

Work in Progress

With this issue *American Birds* reinstates "Work in Progress" as a regular feature, open to all, for the purpose of alerting birders to ongoing field studies and projects for which observational information is needed. Often such information is the factor determining the degree of success the project enjoys.

A secondary service of "Work in Progress" will be to act as a clearing house for students and others seeking greater involvement in ongoing research projects. Typically this category would include requests for and offers of assistance on specific aspects of research where substantial expenditures of time and effort are required.

Both categories are essentially "Help Wanted" notices: the first a form of alert to *everyone afield* for whatever pertinent information is randomly acquired; the second is for volunteers to assume responsibility for specific assigned tasks. Requests for publication of notices should be sent at least two months prior to the desired publication date.

Monitoring the Canvasback - a 1975 Blue List Bird

The Canvasback was a new addition to The Blue List this year. It has suffered a decline recently and bears watching. Numbers of Canvasbacks along with a large sample of Canada Geese, Whistling Swans, Sandhill Cranes, Am. Coots, and Redheads were marked with colored (blue, yellow and pink) neck collars, leg bands and dyes. Readers of *American Birds* can assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in obtaining evidence of these bird's migrational dispersal, wintering distribution and population status by reporting any observations of color-marked birds to the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, P.O. Box 1747, Jamestown, North Dakota 58401. When reporting observations please include: name and address of observer, specific date, time and location of observation, color and activity of the bird, species and flock size of ducks associated with the marked bird(s).

Canada Geese - Atlantic Flyway Study

The Federal government is conducting a five-year study to determine the extent of Canada Goose interchange on the East Coast. Geese continue to be color-marked at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. (yellow), and Pungo N.W.R. (red), with plastic neck collars and leg bands each bearing a black prefix letter

followed by three black digits, (in addition to the usual aluminum leg band). Full details of any sighting of these birds should be reported to East Coast Management Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 581, Washington, North Carolina 27889.

International Color-banded and Color-dyed Shorebird Research

During the 1975 banding operations of the Manomet Bird Observatory, Massachusetts, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the National Museum of Canada on Bathurst Island, and several other organizations an extensive program of color marking and color banding shorebirds will be conducted. The objective is to provide baseline information useful in monitoring the future conservation of shorebirds as well as document peak migration periods, areas, and major routes. The success of this program is partially dependent on cooperators reporting sightings of feather-dyed and or color-banded birds. When reporting sightings please indicate details of: species, place, date, color and part of the bird that was dyed or color, leg and relative position of bands (e.g. left leg, blue above green, etc.). Reports should be sent to: (1) areas in Canada - R. I. G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3; (2) areas in the U.S., Caribbean Islands, and South America - Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Massachusetts 02345, U.S.A.

Tampa Bay Heron Study

Little Blue Herons will be color-banded in the Tampa Bay, Florida area in both 1975 and 1976. Observers throughout Florida and along the Gulf of Mexico are asked to cooperate by reporting sightings of these birds to James A. Rodgers, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620. The herons will be wearing numbered yellow leg streamers above the intratarsal joint. Note on which leg the streamer was, number on the streamer, plumage of the heron, name of observer, date, and location of sighting.

Peregrine Reintroduction

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has announced the release of 12 immature Peregrine Falcons in the eastern United States as part of its program to reintroduce these falcons to the wild. The general location of the release sites are: Boston, Massachusetts (2), Hudson River Valley, New York (3), Central New Jersey Coast (3), Upper Chesapeake Bay, Maryland (4). These birds are marked with an aluminum Fish and Wildlife Service band on the left leg and a light blue band on the right. A radio transmitter antenna may be visible as

For birders who count the quality of experience as well as the number of birds.

All bird tours are not alike. Some encourage listing to the exclusion of almost all else. In pursuit of sheer number, tour participants are packed into buses and hustled through one exhausting marathon day after another.

We, on the other hand, are convinced that birding can be a rich and rewarding natural history experience, one that encompasses appreciation and knowledge of birds in their habitat.

