street Address: 2001 W. 42nd #716 Town and State: Denver, Colo. ZIP: 80110

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER

Calidris
Erolia acuminata

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 27 Oct 1975

Time Bird Seen: 0715

to 0930

Locality: PRINCE LAKE Nr 2, (Eddie's)

Nearest Town: Lafayette, CO

County: BOULDER

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPH.

Optical Equipment: 20X SWIFT SCOPE, 10X40 Leica Binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: Nikon FTN 200X Nikkor lens

Light Conditions: Excellent, no clouds sun low in the sky to the east (behind observers)

Distance from bird (how measured): 30 m - w/ camera lens

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: definitive

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor: The bird calmy, ^{fed} wading in shallow water (had out of water). Several (up to 3) Pectoral Sandpipers foraged simultaneously on the mud 5-10 m from the water & the Sharp-tail. When a pectoral came near the Sharp-tail became aggressive & chased it away. This occurred three times.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird was very close to the size of a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*), although it seemed a little "chunkier" & shorter-necked. The crown was rusty red with dark heavy streaks running from the posterior part of the crown to the bill. There was a strong white superciliary line. There was a ~~fusion of~~ ^{streaks} behind the eye to form a dark spot which was especially conspicuous from behind. The auriculars have fine, closely spaced streaks. These continue down the side of the neck. The breast is tuffy. This color is abruptly cut off ^{in a line} below the shoulder. There are no streaks in the mid part of the breast.

There are fine grayish streaks just below the wing just anterior and lateral to the under-tail coverts. When seen from behind with the posterior end of the body tipped up there are fine grayish streaks on the under-tail coverts. From this angle the streaks mentioned above (below wing) are visible and appear more concentrated than the ones on the UTC proper.

(OVER)



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

pond mud flat

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

See preceding description

The Pectoral is the only potentially confusing species considered. The Sharp-tailed did not have the finely-streaked appearance of the Pectoral. I have always thought the Pectoral rather long-necked, although this may be an optical illusion resulting from the streaks on ~~neck~~ neck & breast. This sharp-tail did not produce a similar effect.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I lived in Zambales Province, R. P., on the W. Coast of Luzon for two years. During the both migrations I visited a small pond almost daily. Among the many Poliactic scolopacids present there were usually one or two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. I never pursued them especially carefully after once making a positive identification but I did have the general impression that they were chunkier than pectorals (obviously not present for comparison) and of course much less streaked. The Colorado bird agreed with these impressions. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation? Information on diagnostic characters was obtained from Bruce Welty.

This report was written from notes made during after observation; from memory

PRINT NAME: D. ARCHIBALD McCALLUM SIGNATURE: D. McCallum DATE: Nov 16, 1975
Street Address: 1133 Mapleton Town and State: Boulder CO ZIP: 80303

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Species: SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER
(Vernacular Name)

Erolia acuminata
(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): October 28, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 11:10 A.M. to 11:25 A.M.-MS
Locality: Prince Lake (approximately 1 1/2 miles north of Lafayette on 111th street)
Nearest Town: Lafayette County: Boulder

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME ADDRESS TELEPH
Probably in excess of thirty Colorado field observers.

Optical Equipment: 10X50 Bushnell Binoculars; 15X-60X Zoom Telescope

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Bright, clear, hazy; light from observer's left side.

Distance from bird (how measured): Estimated from 60' to about 90'

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Unknown Plumage: Probably immature (winter-?)

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

During the entire period of observation the bird fed deliberately along the edge of a small fresh-water pond among the short grasses and in the mud flats. I did not see the bird fly and I made no attempt to disturb it for fear it would leave the area as it did on the day before when I searched the area in vain for almost two hours and failed to find it (the bird having hit a mist net set up to capture it and flying away after bouncing off).

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

From my notes taken at the time of my observation: Bill, long, pointed and slightly longer than head, dark in color; Forehead and chin and upper throat whitish; very prominent whitish superciliary line; Top of head, rich brown with fine black markings; Dark line extending from bill through eye enlarging in the ear area; Upper throat, breast and upper belly rich buffy unmarked except for some fine dark streaking below the foreneck and shoulder area; Lower belly, flanks and remainder of underparts whitish with no marked line of demarcation between breast and belly as in Pectoral Sandpiper, rather the rich buffy of the upper belly diffused subtly into the white of the lower belly; Under tail coverts with white ground color with very faint dark streaking which was very difficult to discern; Legs, greenish yellow; wings did not protrude beyond tail; back coloration and pattern very similar to that of Pectoral Sandpiper. Overall size about the same as that of Pectoral Sandpiper.

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird was silent.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Mudflats and associated grassy areas at the edge of fresh water pond.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Pectoral Sandpiper: Very similar except that Pectoral Sandpiper has very sharp line of demarcation between brown breast with dark markings and white belly. Also I have never seen a Pectoral Sandpiper with such a prominent eye line which may or may not be a good field mark.

Reeve: More streaking on breast and has white ovals on rear flank area (which I did could not have seen since the bird did not fly). However others who saw bird prior to my observation saw no field marks (white ovals) characteristic of a Reeve.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have never seen a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper before nor have I ever seen a Reeve. Have seen many Pectoral Sandpipers in Colorado, a number in Illinois and Long Island, New York and one or two in California.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

A Field Guide to Western Birds, Peterson and Audubon Western Bird Guide, Pough seemed to best depict and describe the bird.

This report was written from notes made during X after observation: from memory

PRINT NAME: JACK REDDALL SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: 10-30-1975
Street Address: 4450 South Alton Street Town and State: Englewood, Colorado ZIP.8011

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110