

The Sixth Salon of Photographs

When we announced the first Salon of Photographs six years ago, we had one principal and one secondary motive. Most importantly, we wanted to create a showcase for the most interesting and artistic bird photography our readers had produced during the year; obviously we also wanted to dress up the journal and raise its (rather low) quotient of visual interest. In that first year we actually solicited participation from some of the best-known professional bird photographers we could find, and the show was very well received. All the photographs, for budgetary reasons, were black-and-white prints.

This year there was no special appeal to the professionals. Entries came in from readers across the continent; a few were from professional photographers but most were from birders to whom photography is an adjunct to their primary interest in birds. This year for the first time we opened the competition to color, and the submissions in color outnumbered those in black and white. A total of 128 photographers entered; we kept no count of the total photographs submitted but it was several times that number. Quality ranged from ordinary to superb. Judging was difficult.

We have selected for publication five color prints (all from transparencies) and five black-and-whites. The reader may be bemused, as we are, by the fact that both first and second color prizes are for owls peering from pines; in a sense they have converted this issue of *American Birds* into a pine tree with an owl looking out at you from either side; reflecting a little bit further one might truly say that the magazine you hold is indeed a pine tree, just slightly altered by chemistry, as are the owls themselves.

To all those who contributed—winners and also-rans—our most sincere thanks.

—The Editors

Edward E. Burroughs, compiler of the Rockingham County, North Carolina Christmas Bird Count, remembered on last year's count to take along his Nikkormat FTn camera, equipped with a Nikkor 300 mm. lens (with E2 ring), an electronic flash and an ultraviolet filter. He photographed the captivating red phase Screech Owl appearing on our front cover, at a distance of approximately 10 feet from the white pine in which the owl was perched. The bird was shot on Kodachrome 64 film, with exposure at f:4.5 at 1/125 second. Mr. Burroughs has won First Prize in this year's color print category contest and we think our readers will have to agree that the gaze of the owl is at least hypnotic.

Robert L. Norton, a Northeast Maritimes sub-regional editor, walked away with Second Prize in the first American Birds color competition. The needle-framed, enigmatic Saw-whet Owl portrait merits a place of honor on the back cover. It was photographed on a field trip Rob was leading on Plum Island, Massachusetts, for his local bird club, the Natchaug Ornithological Society. For this photograph a foreign make SLR camera with standard lens was used with Ektachrome film, exposed at 1/30 second, shot at f:2.8 employing a shutter release cable