Species diversity is important, of course. That's why we focus on rich birding areas: Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Participants can expect a tremendous quantity and variety of birds, including many lifers.

Our tours are small and unhurried. Most are limited to four to eight participants so everyone has the opportunity to improve his birding skills.

And all our tours are conducted by Victor Emanuel, one of America's pre-eminent birders, director of the record-breaking Freeport, Texas Christmas Bird Count. A native Texan, he is fluent in Spanish and intimately familiar with the regions covered by these tours.

But most importantly, all our tours strive for a unity of birder, bird and natural setting. Because this, we feel, is the essence of birding.

1975-6 Tour Schedule

**Special Texas Coast Tour
with Peter Matthiessen**
April 11-17, 1976

Texas Coast
Oct. 2-8 & Oct. 18-25, 1975;
Jan. 30-Feb. 8, March 20-28 &
April 25-May 2, 1976*

Houston/Galveston
Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 1976

**Houston/Galveston/
Texas Hill Country**
March 30-April 6, 1976

**Rockport/Aransas National
Wildlife Refuge**
Nov. 26-30, 1975;
Feb. 2-5 & Feb. 13-15, 1976

South Texas
Feb. 5-8 & April 18-21, 1976**

Arizona
May 22-30, 1976

Palenque/Yucatan
Nov. 8-16, 1975; Jan. 17-25,
Feb. 22-28 & June 19-27, 1976

Western Mexico
March 6-14, 1976

Northeastern Mexico
Dec. 6-14, 1975; May 8-16 &
June 5-13, 1976

Eastern Mexico

Dec. 26-Jan. 5, 1975-6

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The first edition was hailed as "the best and broadest coverage of bird biology" (American Birds), "unsurpassed in presenting the truly absorbing story of bird life" (National Wildlife), and "the best [general bird book] on the market today" (Audubon Magazine). The new second edition promises to uphold and enhance this reputation. Professor Welty provides a comprehensive, completely up-dated overview of ornithology that makes enjoyable, informative reading for any bird enthusiast. It incorporates the latest findings on *photoperiodism, circadian rhythms, celestial orientation, territorial instinct, magnetic sensitivity, vocalization and evolution*. Material on *plumage and molting, reproduction, avian behavior, migration, population dynamics, and conservation* has been extensively revised.

By Joel Carl Welty, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Beloit College. 623 pp. 290 ill. Published May 1975. \$18.50.

Order Code 9231-1.

4-5 inches of wire extending from the central tail feather. Please report all sightings to: Dr. T.J. Cade, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

Eagle Electrocutation and Movement Studies

After the discovery of significant numbers of eagles dead under rural power lines in Wyoming in 1971, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other state and Federal wildlife agencies began inventorying the eagle populations of the West. It is a project of several years' duration. Any observations of dead eagles or other birds of prey that may have been electrocuted should be reported *immediately* to the nearest F. & W. Service office. Without such information, making a case for modification of power lines will be impossible. In an effort to determine the origin and movements of the eagle populations on the upper Skagit River (northwestern Washington), colored, plastic coated patagial strips and/or radio transmitters were fitted to a number of Bald Eagles released in that area. Sightings of these birds with details regarding the markers should be sent to Christopher Serviieen, College of Forest Resources, AR-10, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195.

Two Turkey Vulture Studies Need Participants

Ranger Ed Henckle, (Camp Mt. Allamuchy, Stanhope, New Jersey 07874), wishes any sightings of Turkey Vultures bearing red-vinyl, black numbered tags and streamers on their right wings reported to him. The exact time and location of the sightings should be carefully noted.

In Colorado, data is being collected in association with a life history study of the Turkey Vulture on roosting sites, numbers at and structures of roosts, nesting locations, social and breeding behavior. All information should be sent to Gerald Craig, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216.

