

fallen in on the American side with the northward moving Lesser Yellowlegs, which winter as far south as Argentina.

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## SIBERIAN RECOVERY OF PECTORAL SANDPIPER

by C. Stuart Houston, Saskatoon \*

A Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*), number 502-86246, was shot on May 28, 1963 near Yanskij (110 km. N of Verkhoyanski), Yakut, U.S.S.R., about 68°30' N. and 134°45' E. I had banded this bird while mist netting at dawn for Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) on Sept. 20, 1961, 18 miles east and 3 miles north of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I was assisted on that occasion by J. Bernard Gollop, waterfowl biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Robert Folker, upland game biologist with the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources.

Yanskij is some 1560 miles west of the westernmost tip of Alaska, on the Yana River just north of the Arctic Circle; via the Bering Straits it is about 3800 miles northwest of Saskatoon.

Since the breeding grounds of this species (A.O.U. *Check-List*, 5th edition) extend across northern Siberia to the Taimyr peninsula, one thousand miles further west, it was quite possibly on its breeding grounds when shot. Its wintering grounds extend from Peru, southern Bolivia, northern Argentina and Uruguay south to Patagonia, whereas it is only casual in Samoa, Australia and New Zealand. It seems possible that Pectoral Sandpipers nesting in Siberia regularly travel up to 2500 miles east before beginning their long southward journey, which may extend another 7200 miles beyond Saskatoon, into South America. The largest migratory movement is east of the Rocky Mountains and the Pectoral is one of the common sandpipers in migration in Saskatche-

wan each spring and fall. If allowed to indulge in even more speculative theorizing, one could estimate that the total round trip might approach 22,000 miles, rivalling that famous traveller, the Arctic Tern, (*Sterna paradisaea*). Extensive banding on the breeding and wintering grounds might prove fruitful.

Allen J. Duvall, then head of the Bird Banding Laboratory, informs me that 1008 Pectoral Sandpipers were banded up to and including 1960, and that the only two previous recoveries were from the state or province where banded (Illinois and Manitoba).

I have had only one other Siberian recovery—a Pintail (*Anas acuta*) banded June 26, 1957 at Beaufield Marsh near Kerrobert, Sask. and shot May 21, 1961 near Anadyr', Chukotka, U.S.S.R.

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## SANDHILL CRANES FLYING WITH FEET DRAWN UP

by Fred G. Bard and Fred W. Lahrman,  
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On April 13, 1961 we visited the north end of Last Mountain Lake to get prairie sod for a coyote habitat group. It was a bitterly cold day with a strong northwest wind, rain and snow flurries. We found numerous Sandhill Cranes resting in flocks at a frozen spring. As we watched, cranes arose and circled overhead, and we were surprised to see nine cranes flying with their feet drawn forward in such a way that they appeared to have no legs. Instead of flying with their legs extended, trailing behind their tails in the usual manner, they had their feet drawn forward and tucked into the belly plumage. On two occasions we saw such birds suddenly straighten their legs out, assuming their usual appearance. We guessed that they were flying with their feet tucked up in order to keep them warm. In very cold weather Canada Geese have been observed to tuck their feet forward and under their feathers in a similar fashion instead of carrying them back under their tail as they usually do when in flight, but we know of no previous report of this interesting habit in Sandhill Cranes.