

To the editor,

A.D. Brewer (*AB* 31: 234, 1977) concludes his brief article on the first observation of a Golden-winged Warbler in Trinidad with the statement: "the present record constitutes a range extension of 700 miles to the east". It should be noted that Bond (*Birds of the West Indies*, 2nd edition, 1971, p. 188) calls this warbler a "rare winter resident or transient" in Puerto Rico. Indeed, on November 12, 1975 I observed a male and female of this species at close range near the Parador El Verde, at the western edge of Luquillo National Forest. Next day, Dr. T.K. Shires and I again located the birds in the same spot. This eastern Puerto Rico locality is only some 330 miles to the west of Arima in Trinidad.

—N. S. Halmi, R# 6, Iowa City, IA 52240.

To the editor,

I have been meaning to write you about the Robert Clem painting of an Eskimo Curlew that you published in *American Birds* 31:138a, 1977. You might be interested to know of the conversation I had with him before he painted the picture. I suggested that it should be a mood picture showing the bird walking off into extinction. I think it is one of the most beautiful in the book and since the bird is extinct, perhaps a prophetic one.

—Gardner D. Stout, 48 Rosebrook Road, New Canaan, Conn. 06840.

Work in Progress

Wanted: Data on the Seasonal Distribution of North American Gulls

We are developing a procedure whereby the U.S. Air Force can predict the potential seasonal hazard to aircraft represented by gulls in parts of North America. This knowledge will be used to schedule missions around high risk areas, thereby reducing the likelihood of bird/aircraft collisions. Supplemental data on local gull populations are needed from all parts of the continent. The assistance of field workers is solicited to aid in this task. Please submit reports to Dr.

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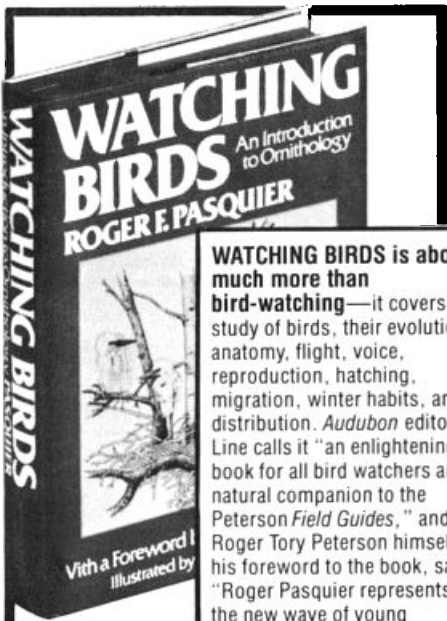
DODD
MEAD

William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Data will be gathered for a 2-year period beginning September 1, 1977.

For each observation, please provide the following information: list of species present, approximate number of each species, precise locality description, dates observed, any information about causes for concentrations (e.g. sanitary landfill operation), and any details about the frequency of such concentrations in the respective areas. Information is sought from inland as well as coastal localities. Thank you for your cooperation.

Martin Bibliography

A comprehensive bibliography of the North and South American martins (*Progne* spp.) is currently in preparation. It will include all papers dealing solely or partly with martins, except local annotated checklists. Authors wishing to have material included should send an abstract or reprint to Charles R. Brown, Box 1309, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090.



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The Last Word

Recently, *American Birds* has published articles which might not have been published in other journals, because they are more speculative in their approach than reportorial. Banks' recent paper (*Am. Birds* 31:127) on possible causes of the near extinction of the Eskimo Curlew was one such piece; it argued a theory that cannot be proved at this late date, but we found it original and stimulating, and worthy of dissemination through our pages. Another paper that might be included in this category is Fretwell's discussion of Dickcissel population problems in this issue. We are well aware that from a strictly scientific viewpoint, Fretwell's theories are based on less than ideal (some would say less than adequate) statistics. Another editor might have said "Go back and do some more measuring before you resubmit this paper." But Fretwell is an original and imaginative theorist, and we believe that even if he is eventually proved (or proves himself) mistaken, his theory is interesting and deserves exposure. Perhaps, hopefully, it will result in some very interesting controversy.

* * * *

Letters received from readers following the March and May issues were extravagant in their praise of our effort to upgrade the



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