

The Seventh Salon of Photographs

We almost failed to have a salon of photography of any kind this year. Our publication schedule met with so many expected and unexpected delays that the only announcement of the salon, which was published in the May issue, did not reach readers until after the publication date of September 6. Well past a feasible deadline, and with a request only to submit entries "immediately upon receipt of this issue," entries were quite understandably fewer than in recent years. November is not the ideal month for this feature: next year we will return it to a more practical September, which means that entries should be received in our editorial offices no later than July 15.

In spite of the fewer entries, overall quality this year was high; now that readers can better judge the standards being set by the winners, the submission of prints and transparencies of obviously lower quality is diminishing. Meanwhile, the proportion of color to black-and-white is increasing: the latter category seemed to suffer the most diminution this year.

The Broad-tailed Hummingbird that won first prize and is our cover was one of a fine series showing a nesting of this species. Until budget realities intervened, we entertained dreams of publishing the entire series in color. It is, we believe, the first bird portrait we have ever exhibited on an American Birds cover that is larger-than-life. It is, in fact, almost twice life-size!

To all competitors —winners and non-winners alike— our congratulations and thanks for a fine selection of photographs.

—The Editors

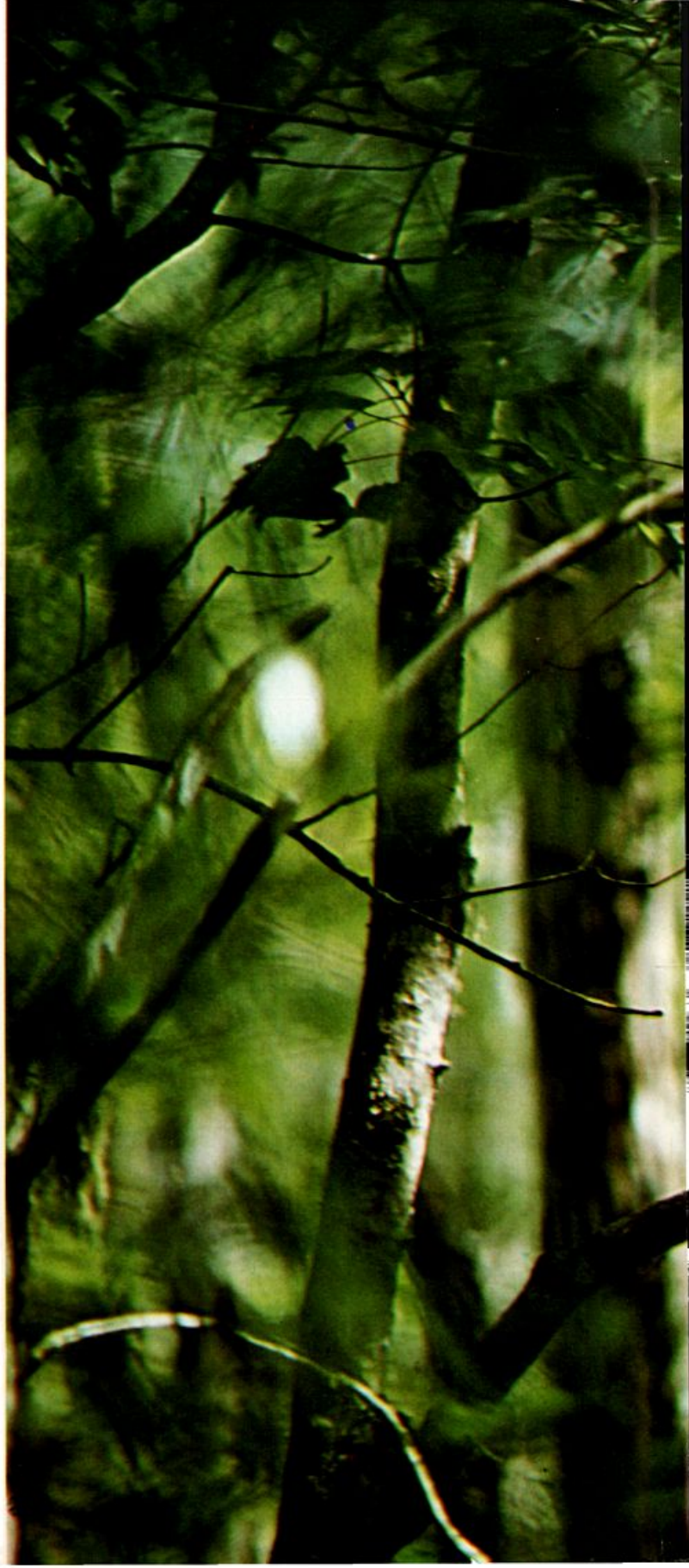
About the Winners COLOR

FIRST PRIZE winner Robert Pollock is a Ph.D. in Genetics and a former biology professor who is now a full-time wildlife photographer and writer. He lives in Allenspark, Colorado, where the Broad-tailed Hummingbird was photographed. He says that he is a self-taught photographer, with a nod to a mail order photography course. He prefers 35mm for wildlife photography and a larger format for landscape. The cover photograph was of a free-flying bird; no blind was used. The camera was a Minolta with a 300mm Rokkor lens with extension tube, and the exposure data are f/11 at 1/125th second.

