

Am., I, 1831, p. 392, "*Totanus ochropus*, the White-tailed Tatler" being formally described as such from a specimen from Hudson Bay in the British Museum. This specimen is extant, identified by Dr. Sharpe as *Helodromas ochropus*, and so catalogued from Hudson Bay (Cat. B. Brit. Mus., XXIV, 1896, p. 444), along with the Halifax one. For aught that appears to the contrary, we must recognize this record, and add "Hudson Bay" to Nova Scotia in our statement of the bird's North American occurrences.

While on this species, I may remark upon the claims of *Helodromas* to full generic rank apart from *Totanus*. I am not inclined to waste any time in discussing the difference between a genus and a subgenus, because I know there is none. Yet we have a sort of recognized convention or implication in the matter, chiefly for the purpose of being as consistent as we can regarding some degrees of difference which we rate as generic, and some lesser degrees we only allow to be subgeneric — just as we have in the cases of species and subspecies. *Helodromas*, I think, is quite up to the mark of an average genus — take them as they run in our List; and Dr. Sharpe thinks so too. Aside from some obvious proportions of external parts by which *Helodromas* differs from the type of *Totanus*, I may call attention to what may pass for "new evidence" in favor of generic distinction — not that it is new, except to our Committee in their official capacity. This is, that *Helodromas* differs from all its immediate allies in having the sternum single-notched — not a great matter, to be sure, in the order Limicolæ, where this bone is single-notched, or double-notched, or notched and fenestrated, but a useful character for generic distinction, like the presence or absence of a hallux, semipalmation or complete cleavage of the toes, etc. We may also recall in this connection the arboreal nidification of the Green Sandpiper — if nidification can be said of a bird that uses other birds' nests in which to deposit its eggs. On the whole, thinking we may safely and desirably treat *Helodromas* as a full genus, I propose this change in its status in our Check-List. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Status of the Redshank as a North American Bird. — There is a third record in the Fn. Bor.-Am., II, 1831, p. 391, which seems to require attention. This is that of the bird duly entered as *Totanus calidris*, "the Redshank or Gambet," and described from a specimen said to be from Hudson Bay, and at that time in the British Museum. I do not find it enumerated by Dr. Sharpe, nor does he cite this reference to *Totanus calidris* in his synonymy of the species. This leaves a cloud on the title of the Redshank to be considered North American; but the case is identical with those of the Greater Snipe and Green Sandpiper above discussed, in so far as the face of the original record is concerned. I think we should hardly ignore this, even though the specimen is not forth coming to speak for itself. We hardly find the joint authors of the Fn. Bor.-Am. at fault on a point like this, and they are little likely to have been mistaken

about such a common bird as the European Redshank or Pool-snipe. There is also no inherent improbability of the alleged occurrence at Hudson Bay of so wide-ranging a species, but quite the reverse; the probability is entirely in favor of the case as alleged. Under the circumstances the proper place for the bird would seem to be our Hypothetical List; and as a candidate for that position its claims are quite as good as those of various birds which have already found rest there. I would therefore propose the following addition, *ex hypothesi*, to the Check-List, p. 326:

11.2. *Totanus totanus* (LINN.).

Common Redshank.

Scolopax totanus LINN. Syst. Nat. I, 1758, p. 145.

Totanus totanus —

GEOG. DIST. — Europe, Asia, and Africa. Described as North American from a specimen said to have been taken on Hudson Bay and transmitted to the British Museum (Sw. and Rich., Fn. Bor.-Am. II, 1831, p. 391).

I have only to add that this record is clear of all confusion with the case of the "White Redshank from Hudson's Bay" figured by Edwards, pl. 139, and by him considered as an albino. But if this be admitted in evidence, it supports the case now presented. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) at Ipswich, Mass. — I take pleasure in reporting the capture of three American Avocets, on Sept. 13, 1896, at Ipswich Neck, Ipswich, Mass., by Mr. A. B. Clark of Peabody, Mass. The birds were brought into the taxidermist establishment of Mr. L. W. Newell in Boston, where I saw them, and where I at last found out about their capture. There were but three birds in the bunch. They were not sexed when skinned. — FRED. H. KENNARD, *Brookline, Mass.*

The 1896 Migration of *Charadrius dominicus* and *Numenius borealis* in Massachusetts. — The prevailing winds on Nantucket Island during the greater portion of the migrating period was as follows: August 13, east and southwest; 14, east; 15, northeast; 16, southwest; 17, northwest; 18, west; 19 and 20, north; 21, 22, and 23, south; 24, southwest; 25, east; 26, southeast; 27, north; 28 and 29, southeast; 30, southwest; 31, southwest, with squall from the north in late P. M.; Sept. 1, north by west. There was no severe blow or storm during this period.

On August 22, at night, a few Golden Plovers were heard passing over Tuckernuck Island, where on the 28th the first one of the season was shot. Five were also seen on this same date at the eastern part of Nantucket. On the 31st sixteen Plovers arrived in a certain preserved field on the Kimball farm, where in a short time their number was somewhat augmented, at which time some were shot. When I visited the remainder, a little later in September, I counted twenty-two, the greater part of



Coues, Elliott. 1897. "Status of the Redshank as a North American Bird." *The Auk* 14, 211–212. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4068897>.

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