

Specimen record of the Wood Sandpiper for the contiguous United States

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A SPECIMEN RECORD of the Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) from New York has been discovered at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The study skin constitutes the only known specimen record of the species for the contiguous United States.

The study skin, MVZ 106848, was taken by an unknown collector on October 10, 1907 at Gaines, Orleans Co., New York. The skin came to the Museum in February 1947 as part of a collection donated by the estate of Milton S. Ray. It had been identified as a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) on its original label, and was entered into the Museum as that species. However, on a recent visit to the Museum, John G. Williams pointed out that the specimen had been misidentified and is, in reality, a Wood Sandpiper. According to the descriptions given by Witherby *et al.* (1940), the bird is an adult in winter plumage.

The 1957 A.O.U. Check-list gives the Wood Sandpiper's status in North America as accidental in Alaska. Since that time, North American records for the species have consisted of numerous Alaskan reports and one possible Louisiana sighting. Kessel and Gibson (1978) have summarized the Alaskan records and give the present status of the species in different areas of the state. Among the records they treat is White *et al.*'s report of breeding (1974). Kennedy (1977) has published an account of his possible sighting of a Wood Sandpiper in Louisiana in September 1976. A relevant record from outside the boundaries of North America is cited by Bond (1959 and 1962), who examined a specimen taken in Barbados, West Indies, in October 1955.

According to the above and other literature, the Wood Sandpiper specimen discovered at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology would be the only specimen record and earliest known record for the contiguous United States. Additionally, this 1907 specimen would be

one of the earliest records for North America. Littlejohn (1914) collected the first North American specimen on Sankak Island, Alaska, in 1894, and Hanna (1916) obtained a specimen on St. George Island, Alaska, in 1914. The earliest mainland North America record previously published for the species is that of Pitelka (1974) who collected a

specimen at Barrow, Alaska, in 1957.

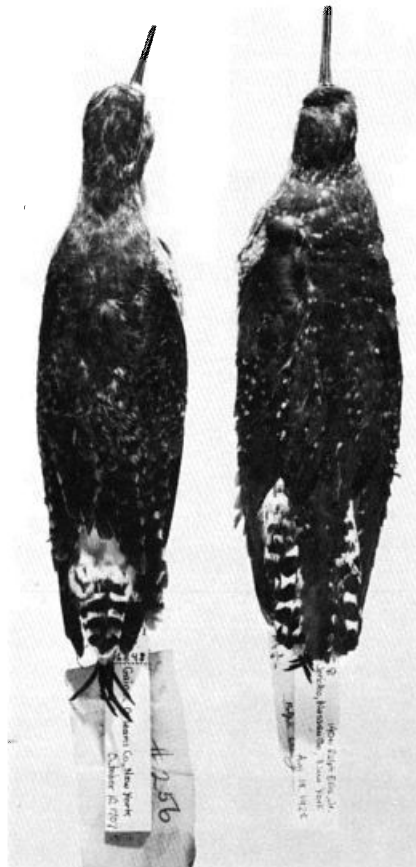
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The New York Wood Sandpiper (left) and a Solitary Sandpiper with their rumps exposed. The Wood Sandpiper can be told by its white rump (the anterior portion of which appears gray in this photograph due to shadowing). The rump of the Solitary Sandpiper, in contrast, has an olive-brown center and is bordered by white and blackish-brown barring. Not seen in this photograph is the sepia barring to the Wood Sandpiper's underwing and the darker, blackish-brown barring of the Solitary Sandpiper's underwing, characteristics which also separate the two species.