SECOND PRIZE winner is Dave Ransdell, of Deerfield, Illinois. His moody, deep forest portrait of the Barred Owl appealed to the judges especially for its atmosphere of mystery and surprise. Says Ransdell, "This was the first photo contest I have ever entered, although I have been taking pictures for about four years. This particular owl was a challenge to photograph because he was so sleepy that his eyes were closed 95% of the time I watched him." Ransdell, a technician in an immunology laboratory, used a Minolta 101 with 200mm Rokkor lens, at f/4.5 at 1/30th second. The owl was found at Audubon's Corkscrew Sanctuary in Florida.

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SECOND PRIZE, color







THIRD PRIZE, color

HONORABLE MENTIONS, color 1





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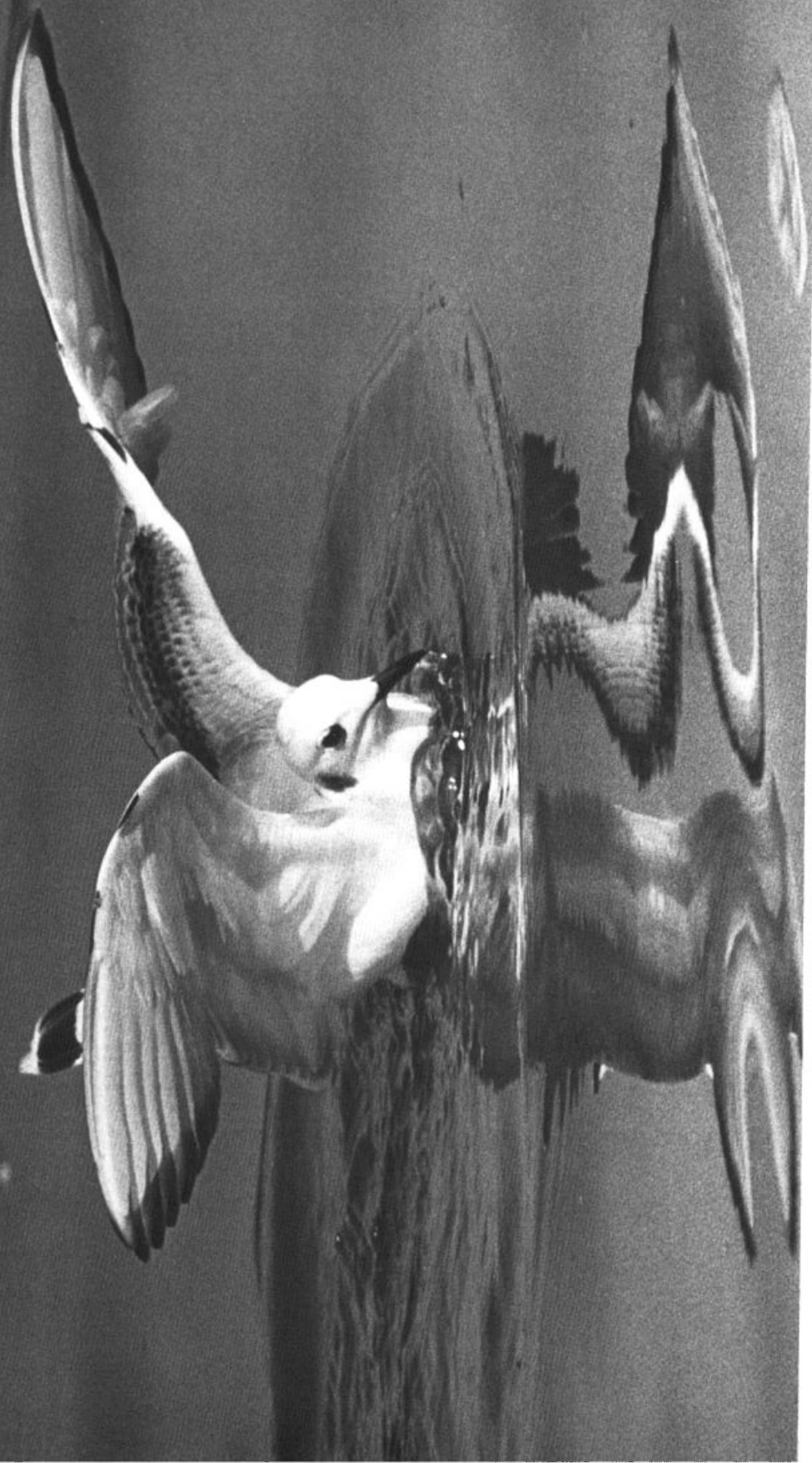


