

a particularly good spot is found, a flock will repeatedly sweep in somewhat circular flight over the area for perhaps half an hour.

A male specimen collected by the writer and measured in the flesh had a head and body length of 101 mm; wing-span 412 mm; wing 185 mm; width of wing at first primary 52 mm; culmen 8 mm; width of bill at gape 21 mm. These dimensions will serve to emphasize the remarkable anatomical adaptations of the species to the needs of long-distance migration and entirely aerial feeding over very large areas of country and seemingly without diurnal rest.

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Black legs in Curlew-Sandpiper.—Descriptions of the coloration of the legs and feet of the Curlew-Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*) given in various ornithological works are not in agreement. The colour of the parts concerned is described either as "olive-brown", "olivaceous-tinged brown", "dull greyish-plumbeous", or "black".

In a review of "Field Guide to the Waders", 2nd. Ed., 1960, in *The Emu*, 61: 247-248, 1961, I questioned the occurrence of black legs in the species. My reasons were that I had found that olive-brownish coloured legs became black in colour in prepared specimens. However, I now have to record that black legs and feet do in fact occur normally in Curlew-Sandpipers.

During the course of a Wader survey at Buckland Park Beach, Port Gawler, on February 14, 1962, I collected two birds to check the coloration of the soft parts in different plumage phases. A male in partial nuptial plumage had black legs and feet, and the colour of those parts in a female in eclipse plumage was also black.—ERHARD F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 15/2/62.