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Upland Sandpiper Banding in North America

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ABSTRACT

Summary of Upland Sandpiper banding is presented. There have been only 11 recoveries of 1484 sandpipers banded. Details of these recoveries are presented.

DISCUSSION

The Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) has received relatively little attention from bird banders. Before computerization, 1923-1954, 241 Upland Sandpipers were banded, including a high of 28 in 1943 (*Bird Banding Notes*, 1922-1965). Prior to 1955, the Banding Office provided no breakdowns for states and provinces, nor for individual banders. Beginning in 1955, through 1996, another 1243 individuals were banded in 21 states, four provinces, and one sandpiper each in Panama and British West Indies. Jurisdictions with highest numbers banded were: New York, 452; Michigan, 186; Minnesota, 111; Kansas, 86; and Saskatchewan, 55. Banders with highest totals were M.O. Chevalier (New York), 317; S.C. Drury (Michigan), 138; V. Meig (Wisconsin), 110; A.H. Grewe, Jr. (Minnesota), 106; and J.R. Cohen (New York), 93.

Recovery rates were three of 241 (1.2%) for the pre-1955 bandings, and eight of 1243 (0.6%) for 1955-1996 bandings. Nine banders shared a total of 11 recoveries from 1484 birds banded (0.7%) (Table 1). Only M.O. Chevalier, whose sandpiper holds the banding longevity record at 8 years, 11 months, has published his results (Garber et al. 1997). Nine of the recoveries were locals (flightless young) at the time of banding, while two were adults. Seven recoveries were beyond the 10-minute block of latitude and longitude where banded, and four were in a different state, province

or country. An adult banded by George Wagner in Wisconsin was found injured in Mississippi, 1115 km distant. A local banded in North Dakota by Michael Johnson was shot in Texas, 1730 km distant.

There was a single recovery from the winter range, which extends from Surinam to Central Argentina and Uruguay (Amer. Ornith. Union 1998). An adult female trapped on a nest with three nestlings by Geoff Holroyd at Alexandria, in the extreme eastern corner of Ontario, was shot by the noted ornithologist Helmut Sick near Quixada, Brazil, 5650 km to the south.

The most interesting recovery of all added a new species to the list of Spanish birds. No. 1163-19030 (with a colored plastic band on the opposite leg) was banded on the Koutsky farm near Pellston in Emmet County, Michigan, near the northern tip of the lower peninsula, by Sid Drury on 5 July 1988. The flightless young bird was about 17 days of age and weighed 57.8 g. It was shot (with a plastic reed!), in the municipality of Los Palacios, on the east bank of the Guadalquivir River delta, about 25 km south of Sevilla, Spain (37°10'N, 5°50'W), on 2 December 1988. The finder read "USA" on the band and turned it in. The minimal distance traveled, in a direct line, was 6385 km. Bent (1929) reported that there had been six sightings of the Upland Sandpiper in England, 1851-1879, together with single sightings from Denmark, Holland, Italy, and Malta. Later European sightings include the British Isles (35 more), Italy (6 more), France (4), Iceland (3), Azores (2), and one each from Germany, Sicily, Malta, and Portugal (cited in Alstrom and Colston 1991).

Table 1. Details of Recoveries of 11 Upland Sandpiper.

Bander	Banding Location			Age	How	Recovery Location				
	St	Lat/Long	Date			St	Lat/Long	Date	Distance (km)	Yr/Mo
G. Wagner	WI	430-892	22 May 1942	Ad	Injured	MS	330-883	29 Aug 1946	1115	4-3
M. Johnson	ND	470-983	12 Jul 1951	L	Shot	TX	313-965	10 Apr 1953	1730	1-9
Ms.A.H. Kelley	MI	424-832	17 Jul 1954	L	Found dead	MI	424-832	01 Jul 1956	0	1-11
F.A. Clinch	NY	435-755	06 Jul 1958	L	Struck object	NY	430-753	10 May 1959	95	0-10
G. Holroyd	ON	451-743	07 Jun 1968	Ad	Shot	Brazil	-45-391	21 Feb 1969	5650	0-8
J.R. Cohen	NY	403-734	13 Jun 1974	L	Found dead	NY	404-733	-- Jul 1974	35	0-1
J.R. Cohen	NY	403-734	06 Jul 1976	L	Airplane	NY	403-734	08 May 1978	0	1-10
M. Chevalier	NY	403-734	12 Jun 1981	L	Auto	NY	403-734	28 May 1990	0	8-11
M. Chevalier	NY	403-734	10 Jun 1984	L	Found dead	NY	403-734	11 Jul 1984	0	0-1
S.Postupalsky	MI	405-833	06 Jul 1987	L	Auto	MI	450-832	20 May 1991	90	3-10
S. Drury	MI	453-844	05 Jul 1988	L	Shot	Spain	371-055	02 Dec 1988	6385	0-4

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