

Information For Contributors to CONTINENTAL BIRDLIFE

Conceived as a bimonthly journal to contribute to the advancement and enjoyment of field ornithology, *Continental Birdlife* seeks articles that are informative, accurate, and of interest to bird enthusiasts in North America.

Our geographic scope encompasses all of Canada, Greenland, the United States, and Mexico, plus adjacent waters.

We are particularly looking for material in the following categories:

1. Distributional Articles. The study of bird distribution in North America is still in a dynamic state; while more intensive fieldwork is revealing previously unsuspected patterns of occurrence in some species, other species are actively expanding or contracting in range. We would like to publish significant new information, preferably presented in one of two forms:

A. A comprehensive study of the distribution of one species (or species group) in part or all of its range. This type of article is particularly desired for species which are relatively little-known or which are undergoing changes in distribution.

B. A shorter note giving the details of some truly outstanding single record or series of records. Such a note should include substantiation (photographs if available; transcriptions of field notes, etc.) and a full explanation of the significance of the record(s).

For records of rarities, especially those unsupported by photographs, we would like to see copies of field descriptions by at least three observers (single-observer sightings may, of course, be included in summaries of series of records for a species). In cases involving difficult identifications or exceptional rarities, copies of the photos and descriptions will be circulated among various experts for verification. These policies are designed solely to maintain a high level of accuracy. In some other journals, you might find your carefully documented note placed adjacent to a one-person sight record of an endangered species 2000 miles out-of-range; we want *all* the records published in *Continental Birdlife* to be believed.

2. Field Identification Articles. Accurate identification is essential to field ornithology. One of our major aims will be to publish as much new information as possible on this subject. We particularly would like to see material presented in one of three formats:

A. A comprehensive article giving an in-depth discussion of some difficult species group. Authors contemplating such articles are urged to contact us: we may be able to supply helpful notes or literature references from our extensive files. We may also aid in securing illustrations, suggesting possible collaborators, etc.

B. A short note presenting some small but useful piece of information. This may be a helpful field character which is not mentioned in the popular bird guides, or alternatively, evidence that some previously accepted field character is not always reliable.

C. For our column entitled "In Detail" — a short note treating identification *below the species level* (i.e., criteria for distinguishing sexes, age groups, subspecies, or color phases) for a single species. Criteria discussed should be those visible in the field; minor differences in measurements, although often useful to banders, would be out of place here.

Note that identification articles of the first two types above may deal with species that are casual or accidental in North America (or even with species which have not yet occurred but which are likely to be recorded eventually), but the "In Detail" column is restricted to species that occur regularly somewhere in our area.

3. **Locality Articles.** In this category we would like to see a discussion of some area which is ornithologically unique: a concentration point for migrants, a notable "vagrant trap," or an area with a truly unusual combination of breeding species. This is *not* intended as a "bird-finding" piece (although public access, or lack of it, should be mentioned). The emphasis here is on describing the outstanding avian features (species composition and timing of the migration, vagrant occurrences, or breeding season); attempting to explain *why* the area is outstanding (geography, weather patterns, local climate or vegetation will usually figure here); and perhaps giving some of the history of local birding coverage. Obviously, the writing of such an article will require a fair degree of familiarity with the area to be discussed.

4. **Field Techniques.** This seems unlikely to be a major category, since new methods in field ornithology are not developed every day. However, we are definitely interested in publishing accounts of new or little-known techniques for finding, attracting, counting, taking notes on, photographing, or tape-recording birds in the field.

5. **Short Behavioral Notes.** Field observers are sometimes witness to interesting bits of bird behavior (odd feeding behaviors, nest locations, interspecific encounters, etc.), and some of these could be significant additions to the scientific literature (and interesting to read) if properly researched and written up. We are willing to publish a limited amount of such material. Any such note, of course, should be written from field notes taken at the time of observation; behavioral notes written from memory are likely to be inaccurate and incomplete.

6. **Notes on Hybrids, Abnormally Pigmented Birds, etc.** The major ornithological journals seem to have moved away from publishing accounts of single hybrids, partial albinos, erythristic birds, etc. — and rightly so, since the occasional occurrence of such phenomena has been reasonably well established. However, such odd birds may still create identification problems for field observers. We will publish notes on new or unusual hybrid combinations, or on deformed or oddly pigmented birds which could have caused identification problems, only if such notes are well-documented — preferably with both photographs and detailed descriptions.

7. **"The Endangered, Rare, and Little-known Birds of the World."** The Editors enjoy reading about rare or little-known birds from other parts of the world, even if we may never see them ourselves, so we have decided to invite a series of articles under this heading. Articles should be based on first-hand experience. The amount and type of information to be included will vary, of course, between cases; a report of even a single brief encounter with a species will be of interest, if you are the only person to have seen that species in this century. Particularly desired are articles on endangered species, written by persons directly involved in efforts to preserve the

species. North American birds are not excluded, incidentally.

8. "**Focus On . . .**" We would like to hear from any person who has done intensive studies on a single species and who would be willing to write a short, non-technical piece discussing *one single aspect* of that species' life history. The information in this type of article need not be new, or previously unpublished; the only requirement is that it should be of interest to the average non-professional field ornithologist.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The following are a few general guidelines. Manuscripts may be submitted in rough form, and if the contents are significant enough and within our range of interests the Editors will gladly adjust minor details of style and usage to conform to our editorial policies.

Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of standard (8½x11 inch) white paper. The Fifth (1957) A.O.U. Check-list (and subsequent supplements) should be followed for nomenclature and taxonomy of North American birds; Peterson and Chalif's (1973) *Field Guide to Mexican Birds* will be an acceptable source for names of Mexican species; departures from the above taxonomic arrangements or names should be convincingly supported. The scientific name should be included with the first mention of any species (bird or otherwise), immediately following the English name.

We favor the metric system in measurements. Time should be given on the 24-hour clock, with time zone and use of standard or daylight time indicated at the first mention of time (e.g., 0830 CST).

Illustrations may be either drawings or photographs. In the case of photographs, black-and-white prints are preferred; if color slides are to be submitted these should be in crisp focus, as some sharpness is inevitably lost in the conversion to black-and-white.

Papers of 2000 or more words should include a concise summary. Literature cited should be listed in a separate section at the end of the paper, except in the case of short notes which cite only one reference (which may be given in full in the text).

We suggest that authors contact us before beginning work on major articles. We reserve the right to edit material for accuracy, clarity, or brevity; however, no major changes will be made without consultation with the author.

The name and address (including ZIP code) of the author should appear on the first page of the manuscript. Address all manuscripts to the Editors, Continental Birdlife, P.O. Box 43294, Tucson, Arizona 85733.

Honorariums. The Editors know (from experience!) that the writing of even a short note requires an inordinate amount of time and effort — and that there are usually hidden expenses involved (postage, phone calls, trips to libraries, typewriter ribbon, coffee, etc.). Therefore, it will be our policy to pay honorariums for all material that we accept for publication. At the outset these will be approximately \$10 for every 650 words (final MS) and \$7 apiece for photographs; perhaps somewhat higher for articles or photos of outstanding significance.

We will be glad to answer any questions relating to the journal.