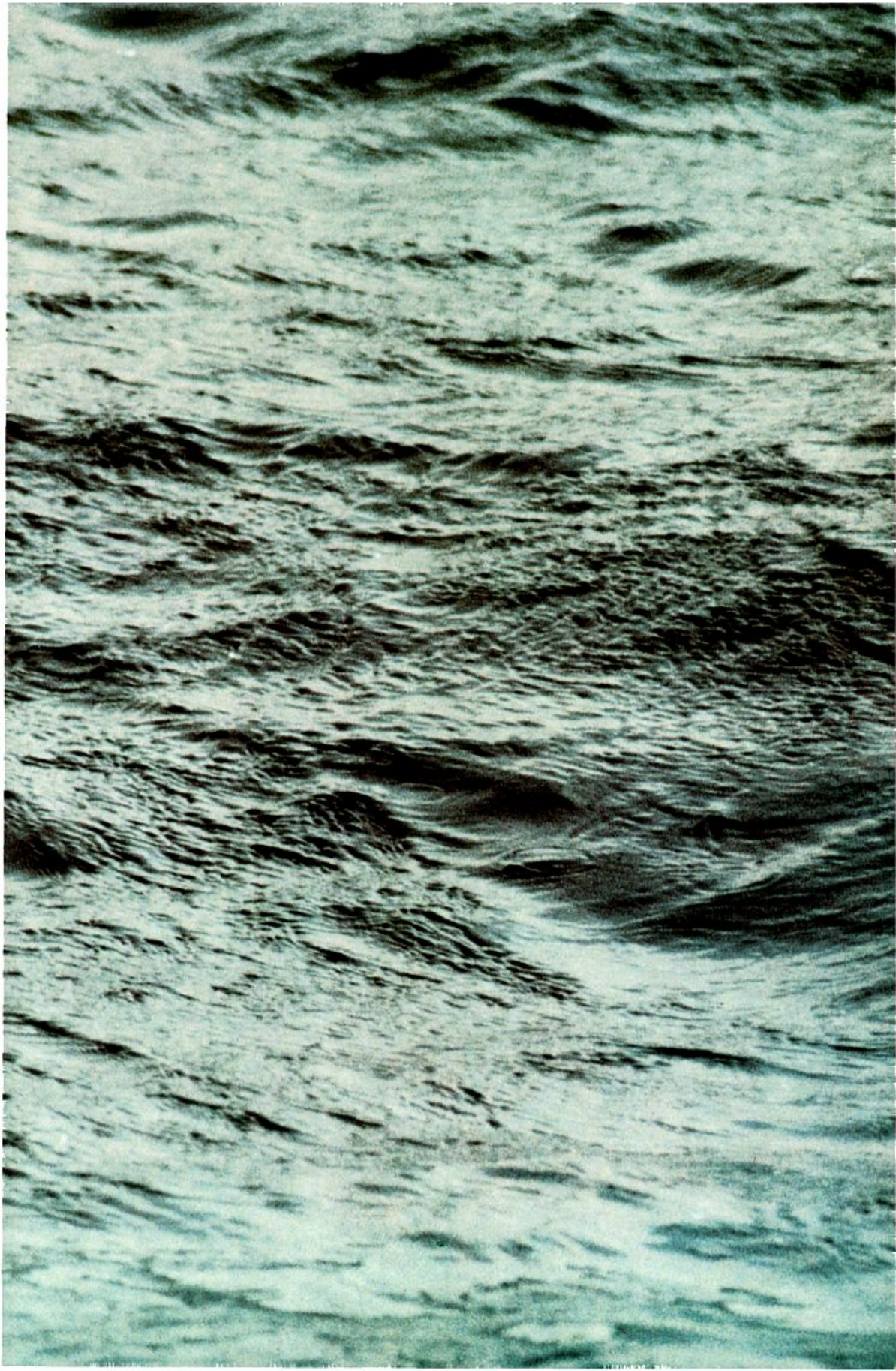
This artistically composed study of a preening Anhinga was taken by Charles B. Krebs of Centerport, New York in the Everglades National Park, and is our Third Prize winner for color. He caught the striking pose using a Novoflex 400 mm. lens mounted on a Nikon camera, but is unable to recall whether the camera was an F2 or a Nikkormat E1. The film was Kodachrome 64 exposed at approximately 1/250 second at a shutter speed of f:8.

