

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*



Folk Name: Smaller Yellow-shanks, Lesser Teltale, Teltale Snipe

Status: Migrant

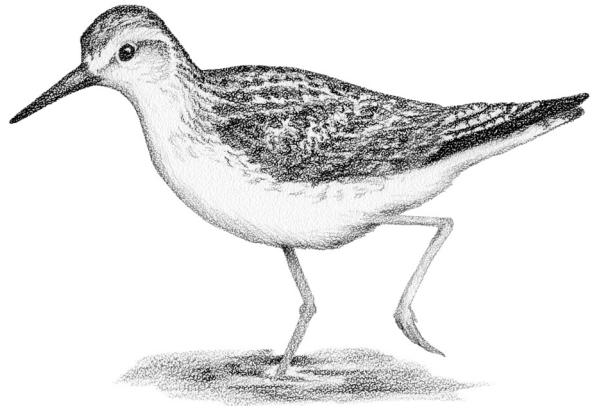
Abundance: Uncommon

Habitat: Mudflats, lakes, ponds

The Lesser Yellowlegs is an uncommon spring and fall migrant in the Central Carolinas. Most sightings are of five or fewer individuals, and our peak count was a flock of 23 birds seen by Jeff Lemons on May 9, 2013, at the McAlpine WWTP in Pineville. Spring migration dates range from 9 March through 14 May. Fall migration dates range from 26 July through 20 November. We have three December records. One bird was reported on the Southern Lake Norman CBC on December 12, 2000. One was found on December 28, 2013, at Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. One was reported on the Charlotte CBC on December 29, 2001 at Walker's Ferry Cove.

Antique decoys of Yellowlegs are some of the most sought after by decoy collectors. Many are considered extraordinary works of art and craftsmanship:

The art of luring wild fowl is centuries old and began with Indian hunters in North America. Indians made their decoys using reeds, rushes, mud and sometimes the head of a dead fowl. Early settlers and pioneers adopted the method of attracting



wild ducks and geese and improved upon it by producing durable handcarved models from solid blocks of wood. Some collector [decoy] favorites are the Golden Plover, Yellowlegs (greater and lesser), Mallard and the Canada Goose.

The Lesser Yellowlegs is currently listed on the Yellow Watch List of birds of the continental United States. It is a species with both “troubling” population declines and “high threats.” It is in need of conservation action.