

time period from slightly early arrival in southern Florida to average arrival on the breeding grounds. The peak of occurrence in the piedmont is during the first two weeks of May; the peak in the mountains remains as Burleigh found it, during the third and fourth weeks of May.

As a fall transient, the Connecticut Warbler probably occurs statewide, though—as is the case for the spring—there is no published record from the coastal plain away from the immediate coast. Coastal and piedmont sightings predominate in the fall, and in recent years the species has been reported almost annually from the Outer Banks. The earliest date for a fall migrant is 18 August, when one was banded at Hillsborough in 1970 (Chat 35:34); the latest date is 31 December, when an adult male was reported on the Bodie–Pea Island Christmas Bird Count in 1973 (Chat 38:13). A majority of the fall records are from mid-September to mid-October, the peak migration period for passerines in North Carolina

Spotted Redshank from North Carolina

SAMUEL COOPER
404 Alpine Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403

MICHAEL H. TOVE
303 Dunhagen Place
Cary, NC 27511

On 13 May 1987 Cooper discovered a Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) in nearly full breeding plumage near the point of Cape Hatteras, Dare County, N. C. The bird was intermediate in size between nearby Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*) and Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleuca*). Although the bird resembled a yellowlegs in profile, its sooty black chest mottled and blotched with white was eye-catching (Fig. 1). The lower belly and crissum showed more white than the chest and upper belly. Scapulars, wing coverts, and tertials were spotted with white. The legs were dull black, showing no sign of bright color. The bill was long and straight, about twice the length of the head, and drooped at the tip; its color was dark gray to black with bright red on the basal half of the lower mandible. A white supercilium extended over the eye, which was also surrounded by a broken white eye-ring. The bird resembled a dowitcher (*Limnodromus* sp.) in flight, with dark wings and rump and a wedge of white on the back (Fig. 2). It fed actively in deeper water, running and seining with a sideways sweeping motion of the head. So distinctive was this behavior that it alone enabled us to locate the bird in the flock. Cramp and Simmons (1983) describe this behavior as being characteristic of the Spotted Redshank.

Although the combination of field characters and behavior clearly indicated Spotted Redshank, two points warrant discussion. First, all field guides (e.g., Bruun, Singer & Campbell, 1970; Heinzel, Fitter & Parslow, 1972; Peterson, Mountfort & Hollum, 1974; National Geographic Society,



Figure 1. Spotted Redshank at Cape Hatteras Point, N.C. Note the dark neck and blackish upper chest of breeding plumage. The red base of the lower mandible is visible in this photograph as a pale region on the basal half of the bill. Photo by M. Tove, 15 May 1987

1987) show Spotted Redshanks as having bright red legs, not black as in the bird we observed. However, Cramp and Simmons (1983) point out that the normal leg color of breeding adults ranges from red to black. Second, extralimital records of dark-colored *Tringa* (i.e., breeding-plumaged Spotted Redshanks) have traditionally raised questions of oiled Greater Yellowlegs. The shape and color of the bill, white back, and feeding behavior, clearly distinguished the bird from that species.

Prater, Marchant & Vuoriuen (1977), Johnsgard (1981) and Cramp and Simmons (1983) indicate that the sexes may be told apart on the basis of plumage. The presence of worn and fresh scapulars and increase in dark chest and neck feathers observed during the period indicated a molting bird. Although no features are reliable for sex determination during molt, several characteristics suggested a female. The prominent white spots in the back and wing feathers, gray (as opposed to blackish) color of the fresh plumage, and whitish crissum were consistent with female plumage.

There is a single previous report of Spotted Redshank from North Carolina. Hall and Clement (1960:232) presented a second-hand observation of a bird seen 23 May 1955 at Pea Island by Erard Mattiessen who reported it to R. C. Clement:



Figure 2. Spotted Redshank in flight at Cape Hatteras Point. The white back, plain upper wing surface and straight bill with drooping tip are all evident. Photo by M. Tove, 16 May 1987.

"Mr. Matthiessen's annotations on this tall, black-bellied wader include the following comments: bill straight, reddish orange, dark-tipped (not plover bill); head, breast solid black (no white); back mottled reddish brown (grouse color); conspicuous white tail patch visible in flight; no apparent wing stripes; underparts [crissum in sketch. R.C.C.] lighter (gray); legs dark (possibly reddish)."

In spite of some apparent discrepancies (e.g., back color), we believe this to correctly indicate a Spotted Redshank. Clement (in Hall and Clement, 1960) further noted that on 31 May 1955, Donald Burger of Bristol, England observed a Spotted Redshank at Teverton, Rhode Island. While this sighting may or may not refer to the same individual, it is worth mentioning because the number of extralimital rarities found in the 1950's was markedly less than in the 1980's (due to coverage).

Also present on 13 May 1987 were a transition-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) and a breeding-plumaged female Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). The Spotted Redshank remained in the area through at least 17 May. This unusual concentration of extralimital birds was strangely not associated with large shorebird flocks or any abnormal weather patterns (storms).

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A Ruffed Grouse Specimen from Seneca, S.C.

STANLEE M. MILLER
Dept. of Biological Science
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634

FREDERICK A. BUSCH
Dept. of Aquaculture
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634

On the evening of 4 November 1987, Busch recovered a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonassa umbellus*) that had flown into a glass door at 1000 E. North First Street in Seneca, Oconee County. The bird, a young male, weighed 600 g and was in partial molt, with its crest and one ruff in pin feathers. Much of its throat skin was left at the impact site, along with many contour feathers. The flight and tail feathers are in good condition, with very little wear. The crop contained only one red dogwood (*Cornus* sp.) fruit and a piece of a green leaf.

Grouse are considered rare residents of South Carolina's mountains and are casual elsewhere in the state (Post and Gauthreaux, *Contrib. Charleston Mus.* 18, 1989). There are no South Carolina specimens in any collection in this state, and this skin (CUSC 2309) may be the only specimen of Ruffed Grouse from the piedmont of South Carolina.