

delawarensis), a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), and varying numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*).

The long, upturned bills that were dark distally and pinkish-orange proximally were easily noted on the two birds studied well. Their backs were plain grayish-brown. One individual had a rusty color on half of its breast, indicating a partial change to breeding plumage. The second bird, which had a light gray breast, was still mainly in winter plumage. Both birds had considerable spotting and barring on the underparts. In flight, the dark wings with a white wing stripe, black axillars and wing linings, white rump, and black tail were observed.

The Hudsonian Godwit normally migrates in the spring northward through the Great Plains and is extremely rare at this season along the Eastern Seaboard. A slow-moving cold front that brought heavy flooding to the Gulf States, as well as heavy rain to the Carolinas, was clearly responsible for bringing the birds to South Carolina. This appears to be the fifth record for South Carolina (see Lewis, 1978, *Chat* 42:82-83), though a February sighting not published in full might have been a Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), based on the latitudes of the winter ranges of the two species. The Clemson record is significant because it is only the second spring record for the Carolinas [the other being one seen by E. von S. Dingle near Charleston, S.C., on 8 or 10 May 1941 (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 251)] and only the second inland record for these states [the other being two seen at Lake Mattamuskeet, N.C., on 23 October 1977 by Geraldine Cox, Elizabeth Ball, et al. (*Chat* 43:39)].

Status of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Coastal South Carolina

JOHN B. ANDRE

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge
Route 1, Box 191, Awendaw, S.C. 29429

25 September 1978

On 13 September 1978 Dick Munoz and I conducted a tour of Cape Romain NWR, S.C., for two visiting scientists/ornithologists from the Netherlands. While observing various common birds on the seaward side of Bird Island, our attention was drawn to an isolated bird not associated with the others.

The bird, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), was on the higher sand dunes of the island in an area used in spring by nesting Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). Using 7X binoculars, all observers identified the sandpiper from 25 feet. About 6 to 7 inches long, the bird had pale legs, a white eye-ring, and uniform buff or tan color on the throat, breast, and abdomen.

After 4 minutes of observation, the bird was flushed. It flew a short distance and landed in a similar area. The bird seemed fatigued and emaciated, with the sternal keel appearing to protrude from the breast. This may explain the absence of an energetic, snipe-like flight when it was flushed.

The present sighting plus about a dozen others reported in *Chat* and *South Carolina Bird Life* form the basis for proposing a change in the seasonal status of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper from accidental (Sprunt and Chamberlain, *South Carolina Bird Life*, p. 249) to a regular but uncommonly seen fall migrant on the South Carolina coast. Except for a May specimen collected by Hoxie, the South Carolina records of this species fall during the period from late August to early October.

Sisyphian Behavior in a Red-headed Woodpecker

T.E. HOWARD

Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve
P.O. Box 1386, Southern Pines, N.C. 28387

17 June 1979

On the morning of 17 September 1977, a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) was flushed from the base of a Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) on St. Mary's