

## Manuscripts Wanted

**F**OR MANY YEARS *American Birds*, formerly *Audubon Field Notes*, has been the major publication in documenting the changing birdlife of the North American continent.

Much of the material we publish results from the field observations and studies of thousands of amateurs and professionals alike, on species distribution, on population dynamics, on migration, and on the rare occurrence of American birds. These areas of concern are evident in our quarterly regional reports, our Changing Seasons summaries, our Christmas Bird Counts, our habitat studies of small tracts, and in the major and minor articles submitted to us both by professionals and amateurs. We want every author and potential author of papers in all our fields of interest to know that we welcome and actively solicit for publication pertinent manuscripts and illustrations. We want every author and potential author of papers *in all our fields of interest* to consider *American Birds* their first choice for publication. If you have an idea you think might make an interesting article (by you or someone else) tell us about it.

**I**N THE EVER-MORE-CROWDED field of journals, we think that authors are rewarded in choosing *American Birds* for publication in a unique way: they reach a circulation of 12,000+, including hundreds of universities and colleges, and a readership of 20,000+.

Included in our circulation are at least 1800 professional ornithologists in higher education, conservation, museum or wildlife positions; a sizable constituency in itself. Many authors tell us they are amazed at the widespread response publication in *American Birds* brings them. And we feel certain that, because of our editorial policy of fostering *readability* in manuscripts, *American Birds* is more thoroughly read than some journals. We have one other editorial policy that benefits authors of timely "occurrence" articles: we do not publish articles in strict order of receipt or acceptance, but rush into print as soon as possible (sometimes within days of receipt) of articles and photographs in this category.

**I**T HAS BEEN A LONG TIME since *American Birds* spelled out, for potential contributors, its specific areas of interest, although faithful readers must be well aware of our scope, and the volume indices of articles and "S.A.s" give obvious clues. Here then, are the categories of concern in which we continue to seek and publish articles.

**Bird Distribution.** We want articles about single species: Cassin's Sparrow (September, 1977), or groups of species: Reclaimed surface mines (January, 1978), changes in range, winter or summer: Am. Woodcock (this issue), single occurrences of importance: Eared Trogon (May, 1978), summaries of rare occurrences: Curlew Sandpiper (September, 1978), or annotated lists: Birds of Antigua (this issue).

**Migration.** We seek articles about orientation, mechanics, sampling studies, unusual phenomena. Examples: Transatlantic autumn migration (May, 1978), Tall tower casualties (this issue).

**Field Identification.** We solicit full scale or short articles on difficult species or groups, illustrated. Recent examples include: Eskimo and Little Curlews (March, 1977), Seabirds of the Bay of Fundy (March, May, 1978), Pine Siskin plumage (June, 1976).

**Site Guides.** We publish comprehensive, well-illustrated, professionally-mapped studies of interesting or important birding areas. Recent example: Coastal Marin County, California (May, 1978).

**Field Study Techniques.** We want articles on the "how to" of bird study. Examples: Birdwatching etiquette (June, 1976), Recording bird positions at sea (November, 1977), Basic bird book library (October, 1976), Making sound recordings (May, 1977), On taking field notes (September, 1977), Telephoto flash (September, 1978).

**Behavioral Notes.** Many of the published "S.A.'s" in the regional reports are in fact notes on unusual bird behavior, and we welcome picture essays or short articles on this subject. Examples: Roof-nesting Least Terns (February, 1975), Green Heron using feather lure (June, 1975).

**Rare and Endangered Species.** We welcome status reports on closely monitored endangered or threatened species. Examples: Hawaiian forest species (May, 1977), California Condor (August, 1976), Eskimo Curlew (March, 1977), Ivory-billed Woodpecker recording (June, 1975).

**Photographs.** We always seek photographs as documentation of rare occurrences, to illustrate articles on identification or behavior, and for covers. Cover photographs must meet our very high standards and we pay \$100 for volunteered photographs selected as covers.

**Drawings.** We would like to vary the appearance of our pages with black-and-white drawings, to be used as decorative or instructive illustrations. They can be rendered in pencil, pen, scratchboard, wash, or any preferred technique. If you are willing to provide illustrations of subjects we may suggest, let us hear from you.

Although we will gladly consider papers concerned with other areas of the Western Hemisphere, our primary concern is North America, including the Hawaiian archipelago, and Bermuda, Mexico and Central America, the West Indies, and the northern rim of South America. An exception would be any paper that concerned itself with the migration or winter ranges of North American species to or in South America. We do, however, review books and list tours from and to other continents, and we do include the Eastern Hemisphere for the Near and Rat island groups of Alaska.

For further information and suggestions for authors, see *American Birds*, 30 (6) second cover, or communicate with

— The Editor