

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: AMERICAN WOODCOCK | SCOLOPAX MINOR
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): NOVEMBER 30th, 1990Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: WINTERLocality: MT SANITAS TRAILHEAD Elevation: 5800'Nearest town: BOULDER County: BOULDERTime(s) observed: 2:30 pmDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 3-4 secOther observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
JOHN PRATHER

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

SUNNY, BUT BIRD WAS IN SHADE AREA WITH OBSERVER \Rightarrow LIGHT WAS GOOD
Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): EYESDistance, and how measured: 8' AND FLEW AWAY

If photographed, type of equipment and film:

Who else photographed the bird?

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

EXPLODED FROM GROUND ABOUT 8' AWAY. FLEW UP THE SLOPE AND
DIRECTLY AWAY ACROSS THE ROAD.Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern.
Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used
to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and il-
lustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:BIRD TOOK OFF AND FLEW UP AND DIRECTLY AWAY FROM ME SO THAT
ONLY THE BACK OF THE BIRD WAS WELL SEEN. THE BIRD WAS ABOUT THE
LENGTH OF A STELLER'S JAY (ALSO IN AREA), BUT WAS MUCH BROADER AND CHUNKIER.

Description (continued):

THE BACK OF THE HEAD WAS MOSTLY BLACK. THE UPPER BACK HAD STRIPES OF BLACK AND RUST. THE RUST WAS QUITE BRIGHT, BRIGHTER THAN ON SNipe. THE WINGS WERE BROWN AND MOSTLY RUST/BROWN. THE TAIL WAS VERY SHORT, BRIGHT RED AT THE BASE, THEN BLACK AND TIPPED WITH WHITE. THE BILL WAS LONG AND THIN. THE BIRD IN FLIGHT MADE A WHISTLING NOISE FROM ITS WINGS - SOUNDED HIGHER PITCHED TO ME THAN IN COMMON SNipe.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No song or call.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

RIPARIAN AREA ALONG STREAM, SPECIFICALLY HEAVY WILLOW UNDERBRUSH.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

COMMON SNipe - SHAPE OF BIRD, VERY CHUNKY, WIDE HEAD, APPEARED ALMOST NOT TO HAVE A NECK. BLACK & RUST PATTERN ON THE BACK AND HEAD.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

HAVE OBSERVED A FEW OVERCOCKS IN EAST ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS.
VERY FAMILIAR WITH COMMON SNipe

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

①

b) after observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation from memory _____
Date and time report was written: 4 pm 30 NOVEMBER 1990

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 S 35th St, BouldER, CO 80303

111 reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:
Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205