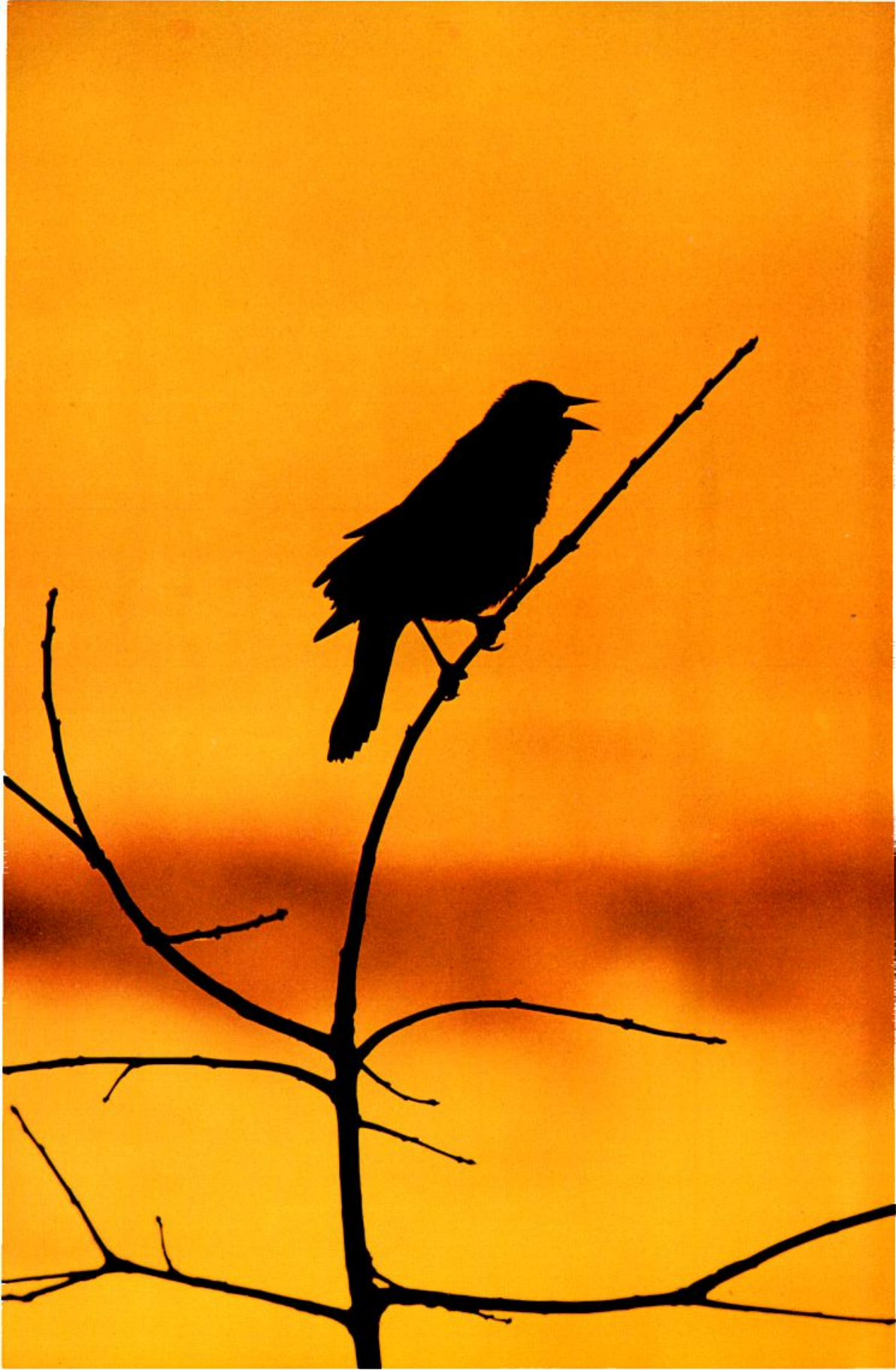
Richard A. Rowlett has been intensely involved in a seabirds survey off the middle Atlantic coast for the past four years. It was on one of these Marine Science Consortium Research Cruises that he photographed American Bird's first "centerfold," and wins an Honorable Mention. This memorable photograph of a deftly maneuvering Greater Shearwater was taken with a Yashica J-5, on high speed Ektachrome film pushed at 400 ASA.

