

**Curassows and Related Birds.** Jean Deacour and Dean Amadon, American Museum of Natural History, N. Y., 1973. 250 pp. \$20 plus \$1 postage. A semipopular monograph on the family *Cracidae*: 45 species of curassows, chachalacas, and guans, illustrated with 30 color plates by Al Gilbert (25) George M. Sutton (4) and D. M. Reid Henry (1). Complete bibliography. Well-written, authoritative; like many heavily subsidized books, an excellent buy.

**Birding from a Tractor Seat,** Charles T. Flugum, Box 30038, St. Paul, Minn. 55175. Ill. by Walter J. Brecknridge. 435 pp. 1973. \$7.95. A collection of writings on birds by the well known Minnesota "dirt farmer."



### Manx Shearwater Breeds in North America

Discovered nesting on Penikese Island, Massachusetts, on June 6, 1973, by Gus Ben David, the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus p. puffinus* is thus added to the list of confirmed North American breeding birds. The nestling was photographed by Richard O. Bierregaard, Jr.

## News and Notes

Announcement has been made of the formation of the Alberta Ornithological Records Committee, by the parent organization, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. The seven-member committee, under the Chairmanship of W. Ray Salt, includes representation from Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and will henceforth serve as a repository of records of birds from Alberta, and will on request examine the validity of records of rare or unusual birds in Alberta. The committee will shortly issue a standard report form for observations. The Federation's address is Box 1472, Edmonton, Alta, T5J 2N5.

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The early Winter Range Mapping Project, suggested in these pages (*Am. Birds* 25: 514), has become one of the most important byproducts of this journal in its 27-year history. A first call for volunteers to map the winter ranges of species from data published in Christmas Bird Counts resulted in response by more than 80 volunteer mappers, who "adopted" some 220 species as their own personal projects.

A second call, in 1973 added another 80 volunteers to the roles, with over 480 species now spoken for. And during the year, an agreement was worked out between the Patuxent Wildlife

### Field

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Research Center, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, The National Audubon Society, and the U.S. Air Force, in which the first two named parties will provide a publication for the Air Force including the winter range maps of 125 species, in return for funding the project.

The purpose of the publication, and the interest of the Air Force, lies in the latter's desire to schedule training flights in areas away from the major flocking and wintering grounds of the larger species, to avoid air strikes. The 125 selected species are the larger birds: waterfowl, raptors, gulls, etc., as well as mass flocking birds such as blackbirds, robins, etc. Maps of species not included in the Air Force bulletin will be published in groups as an added feature of *American Birds*, and depending on cost, the Air Force bulletin will either be sent as a free bonus to all *American Birds* subscribers, or sold at modest cost.

Cooperating on the project are Robert Arbib and Susan Reed at *American Birds*, and Chandler S. Robbins and Danny Bystrak at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland. Final editing of the maps will be done in Laurel; publication will be handled in New York.

The present timetable is for all maps to be finished and returned to *American Birds* by March 1, and the publication completed and delivered to the Air Force by June 30, 1974.

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We welcome as a new Regional Editor for the Florida Region John B. Edscorn, of Lakeland, whose first effort is the fine report that begins on pp. 40. John Edscorn is well-known to every Florida birder and hundreds of Florida visitors the state's most indefatigable birder, whose state

list—373—is tops, whose A.O.U. life list is 606, and who has racked up 171 species on a single big day in Florida. John is, among many things, an ardent conservationist, a discoverer of a possible new race of Rufous-sided Towhee, a vice-president of the Florida Ornithological Society, and on and on. Edscorn replaces Glen E. Woolfenden of Tampa, who was forced by pressure of work to relinquish this assignment after a fine first report last June. Our thanks to Glen as well.



John B. Edscorn

We published a grateful farewell to Stuart Houston, complete with portrait, in October, 1972, following immediately upon which Stu informed us he would serve as editor of the Northern Great Plains for another year. His service is ended with this issue, and we repeat our gratitude for the work he and Mary have contributed to the journal. Houston will be followed in this assignment by Jim Wedgwood.



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Jim (not short for James) A. Wedgwood is a mechanical engineer who is currently Director of Planning, University of Saskatchewan. He is also past President of the Saskatoon Natural History Society and more recently of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. He is a Director of the Canadian Natural Federation and a member of several other conservation committees and boards, and according to Houston, "does much more bird-watching than I do." We look forward to a rewarding association with *American Birds* for Jim and all of us. Field notes for this region should be sent to the present contributing editors and thence to Jim at 610 Leslie Ave., Saskatoon, Sask.

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The editor never expected to be getting into the sweatshirt business as part of his more-than-full-time chores for this journal. How it came about is somewhat curious. Each year at Christmas, as a token of gratitude to Regional Editors and other unpaid volunteers, *American Birds* has been sending small gifts. Last year, the editor thought it would be amusing to make up some locker-room gray sweatshirts, with the portrait and name of John James Audubon on the chest, and send one to each name on his list.

When the word got around N.A.S. headquarters, everyone wanted one. So a much more sizable quantity was ordered, with the idea that our Service Department might want to carry the sweatshirts as a regular item. But then it was ruled that no department of N.A.S. could sell the shirts, because we are a nonprofit organization, allowed only to sell "educational" materials.

Therefore, and with some trepidation, an ad appeared in Market Place, offering the sweatshirts through an outfit called The Shirt Box, which is none other than the editor's left hand. Profits, if any, will be donated to N.A.S., so it all may come out all right. Meanwhile, if there appears to be enough interest, the "company" may even provide sweatshirts in other colors than gray, and add a line of John James Audubon T-shirts.

Please do not order shirts or send money to the National Audubon Society, or *American Birds* . . . only to The Shirt Box (see ad in Market Place).

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It is with the greatest reluctance that we announce that subscription rates for *American Birds* will be increased as of April 1. Subscribers wishing to renew *expired subscriptions* before that date will be allowed to pay the present (old rates) for one year only. All future new and renewed subscriptions will be at the rate of \$8.00 per year, or \$15.00 for two years.

We hardly need to cite the reasons for this forced increase: inflation is everywhere. In one year we have seen our paper increase in cost from \$12.00 per hundredweight to \$33.00 *when available*; postage rates have doubled and will go higher still, labor costs and all charges for every step of our manufacturing costs are sharply up. There is simply no way we can maintain our \$6.00 and \$11.00 rates any longer.

We would point out that we are not alone: *The Condor*, with far fewer pages, is now \$15.00 yearly, *The Auk* and *Wilson Bulletin* \$12.00. With over 1,000 pages each year, crammed with information, we believe we are still a bargain at the new rates.

The new rates are as follows:

One year U.S.	\$8.00
One year Canada	\$8.50
One year foreign	\$9.00
Two years U.S.	\$15.00
Two years Canada	\$16.00
Two years foreign	\$17.00

We cannot predict our costs long enough in advance to allow three-year subscriptions.

Single copy prices will henceforth be: February, June, August, October and December \$1.50, April (Christmas Bird Count issue) \$4.50.

## Market Place

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### TOURS

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BIRD AMERICA'S NORTHERNMOST TROPICAL CLOUD FOREST. Dec. 30-Jan. 5. Rancho del Cielo. All-inclusive cost \$150.00 from Gómez Farías, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Fred S. Webster, Jr. (for Gorgas Science Society, Texas Southmost College), 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas, 78731.

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BEAUTIFUL BRITISH COLUMBIA. Birds, plants, and magnificent scenery. 15-day tour July 1974. Canadian Nature Federation, 46 Elgin St. Ottawa, Canada K1P 5K6.

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