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*See page 1082
for details*



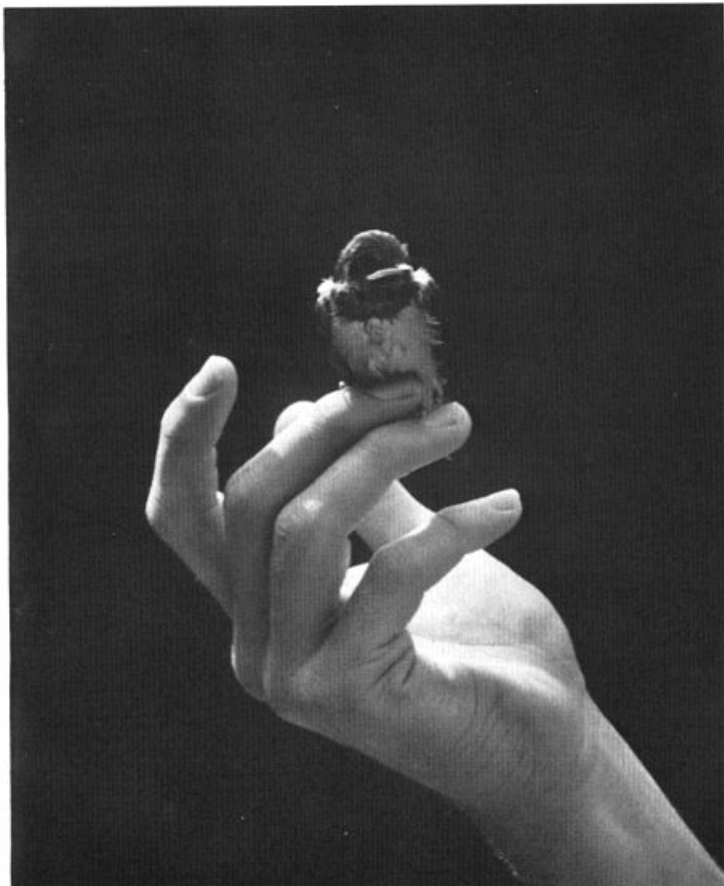
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FIRST PRIZE BLACK AND-WHITE, Bonaparte's Gull, by Ken W. Gardiner



**SECOND PRIZE
BLACK-AND-WHITE,
Snowy Egret, by
Gary D. Shackelford**



**THIRD PRIZE BLACK-
AND-WHITE, Young
swallow, by Harry
Gitlin**

THIRD PRIZE this year goes to the almost impressionist photograph of an immature Dipper begging from an adult near Fallsvale, California, by Brian G. Prescott, who lives in Colton, California. Prescott, who tells us nothing of himself or his photography, used a Canon TL6 with a Spharitone 500mm mirror lens on a shoulder stock. The exposure data was not detailed.

1. HONORABLE MENTION to John W. Bova, of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, a professional musician, for his portrait of an immature White Ibis photographed in Everglades National Park, Florida. The camera was a Nikon F, with 300mm Nikkor lens, hand held at f/5.6 at 1/125th second.
2. HONORABLE MENTION to Robert K. Fraunfelder, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who considers himself a serious amateur nature photographer, for his Canada Geese with brood of goslings, photographed at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey. The shot was taken from a car with a Nikkormat EL camera, and 400mm Novoflex lens. Exposure data was not recorded.
3. HONORABLE MENTION to Jim Barsi of La Mesa, California, a shoe salesman who is a relative newcomer to bird photography, for the erect and rigid American Bittern, shot at Santee Lakes, California. Close inspection of the print demonstrates the way in which the bittern, with head upright, may still focus his eyes on the water below. The 35mm camera was equipped with a 400mm lens.
4. HONORABLE MENTION to Norman Lavers, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, who tells us nothing about himself other than that he edits the Arkansas State Audubon Society Newsletter. His Snowy Owl was taken in western Washington with an ancient Praktica camera and "cheap" 400mm Lentar lens, at f/8 at 1/500.
5. HONORABLE MENTION to Doug Murphy, of Wayzata, Minnesota, for his alert Spotted Sandpiper "inspecting an intruder." It was taken in Alaska. We have no further information on this photograph except that it was shot at f/5.6 at 1/125th second.

Honorable Mention numbers are not rankings. They are for identification only.

BLACK-AND-WHITE

Ken W. Gardiner, who takes first prize once again in this category, might well lay claim to being one of the finest black-and-white bird photographers anywhere. The Bonaparte's Gull was photographed with a Topcon Super D camera with a 500mm Auto Topcor lens, and motor drive, at f/11 at 1/1000th second. Gardiner, an engineer by profession, lives in the San Francisco area. For a partial listing of his recent awards, see *American Birds* 30: 800 (1976).

Gary D. Shackelford, second prize winner, is a physician specializing in pediatric radiology, and has been photographing birds for five years. He lives in St. Louis, Missouri. The Snowy Egret was taken at Sanibel Island, Florida, with a Nikkormat FTN camera with Vivitar 300mm lens. Exposure data was not recorded.

Harry Gitlin, third prize winner, is a dentist who lives in Flushing, New York. Although we normally do not favor "hand shots," the fine composition and lighting in this photograph of a young swallow won it third honors. It was taken at Lake George, New York, with a Leica camera with 50mm lens.