

The Last Word

MUCH DISCUSSION HAS been held in recent years, in widespread ornithological circles, about ways in which amateurs in ornithology — birdwatchers and birders — can be more usefully



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involved in projects of scientific value. A conference on this subject, held at Ithaca, New York in February, 1978, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, considered many aspects of the problem, and a Steering Committee was appointed to evolve plans and projects for possible future cooperation.

There are, of course, very many projects ongoing, some of long standing, in which the participation of amateurs and professionals is manifest. Our own seasonal field reports, Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Census, Winter Bird-Population Studies and Blue List surveys are representative. In fact, it can probably be stated with some truth that *American Birds* is indeed currently the primary interface between amateurs and professionals in North American ornithology. A run-down of our recent Tables of Contents shows an almost even split between authors who are professionals and those who are amateurs.

The subject cannot adequately be addressed in this brief memorandum. What we propose herewith is that professionals (and amateurs too) with proj-

ects that require field work, or observational notes, or other cooperation by amateurs, write brief (100 word) summaries of their projects and what help they seek, for publication in *American Birds*. If there is an appropriate response, we will make this a regular feature.

—Robert Arbib

1981 PHOTO SALON

The editors have decided, with real regret, to cancel the annual Photo Salon for this year. Costs of color separations, printing, and special paper have mounted alarmingly, and the staff time required has been so substantial that, in the absence of hoped-for advertising support by the photo industry, the cost becomes difficult to defend. We will continue to solicit photographs (and art) for use as covers or inside-page illustrations in future issues, and we look forward to an early return of the Salon. All photographs already entered for the Salon this year will be returned with thanks.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES THROUGH 1984-1985

To help you plan, the following calendar of future CBC periods is announced. All dates are inclusive. All periods include three weekends.

The 82nd Christmas Bird Count will be held on
December 19, 1981 — January 3, 1982

The 83rd Christmas Bird Count will be held on
December 18, 1982 — January 2, 1983

The 84th Christmas Bird Count will be held on
December 17, 1983 — January 1, 1984

The 85th Christmas Bird Count will be held on
December 15, 1984 — January 1, 1985

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Natural History and Birding Tours



FALL 1981 TOUR SCHEDULE

COLORADO	1-6	AUGUST
SOUTHEAST ARIZONA	8-16	AUGUST
MAINE & NOVA SCOTIA	8-16	AUGUST
CALIFORNIA EXTRAVAGANZA	10-23	SEPT
WEST TEXAS	13-20	SEPT
GUATEMALA	11-20	OCT
FALL MIGRATION - UTC.	2-4, 9-11, 16-18	OCT
YUCATAN	25	OCT - 3 NOV
PALENQUE	4-9	NOV
KENYA	28	OCT - 19 NOV
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY	12-15	NOV
WESTERN MEXICO	12-23	NOV
OAXACA	5-13	DEC
HAWAII	24	NOV - 8 DEC
EASTERN MEXICO NEW YEAR	27	DEC - 11 JAN

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