



The special viewpoint of Frans Lanting



(Above) Pigeon Guillemots singing. Farallon Is.

(Overleaf) A female Ruddy Duck in winter plumage glides over a pond at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. Taken from a diked ditch at water level, by a very wet photographer.

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ORTFOLIOS OF PHOTOGRAPHS like this one of Frans Lanting's work are often headlined "The eye of Frans Lanting," or "The lens of Frans Lanting," but in reality it is neither the eye nor the camera, that creates a photograph. It is the mind, the world's most complex, efficient and esthetic computer, weighing, measuring, analyzing, remembering, imagining, and creating—that recognizes the (often fleeting) opportunity and "sees" the image that the camera, the lens, and the film are asked to record. Photography is a creative art; anyone can snap a shutter, but few of us have that special genius that produce a work of art.

Lanting is an artist with many viewpoints. He can, and does, take photographs that are starkly representational—as with the guillemots. But often his pictures are filled with mood, atmosphere, and a sense of time, with dramatic lighting or an unusual camera angle. The Ruddy Duck on a lavender lake

(Below) Willets alerted, Santa Cruz.



in the evening light, shot from water level, is a beautiful example, as is the golden, wintry glow bathing the geese on Tule Lake, or the Willets in early evening light. Many of Lanting's photographs catch the poetry of massed bird flight, but even relatively simply portraits, as that of the meadowlark, catch a fleeting pose that intrigues and pleases.

Frans Lanting was born in Rotterdam, Holland, thirty years ago, but has lived in Santa Cruz, California, since 1978, and he intends to make California his home.

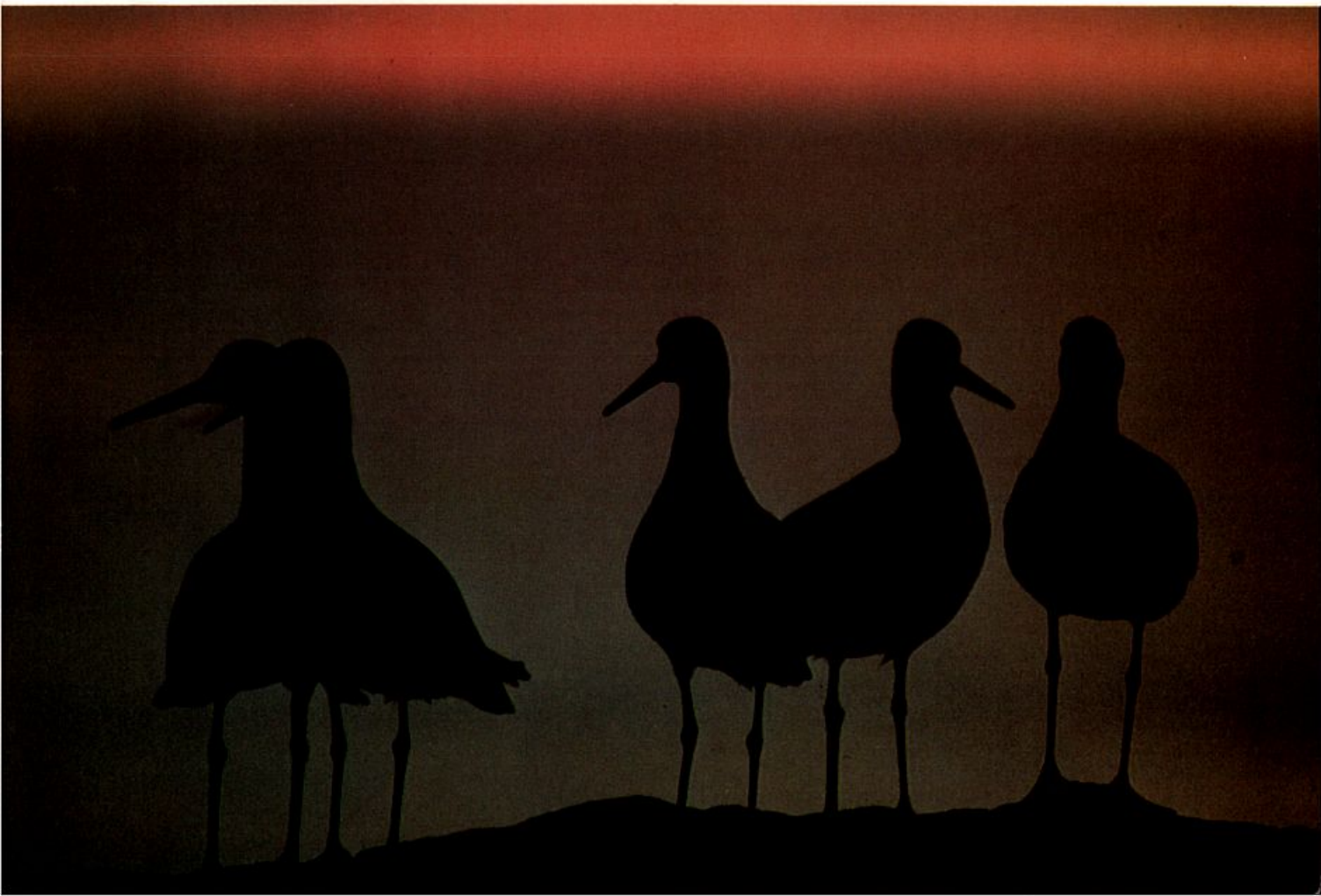
We first encountered his work when we used his Dipper photograph for the cover of July, 1980, and that year he won three awards in our black-and-white salon competition. At our request he submitted a sheaf of color transparencies, from which our current selection comes.

