



IOS IORC &lt;iorcommittee@gmail.com&gt;

## IORC Documentation Submission

1 message

**IORC Web Submission** <iorcommittee@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 23, 2021 at 11:21 AM

Reply-To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

To: iorcommittee@gmail.com

1) This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):	Unusual species
If other, please describe:	
2) Species:	Ruff
3) Number of birds:	1
4) Age/Sex/Plumage:	Adult female
5) Date:	1984-05-19
6) Location (include county):	Levees, Monroe Co.
7) Observers:	Bill Rowe, Tom Parmeter, Paul Bauer
8) Your name:	Bill Rowe
Street Address	[REDACTED]
Street Address Line 2	
City	[REDACTED]
State / Province / Region	[REDACTED]
Postal / Zip Code	[REDACTED]
Country	[REDACTED]
10) Your e-mail address:	[REDACTED]
11) Others agreeing with the identification:	Parmeter, Bauer
12) Observers NOT agreeing with the identification:	
13) Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and pattern on head, back,	Quoting my journal notes, recorded same day: "Good shorebird habitat but almost no shorebirds except this Ruff, a female. Had a lot of irregular black and gray mottling or barring on the lower neck, hindneck, and breast, becoming white on belly and crissum. An irregular narrow white area up the center of the breast divided the barring, rather as on an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Head and upper neck plain brown, no eyering or eyestripe, just a small whitish area at base of bill.

chin, throat, breast, flanks, wings, undertail, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, legs, and feet) include only details actually seen in the field :	Tertials and coverts dusky with obvious light margins, giving scalloped effect; back not seen well. Some loose or fluffed feathers on wing gave impression of a white wing stripe, like a sapsucker. Wings extended approximately to end of tail. Legs seemed dull greenish to me (Paul thought yellowish), moderately long. Body somewhat pear-shaped and dumpy, with longish neck and smallish head that was frequently extended; neck feathers often fluffed so lower neck looked fat. Fed methodically in water, usually to knee joints, picking at things below the surface; did not appear to probe like a dowitcher. Body size about like Lesser Yellowlegs, but only bird nearby for comparison was a Common Grackle, which seemed longer overall due to tail but about same body size. Tail pattern noted when it preened or walked away: large white areas on either side of tail, with dark central area; this confirmed when it flew a short distance. Bill about 1.2-1.3 times head length, tapering and slightly decurved on outer third. Watched through scopes with good backlighting at about 100 yards."
14) Description of behavior:	See 13.
15) Description of vocalizations:	None
16) Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s):	Remnant floodwater or rain pool in river bottomland beside the levee we were driving on.
17) Optical equipment used for observation (type, power):	My scope was Balscope 20X; not sure about others.
18) Distance/how measured?	Rough estimate 100 yards, but I think we got somewhat closer than that eventually.
19) Time of observation:	04:00 pm
20) Total time of observation:	Time is very approximate; duration maybe 30 min.
21) Weather conditions:	Nothing explicit in notes. My memory is of a warm, clear afternoon. Viewing conditions were good.
22) Previous experience with this species and similar species:	At the time, no prior experience, but I had studied references and knew more or less what to look for.
23) Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids:	I think the description in 13, from my contemporaneous journal notes, is fairly complete and eliminates all other Calidris. The dark barring/mottling on the breast; the absence of much head pattern; the dumpy, pigeon-like shape; the rather short, tapered bill; the yellowish/greenish legs; and the white areas on both sides of the tail, all separate a Reeve from any yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, dowitcher, Pectoral, Dunlin, or other similar-sized species, whether North American or Eurasian.
24) Were photos obtained?	No
25) If so, by whom?	Can't be required if no photos.
26) Books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?:	Only afterwards. Don't remember which references I looked at then, but they did not affect the notes I transcribed in 13. Those were simply a description of what we saw.
27) How long after the observation	Same day.

were field notes recorded?	
28) How long after the observation was this form completed?	37 years and 5 months, at the suggestion of Matthew Cvetas. I had just entered an "historical" eBird list for this observation, and Matthew contacted me with a request to document.
29) Additional remarks (URLs can be entered here):	