
VIII. *Description of a Species of Tringa, killed in Cambridgeshire, new to England and Europe. By William Yarrell, Esq., F.L.S. Communicated by the Zoological Club of the Linnean Society.*

Read June 17, 1828.

TRINGA RUFESCENS.

SUPRA' fuscescente-rufescens, nigro maculata; alis caudâque versus apicem nigris albisque; tectricibus alarum inferioribus versus apicem albis, nigro variis; remigibus subtus albis nigro guttatis punctatisque; gulâ juguloque rufescentibus; abdomine rufescente-albo. *Vieill. Gal. Ois. p. 105. pl. 238.*

Le Tringa roussâtre. *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. 2de edit. tom. xxxiv. p. 470. Encycl. Meth. p. 1090.*

Such are the characters and references which M. Vieillot points out as distinguishing the bird he has chosen for his type of the genus *Tringa*, a species found in Louisiana, and a specimen of which I have now the pleasure to record as a British bird.

This interesting and prettily marked *Tringa* was shot early in the month of September 1826, in the parish of Melbourne in Cambridgeshire, in company with some Dotterell (*Charadrius morinellus*); and passed immediately afterwards into the possession of Mr. Baker of Melbourne, by whom the skin was preserved, and of whom it was purchased for me. An additional

tional interest attaches to this specimen, since knowing it to be new to this country ; I am besides authorised to add the testimony of Mons. Temminck,—to whom, during his recent visit to London, I exhibited the example now figured,—that this bird is also entirely new to Europe. I have therefore ventured to place a notice of it before the Linnean Society, and add the following description.

Ordo. GRALLATORES *Vigors.*

Fam. SCOLOPACIDÆ. *EjUSD.*

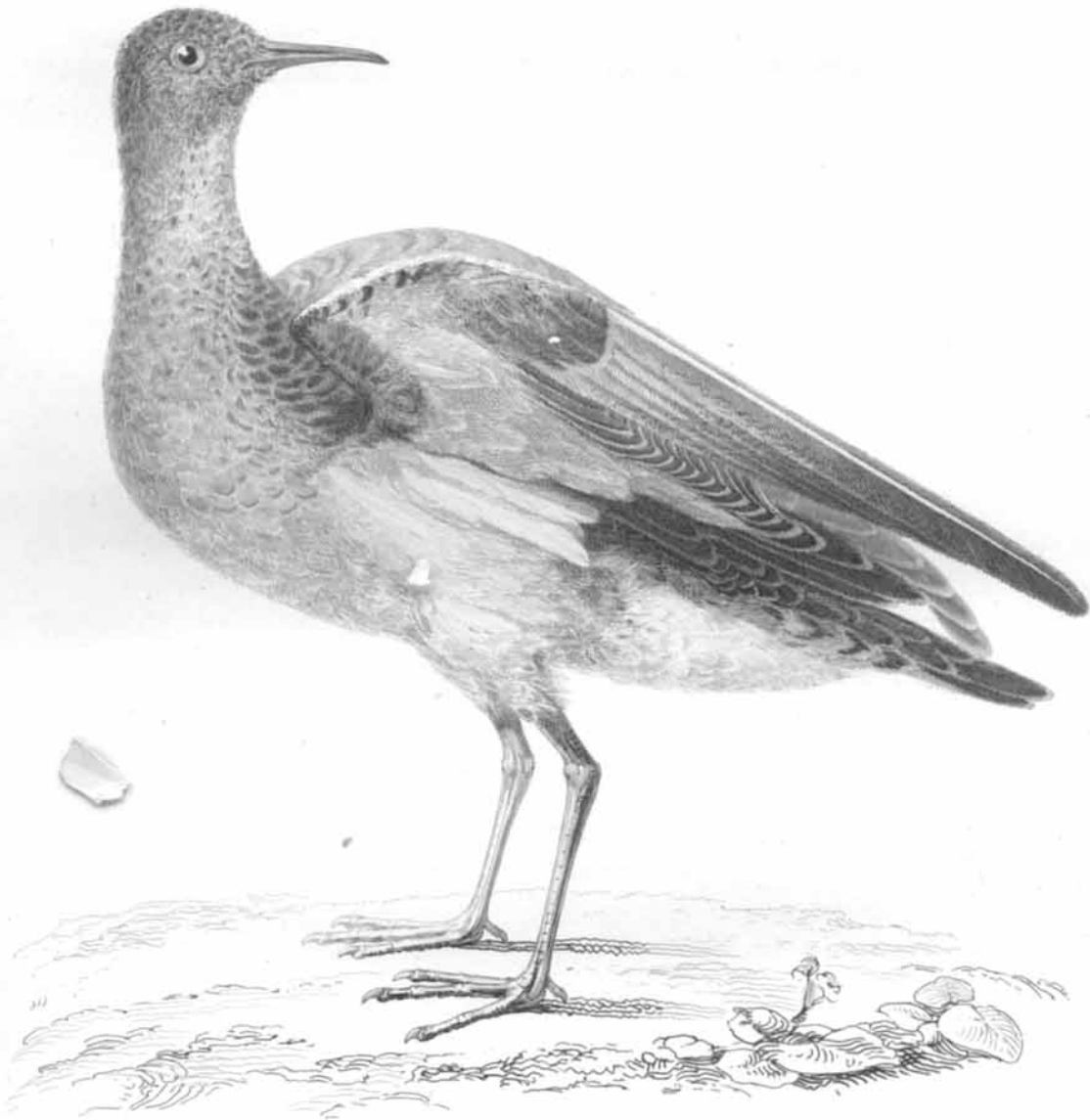
TRINGA RUFESCENS. *Vieill.*

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.

