

The latest occurrence of this species in Connecticut appears to have been a specimen taken by myself on September 30, 1895. A solitary individual was found on the Quinnepiac marshes, which are situated near New Haven, Conn. A very stormy condition of the weather had existed for two days, and it was not strange that a species of the Limicolæ was blown inland by the prevailing easterly winds. On a portion of the meadows an unfamiliar looking Sandpiper was observed feeding in the grass. It appeared to be a bird of the present species, and seemed restless and wary, but it was shot before it could fly off. The bird was picked up, and found to be a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), in the young plumage. No other birds of the Snipe family appeared to be in the vicinity. This record seems to be the second or third instance of the capture of this species in Connecticut, at least in recent years.

One of the previous instances may not have been recorded; a young bird was shot in the latter part of August, 1889, by Mr. Edward L. Munson, of New Haven, in almost exactly the same locality as that in which my specimen was taken.

In Massachusetts there have been a small number of these Sandpipers killed. Mr. George W. Mackey, of Nantucket, Mass., mentions in 'The Auk' (Vol. IX, 1892, p. 389) the capture of a few specimens on that island. Dr. Louis B. Bishop, of New Haven, informs me that he shot a young female Buff-breasted Sandpiper on Monomoy Island, Cape Cod, Mass., on September 19, 1895, and that another specimen was killed there by a market gunner on the same day.

Several more instances were reported some years ago from Cape Cod by the late Mr. J. C. Cahoon, of Taunton, Mass.

It has been taken several times on Long Island, N. Y., but the latest record in that locality seems to be August 28, 1888 (Auk, Vol. VI, 1889, p. 136).

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper is often found associating with the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa maculata*) and it is to be looked for in flocks of the latter in the autumnal migrations. There are two instances of its capture in the Magdalen Islands, Quebec, Canada, where one individual was found on two occasions with a flock of Pectoral Sandpipers. The first instance was in September, 1888, the second in early September, 1890.

As most of the above records of the occurrence of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in the East are spread over a number of years, the species must be considered as rather rare along the coast of the New England States. — C. C. TROWBRIDGE, *New York City*.

Status of *Helodromas ochropus* in the A. O. U. List. — This European straggler appears correctly as "Accidental in Nova Scotia," I presume upon strength of the Halifax specimen in the Seebohm Collection, now in the British Museum. But we have forgotten or at any rate ignored the fact that the species was duly entered as North American in the Fn. Bor-

Am., I, 1831, p. 392, "*Totanus ochropus*, the White-tailed Tatler" being formally described as such from a specimen from Hudson Bay in the British Museum. This specimen is extant, identified by Dr. Sharpe as *Helodromas ochropus*, and so catalogued from Hudson Bay (Cat. B. Brit. Mus., XXIV, 1896, p. 444), along with the Halifax one. For aught that appears to the contrary, we must recognize this record, and add "Hudson Bay" to Nova Scotia in our statement of the bird's North American occurrences.

While on this species, I may remark upon the claims of *Helodromas* to full generic rank apart from *Totanus*. I am not inclined to waste any time in discussing the difference between a genus and a subgenus, because I know there is none. Yet we have a sort of recognized convention or implication in the matter, chiefly for the purpose of being as consistent as we can regarding some degrees of difference which we rate as generic, and some lesser degrees we only allow to be subgeneric — just as we have in the cases of species and subspecies. *Helodromas*, I think, is quite up to the mark of an average genus — take them as they run in our List; and Dr. Sharpe thinks so too. Aside from some obvious proportions of external parts by which *Helodromas* differs from the type of *Totanus*, I may call attention to what may pass for "new evidence" in favor of generic distinction — not that it is new, except to our Committee in their official capacity. This is, that *Helodromas* differs from all its immediate allies in having the sternum single-notched — not a great matter, to be sure, in the order Limicolæ, where this bone is single-notched, or double-notched, or notched and fenestrate, but a useful character for generic distinction, like the presence or absence of a hallux, semipalmation or complete cleavage of the toes, etc. We may also recall in this connection the arboreal nidification of the Green Sandpiper — if nidification can be said of a bird that uses other birds' nests in which to deposit its eggs. On the whole, thinking we may safely and desirably treat *Helodromas* as a full genus, I propose this change in its status in our Check-List. — ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C.

Status of the Redshank as a North American Bird. — There is a third record in the Fn. Bor.-Am., II, 1831, p. 391, which seems to require attention. This is that of the bird duly entered as *Totanus calidris*, "the Redshank or Gambet," and described from a specimen said to be from Hudson Bay, and at that time in the British Museum. I do not find it enumerated by Dr. Sharpe, nor does he cite this reference to *Totanus calidris* in his synonymy of the species. This leaves a cloud on the title of the Redshank to be considered North American; but the case is identical with those of the Greater Snipe and Green Sandpiper above discussed, in so far as the face of the original record is concerned. I think we should hardly ignore this, even though the specimen is not forth coming to speak for itself. We hardly find the joint authors of the Fn. Bor.-Am. at fault on a point like this, and they are little likely to have been mistaken