Information Sought on California Least Terns

Any observations or records of California Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons browni*) in Baja California, along the Pacific Coast of Mexico, or Central and South America, and information on the location of breeding colonies in Baja California, or wintering areas of these terns should be sent to Sanford R. Wilbur, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1190 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, California, 93023.

West Coast Cormorant Research

Carl A. Schroeder, 6919 N. Wildwood Point Road, Hartland, Wisconsin 53029, requests assistance in gathering data on egg dates and clutch sizes from

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Plate by John Henry Dick from
 "A Field Guide to the Birds of India."
 (Actual plate is in full color.)

Several agencies will be offering birding tours to India in 1976. How will they compare?

BIRD BONANZAS' itinerary will be the most extensive in terms of distance, areas and habitats visited. Each of our previous India tours recorded over 500 species of birds, and we expect as many on our 1976 tour.

Our tour group will be limited to eight participants. A larger group would mean that not all participants would be able to see almost every species in many of the habitats we will visit.

Some of the same agencies offering tours in 1976 to India offered them in 1975. We're happy to have you compare us with them. Ask them if they had to cancel their 1975 tour (we didn't), what is the maximum number of people they will take, and how many species they recorded on previous India tours.

After all, if you're going to invest in a tour that will take you halfway across the world, you ought to select the tour that will offer you the most.

For additional information write:

BIRD BONANZAS, INC.

12550 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 501
 North Miami, Florida 33181

*Would
 you like
 to see a
 Quetzal?*



On BIRD BONANZAS' last tour to Costa Rica in April, we had eleven Quetzal sightings in four different localities, including one on a nest.

If you're dying to see what has been called "the world's most beautiful bird," we'll be happy to provide a guide to take you to our best Quetzal spot. We'll make all arrangements for you to fly down on your own. Our guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you to the spot. Cost is very reasonable. It is only about \$160 to fly to Costa Rica from Miami. While you're down there, if you want to do some additional birding, you'll find birds abundant. We saw over 400 species in two weeks.

We are trying to impress our Costa Rican friends that a live Quetzal is worth far more to them than one that has been shot.

For more information write:

BIRD BONANZAS, INC.

12550 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 501
 North Miami, Florida 33181

Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorant colonies — especially colonies where two or three species coexist — on the west coast of North America. As much detail as possible should be included in the reports submitted.

Wood Stork Investigation

Red nasal saddles, red patagial disks, and blue patagial disks have been used to color mark juveniles in several Wood Stork rookeries in Florida, as part of an intensive study of this bird's biology. Any sightings of these color-marked birds or knowledge of the location of recent nest sites should be sent to John C. Ogden, National Audubon Research Department, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070.

Marked Cowbirds in Kansas

In a study being conducted at Fort Hays Kansas State College, over 7100 Brown-headed Cowbirds were banded and color-marked with red, yellow or green plastic leg streamers. Details of sightings of these birds, with mention of the sex of the bird (if known) should be sent to Richard A. Hill, Department of Biology, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas 67601.

Christmas Bird Count Dates December 20, 1975 to January 4, 1976 inclusive.

Proposed new counts must submit map showing count circle and circles of any adjacent counts; must give an indication of number and expertise of participants. Official forms, including those to accepted new counts, will be mailed to compilers of record about November 10. Compilers of record who have changed addresses please notify *American Birds* before November 1

HELP WANTED

FOR NEOTROPICAL BIRDS!

The rampant destruction of rain-forest in tropical America is threatening the existence of the richest bird fauna in the world. In Costa Rica, where a conservation ethic is taking hold, we're trying to save three of the most important virgin forests in northern Latin America — Monteverde Cloud Forest, Tortuguero and Osa Peninsula. RARE has committed thousands of dollars to these areas, and much more is needed.

Invest in birding's future by helping to save the last areas where Quetzal, Scarlet Macaw, Umbrellabird and Great Curassow can still be found in numbers. Be an involved conservationist — help us before this habitat is lost forever. Be as generous as you possibly can. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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