

The Peanut-Buttered Sandpiper (*Erolia ruficollis*)

Lester S. Thomas (DVOG President 1968-1969)

Oh, down at the shore where the long breakers roar
And the sanderlings challenge the rollers,
There's a bird on the Bay, from Alaska, they say,
That has practically shaken Steve's molars.

He looked in the books, and considered its looks,
And 'phoned everyone who would hear him.
He convinced very few with this bird that is new,
So I speak these few lines just to cheer him.

Oh, yes we were there, and we saw the bird fair,
With a neck like 'twas all peanut-buttered,
Or butterscotch color, or orange, but duller.
"A stranger all right", we all muttered.

No sanderling he; 'twas quite smaller you see,
And it searched in the mud like a least.
'Twas a rufous-necked stint! We declare it in print!
A Siberian bird in the East!

Oh, once I saw a shorebird with a bright and shiny crown;
And once I saw a 'piper with its belly dirty-brown;
And once I saw a little peep with legs as green as mint,
But never did I see before an orange-headed stint!

A Curlew 'piper now and then, there never is a doubt;
The experts may not see it but they never throw it out.
Now, both curlew and the rufous breed beyond the Bering shore;
Why can't they fly together, five thousand miles or more?

For nothing is impossible, despite what experts state,
(I saw a little plover once as pink as Cutler's pate).
And Steve and George and Lester did check and double check;
THEY TRULY SAW A RUSSIAN PEEP WITH RUFOUS - COLORED NECK!

A Beach Haven Inlet Bird (seen July 15, 1962)

Stephen T. Harty (DVOG President 1976-1977)

Unrecorded, except in verse
We would like the record to be.
A Rufous-necked Sandpiper
Is much too rare, you see.

'Tis all a part of birding,
It makes it so much fun.
We three did enjoy him
But those molars for a gun!

[Rufous-necked Sandpiper (Stint) is now the Red-necked Stint (Calidris ruficollis). The George mentioned in Lester Thomas' poem is George Reynard (DVOG President 1966-1967). The date of these hitherto unpublished poetic gems is not given but presumably in late 1962. Ed.]