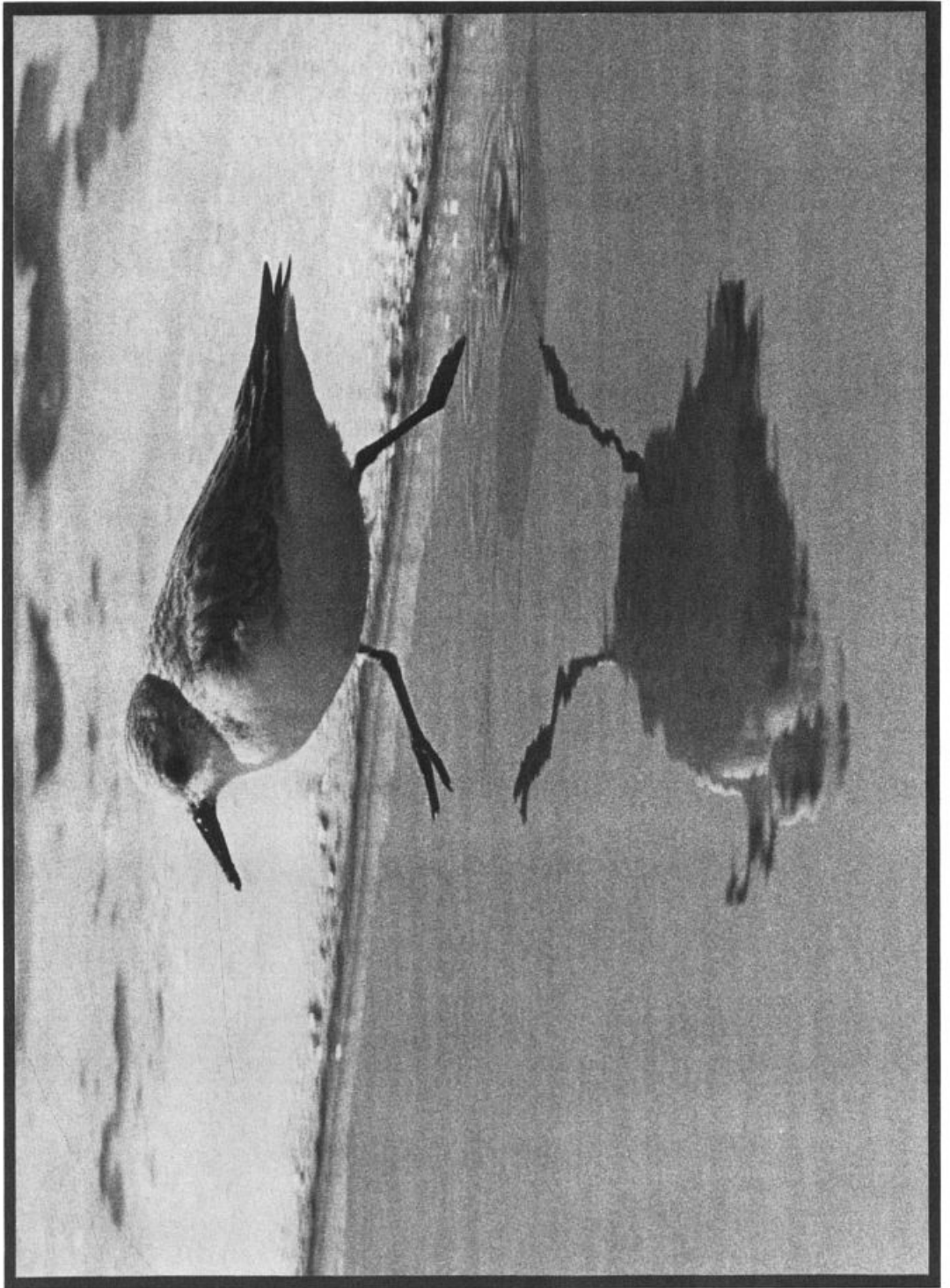
C Gable Ray has traveled throughout the United States and into parts of Canada to photograph all forms of nature including birds. His moody sunset-silhouetted Red-winged Blackbird is exemplary in its composition and was taken from his FA Blind, (Ford Automobile), at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland. His equipment included a Nikon F camera with a Leitz 400 mm. lens, Kodachrome II and an orange filter. The exposure of this Honorable Mention winner was f:8 at a shutter speed of 1/125. Mr. Ray has had photographic exhibits at the Art Barn in Washington, D.C. and has been awarded First, Second and Honorable Mention prizes in 1975 and 1976, in the Department of the Interior Photographic Competition.











Ken W. Gardiner is by no means a newcomer to photographic contests and the world of victors but, amazingly he has created for himself a one man show by winning all five prizes in this year's black-and-white print photographic competition. Mr. Gardiner began photographing birds approximately seven years ago and although he is a Senior Research Engineer with the Stanford Research Institute by profession, he has won so many regional Camera Club and PSA awards and has been featured in numerous exhibits and publications, that one tends to think of him as professional. His most recent accomplishments include winning First through Fourth Prizes along with Best Photograph of the Year Award in the 1975 California Fish and Game Commission annual Photography Award Program and a showing of eight photographs in the current Defenders of Wildlife exhibit in Palo Alto, California. His usual haunts are the South San Francisco Bay area and the shore line from Pescadero to Moss Landing. He uses no blinds and all shots are made with a hand held camera. All photos here published have been taken with a Topcon Super D camera with a 500 mm. Auto Topcor lens, a motor drive, and Tri-X film, at either f 11 or f:8 exposure at 1/1000 sec. shutter speed.

First Prize: A scampering solitary Sanderling on the beach at Drake's Bay, Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Second Prize: Winter-plumaged Sanderlings at ocean's edge taken at Asilomar State Park, California.

Third Prize: Common Goldeneye preparing to land in Yacht Harbor.

Honorable Mention: Willet in flight taken at Seacliff State Park.

Honorable Mention: Clapper Rail hunting at Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.







