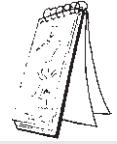


Short Communications



Ruff *Calidris pugnax*, first record for Cuba

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* principally breeds in Eurasia, although there are nesting records from north-western Alaska and the species regularly migrates through western and north-western Alaska, as well as along the east coast of North America between Massachusetts and Florida. In the West Indies, the species has been recorded from Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and several of the Lesser Antilles including Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada^{1,3}. There is also a record from the Cayman Islands (P. Bradley pers. comm.).

On Cayo Coco, in the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago, Cuba, on 17–22 April 2017, an adult Ruff in non-breeding plumage was photographed at the Laguna de Oxidación near the Playa Coco resort, initially by DM, with further observations by E. Simpson, DC & AKJ (Fig. 1). The bird had a small head and chunky body, looking humpbacked, with a rather short dark droop-

tipped bill, rather long and loose scapulars and tertials with extensive dark feather centres, a mottled grey-brown breast, a whitish belly and yellowish legs². This constitutes the first record for Cuba. In the West Indies, the species appears to be more frequently observed in autumn than spring¹.

References

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Figure 1. Non-breeding adult Ruff *Calidris pugnax*, Cayo Coco, Sabana-Camagüey archipelago, Cuba, April 2017 (A. Kirkconnell Jr.)