TAB. XI.

The beak is slender and very slightly curved, three-fourths of an inch in length, and black ; from the point to the gape it measures one inch, and from the gape to the occiput is also one inch : the feathers on the top of the head are dark brown, approaching to black, each feather edged with very light brown, giving a mottled appearance ; the back of the neck light brown, the dark spots formed by the centre of each feather minute ; the back very dark brown, the extreme edges only of the feathers light brown : the wing-coverts brown, and intermediate in appearance between the light brown feathers of the neck and those of the back ; the primaries nearly black, tipped with white ; the shafts white ; the tertials brown, edged with light brown ; tail-coverts brown, with lighter-coloured borders : the tail cuneiform, the centre feathers black, the shafts and edges lighter ; the feathers on each side light brown, inclosed by a zone of black, and edged with white.

The chin, sides of the neck, throat and breast, light brown tinged
with



Tringa Rufescens.

with buff; abdomen, flanks and under tail-coverts white, but pervaded also with the buff colour of the higher parts; the sides of the neck spotted, from the dark centres of the feathers occupying a larger surface than upon the front; the anterior portion of the under surface of the wing rufous brown; the outer portion spotted, the under wing-coverts pure white. The shafts of the primaries on their under surface pearl white, the outer web dusky, the inner web also dusky, and plain on the part nearest the shaft, the other inner half of the web beautifully mottled with dark specks; the secondary wing-feathers also mottled at their bases, and ending in sabre-shaped points, presenting a regular series of lines formed by alternating shades of white, black, and dusky bands, which in the adult bird are well defined, and present a beautifully variegated appearance, peculiar to this species. The legs are bare for half an inch above the joint; the tarsus one inch and one quarter in length; the middle toe $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch; the whole of these parts brown; the nails black: the whole length of the bird eight inches.

A single specimen of this Sandpiper deposited in the Paris Museum appears to have served for the descriptions contained in the works already referred to; and this example is probably an adult bird in summer plumage.

Wilson's excellent work on the Birds of America does not contain this *Tringa*, nor is it included in the Continuation, on the same judicious and valuable plan, by the Prince of Musignano; neither have I been able to find a notice of this species in any other ornithological work, except those before quoted. It is readily distinguished from all the other birds of this genus by the peculiar markings of the under surface of the wings. The value of this acquisition to our Fauna is still further enhanced

hanced by the twofold circumstance, of its extreme rarity, as well as being in a different state of plumage from the only other specimen known.

The plumage and the state of ossification of the tarsi prove this specimen to be a young bird of the year; but whether bred in the marshes of the county in which it was killed, or, having wandered from America to the northern part of our island, had accompanied the Dotterell in their southern autumnal visit to the chalk district of Cambridgeshire, can only be conjectured.

The extensive range of hills around Melbourne are frequented by Dotterell in considerable numbers for a short period during every spring and autumn, in their way to and from their breeding-ground; and the only locality from which I could ever obtain their eggs was the Grampian Hills.

But three of the many additions to British ornithology that have lately occurred having been recorded in the *Transactions of the Linnean Society*, I take the opportunity this communication affords me, of adding a list of thirteen others, with a reference to the authorities from whom the first notices of these addenda have emanated. The names of the three above mentioned are also included to complete the list.

Loxia pytiopsittacus. Parrot Crossbill. See *Selby's Illustrations of British Ornithology*, p. 254.

Plectrophanes Lapponica. Lark-spurred Bunting. *Linn. Trans.* vol. xv. part 1. p. 156.

Emberiza hortulana. Ortolan Bunting. *Zool. Journ.* vol. iii. p. 498.

Anthus Richardi. Richard's Lark. *Zool. Journ.* vol. i. p. 280 & 411.

Sylvia Suecica. Blue-breasted Warbler. *Synopsis of the Contents of the Newcastle Museum*, by G. T. Fox, Esq., F.L.S. p. 298.

Accentor

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Accentor alpinus. Alpine Warbler. *Zool. Journ.* vol. ii. p. 281.

Scolopax Sabini. Sabine's Snipe. *Linn. Trans.* vol. xiv. part 3.
p. 556.

Tringa rufescens. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. (The subject of the
present communication.)

Tringa Temminckii. Temminck's Sandpiper. *Zool. Journ.* vol. iii.
pp. 88 & 302.

Gallinula Baillonii. Baillon's Gallinule. *Zool. Journ.* vol. ii.
p. 279.

Sterna arctica. Arctic Tern. *Zool. Journ.* vol. ii. p. 461.

Larus eburneus. Ivory Gull. *Bewick's British Birds*, edit. 1826,
vol. ii. p. 214.

Anas Gambensis. Spur-winged Goose. *Bewick's British Birds*,
edit. 1826, vol. ii. p. 296.

Anas Casarka. Ruddy Goose. *Bewick's British Birds*, edit. 1826,
vol. ii. p. 313.

Anas glocitans. Bimaculated Duck. *Linn. Trans.* vol. xiv. part 3,
p. 559.

Anas rufina. Red-crested Duck. *Zool. Journ.* vol. ii. pp. 492 &
552; and vol. iii. p. 604.