

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*



Folk Name: White-tailed Sea Chicken

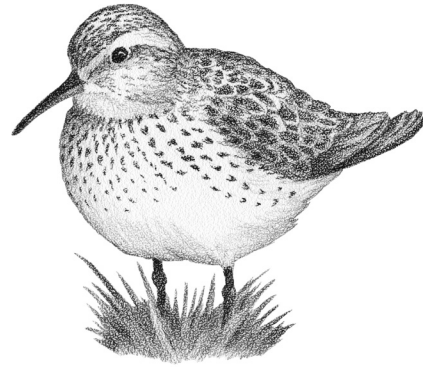
Status: Migrant

Abundance: Very Rare to Rare

Habitat: Mudflats

White-rumped Sandpipers are very rare migrants here in the Carolina Piedmont, and when they are found they are seen in very small numbers. These peeps have a white rump patch that distinguishes them from other sandpipers. In addition, they have an “insect-like” call that is very unlike the calls of all other peeps.

There are just over 10 reports of White-rumped Sandpiper in this region, and over half of these were sighted at local wastewater treatment plants. Flo Cobey spotted two White-rumped Sandpipers during the Charlotte Spring Bird Count on May 15, 1978. Clare and Heathy Walker found one in the drying beds at the McAlpine WWTP in Pineville on October 18–19, 1983. A group of Audubon birders discovered two White-rumps there on May 5, 1984, and Paul Hart found a total of four there on 9 May that year. Clare and Heathy Walker reported another one in Mecklenburg County on October 8, 1984, and David Wright had a late spring migrant at the plant in Pineville on the late spring date of June 3, 1985, and then he discovered another one in Gaston County 3



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days later.

Taylor Piephoff found two at the Irwin Creek WWTP in Charlotte on May 3, 1997. Piephoff reported a flock of four at Cowan’s Ford Wildlife Refuge on September 12, 2005. Alan Kneidel had a lone White-rumped Sandpiper at the marsh in Cabarrus County, across from Concord Mills Mall, on May 13, 2007. Ron Clark and Tom Sanders found one at the plant in Pineville on April 27, 2011. Dwayne Martin reported finding a pair of White-rumped Sandpipers on Lake Norman in Catawba County on August 24, 2015. He watched the birds in flight and noted their white rumps were very obvious.