## The Last Word

TUCH DISCUSSION HAS been held in Irecent years, in widespread ornithological circles, about ways in which amateurs in ornithology - birdwatchers and birders - can be more usefully



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Questers Tours & Travel, Inc. Dept. AB380, 257 Park Avenue South New York, N.Y. 10010 • (212) 673-3120 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 projects 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

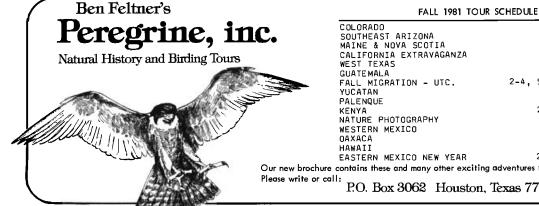
## 1981 PHOTO SALON

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



1-6 AUGUST 8-16 AUGUST 8-16 AUGUST CALIFORNIA EXTRAVAGANZA 10-23 SEPT 13-20 SEPT 11-20 OCT 16-18 OCT CT = 3 NOV 25 oct 4-9 28 OCT 12-15 NOV 12-23 NOV 5-13 DEC 24 NOV - 8 DEC 27 DEC - 11 EASTERN MEXICO NEW YEAR

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