**W**e could have added another ten pages to this exhibit. In the last two years Frans has been winning competitions from Europe to California. This past summer he won both the Grand Prize and First Prize in the International Nature Photography Contest (6000 entries), in the Netherlands. In 1980 he won the First Prize for



(Right) Preening Western Meadowlark on fence post.

(Below) Willets at dusk, Monterey Bay.

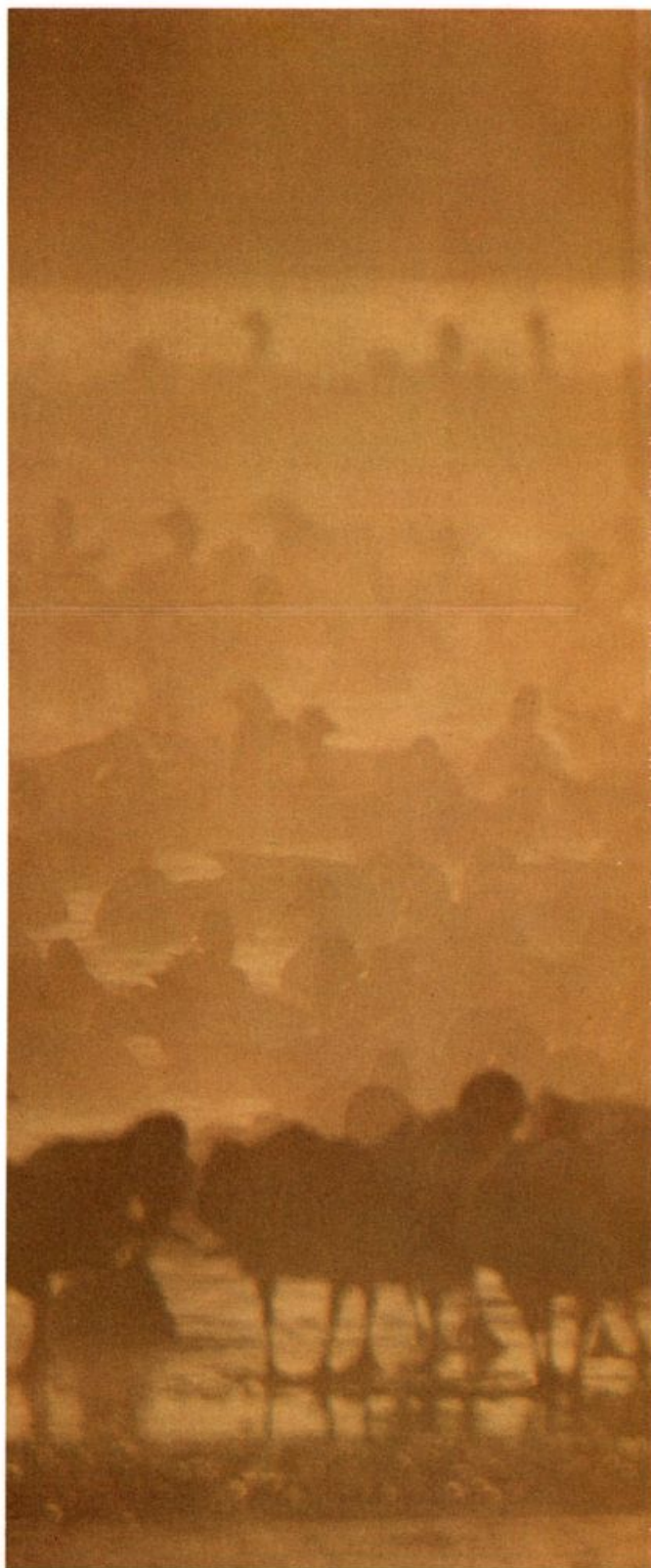


Wildlife in *Natural History's* annual contest (10,000 entries), and eight awards including First, Second, and Third prize in the mammal category from the California Fish & Game annual contest. He has been exhibited in New York, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, London, and Brussels.

**T**wo books have been co-authored by this talented man. One, with photographs of Dutch landscapes, Amsterdam, 1980, and another, "The Natural History of Ano Nuevo," Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, California, 1981. Two more are in preparation, "Feathers and Flight" with David Cavagnaro for Graphic Arts Center, Portland, Oregon and "Islands of the American West Coast," with Page Stegner, for the Sierra Club. He is represented in two current exhibits: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, beginning October 1981, and Santa Cruz City Museum, January 1982.

(Right) Hazy morning at Tule Lake, with geese crowding around an open water hole on the frozen lake.

(Below) Shorebird footprints on mudflats.



Lanting's favorite cameras are older model "beat up" Nikons; he likes to prove to his photography students that sophisticated technology is not always required in the creation of fine photographs. He uses a variety of lenses from 35 mm to 500 mm, sometimes with 2X extender.

