

General Field Notes

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Spring Migrant Shorebirds in Watauga County, N.C.

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It is not unusual to find shorebirds inland in North Carolina in the fall and spring. A number of observations have been made and published (Chat 32:102, 40:96, 33:24-25, 38:39-40). Few reports, however, have come from the mountains of North Carolina.

Price Lake is located approximately 3.5 miles W of Blowing Rock, N.C., near mile marker 297 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lake is approximately 28 acres in size. The water level in the lake was lowered during the winter months of 1977-1978 so cracks in the dam could be repaired. Lowering of the water level exposed a mudflat, approximately 7 acres in size, which attracted shorebirds during April and May of 1978.

The table below lists the first and last sighting of each species seen, the maximum number of individuals present at one sighting, and the date of that sighting.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Extreme dates</i>	<i>Peak no.</i>	<i>Date of peak</i>
Semipalmated Plover	30 April-20 May	25+	9 May
Spotted Sandpiper	16 April-23 May	20	7 May
Solitary Sandpiper	24 April-22 May	10	7 May
Greater Yellowlegs	24 April-18 May	8	29 April
Lesser Yellowlegs	24 April-9 May	8	24 April
White-rumped Sandpiper	2 May-9 May	12	2 May
Least Sandpiper	16 April-23 May	40+	9 May
Short-billed Dowitcher	18 May	4	18 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5 May-18 May	7	9 May

All observations were made with the aid of 7 x 35 binoculars and a spotting scope with a 20-45X zoom lens. The mudflat at Price Lake was checked almost every day during April and the first 3 weeks of May.

Ruff at Huntington Beach, S.C.

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About 1500 on 16 April 1978, my wife Lisa and I saw two Ruffs (*Philomachus pugnax*) at Huntington Beach State Park, Georgetown County, S.C.

On the main freshwater impoundment, along the dike-roadway, was a barely submerged mud-bar about 7 m (23 feet) long. Resting here were several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), three American Coots (*Fulica americana*), a Double-crested