

At a Glance . . .

Photo by H. B. Kane



Courtesy of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

Can you identify this bird?

Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.

As eighty percent of the respondents in the contest decided, the bird pictured last month was, indeed, a SANDERLING. The mail received reveals such a perspicacious readership that BOEM will certainly have to try harder to find suitable pictures of hard-to-identify subjects. I shall let the letters received enlighten us about this bird.

"Not being its typical habitat, it takes more than a glance. It is easily recognized as a 'peep.' The bill is not overly large or small. The white of the forehead, side neck, and underparts is striking, and the dark bend of the wing is diagnostic."

"The black shoulder is a key to the identification, but also the medium sized, heavy black bill is a clue."

Further edification: "The back coloration indicates a moulting or immature bird. My guess is that the picture was taken in late August." "It is an immature (juvenile) going into 1st winter (basic) plumage."

Right on all counts! One cannot do better than this. It is somewhat discouraging to run a contest in which nearly all are winners. Any picture contributions from our readers will be most welcome. I may even let the readers take over this column.

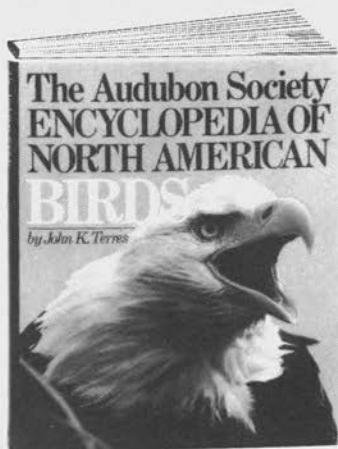
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