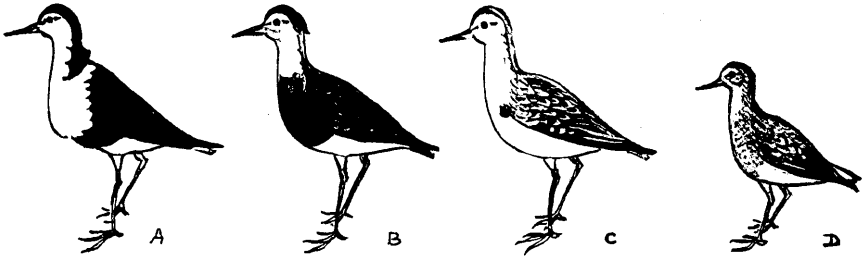


FIELD NOTES

Unusual Numbers of Ruffs in Central New York: The Ruff (*Philamachus pugnax*) is the Old World shorebird that occurs most frequently in North America. There were thirty reports in **Audubon Field Notes** in 1963. The status of the Ruff in eastern North America is that of a rare but regular spring and fall transient; this has been reviewed in more detail elsewhere (Peakall, **Wilson Bulletin**, in press). Despite the number of records of Ruffs in this state (14, Long Island, 6 Upstate in the last decade), the occurrences in the fall of 1964 at Onondaga Lake can only be considered as extraordinary. Onondaga Lake is a small lake, the southern end of which is within the city limits of Syracuse. There have been reports of a single Ruff there each fall from 1960 to 1963. In 1964, six or seven individuals were seen. Since the plumages of the adult males are distinctive, it seems worthwhile to detail them, both to substantiate the record and to make it possible to correlate the occurrences of 1964 with possible occurrences in future years. In view of the number of records of this species, the possibility of its breeding in North America should not be discounted.

The information was compiled from the notes of the following observers: DBP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; MR — Marge Rusk; FS — Fritz Scheider; WRS — Walter Spofford; BS — Betty Starr. The birds seen are listed in chronological order; several of them are illustrated in the diagram drawn by Jean Propst.



1. Adult male with cream-white ruff and blackish ear-tufts. Bird A. July 1. JP, MR.
2. Adult male with black ruff and black ear-tufts. Bird B. July 14-18. DBP, JP, MR, FS, WRS.
3. Immature bird, size suggested female. Distinguished from non-breeding adult by the almost uniform warm buff throat and broad, buffy edges to the feathers of the mantle which gave a mottled rather than scaled appearance. Bird D. July 18. DBP, JP.
4. Adult male with white ruff and light brown ear-tufts. July 22. DBP, JP
- 2a(?). Adult male. Small amounts of black ruff remaining in front of wings, black ear-tufts. This could be bird 2 in incomplete moult. July 24. MR.
5. Adult male. Black dot in front of wings was only remains of ruff; incomplete light tan ear-tufts. Bird C. July 30, August 2 & 9. JP, MR, BS.
- 1a(?). Adult male seen briefly and distantly, could have been bird 1. August 9. MR, BS.
6. Adult male. Tan cap down to eyes, tan on upper chest; regular brown and tan scalloped back. August 12 & 13. JP, MR.
- 7(?). Adult, considered to be a male from size, in complete fall plumage. Could have been 1, 2, 4, 5, or 6 in complete moult. September 11 & 12. JP, MR, FS.

David B. Peakall and Jean Propst, Syracuse