

Solitary Sandpiper, Cousteau Resort, Savusavu Fiji, January  
14th. 2003

As Cyclone Ami passed, the winds switched to NW and thus our south side was sheltered. I headed over there (about 5:30PM) in very calm conditions and instantly spotted a small shorebird. From a distance, my first thought was yellowlegs. Then I looked more closely and noticed the legs were pale greenish and the bird had a VERY distinct eyering. Overall the bird was very plain with no distinct markings, other than the eyering. The bill was about the same length as the head, or maybe one and one half times as long; straight and thin. No bobbing behavior was observed. I flushed the bird and the rump and center of the tail were grayish brown, the same color as the rest of the bird. The outer tail feathers were whitish speckled. The bird made a faint jew, jew, jew noise. I worked for 2 summers in the Pribilofs of Alaska as a bird guide, and many hours were spent studying shorebirds. I am very familiar with Solitary, Wood, Common/Spotted, Pectoral, Sharp-tailed, and both Yellowlegs. I do not know Green, and don't have a good text here, but think it has a white rump which this bird definitely did not have. As soon as I looked at this bird closely for 5 seconds, it screamed at me Solitary Sandpiper, a bird I am very familiar with from the States. I searched for a few days afterwards, but no luck.

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