

Visual Resources for Ornithology, was founded due to the collaborative foresight of Crawford H. Greenewalt and Frank B. Gill. It now functions under the direction of Peter Myers, Assistant Curator of Ornithology at the Academy.

Many of the photographs *American Birds* publishes in our regional seasonal reports to document rarities or other distributional records are desirable for the VIREO collection. VIREO requests that we submit these photographs to them for safe-keeping. They will copy and then return either the original or the duplicate to the photographer, depending upon the photographers' needs.

American Birds encourages photographers to participate in this program. We ask that all photographers who wish their photographs to be forwarded to VIREO label their slides or prints with the acronym VIREO. *American Birds* will only forward photographs so marked. VIREO staff will review all photographs received, and communicate directly with the photographer about whether and how the material will be accessioned into the collection.

VIREO also invites photographers to contribute slides directly. Various contractual arrangements with photographers are possible. For more information, contact:

Director, VIREO
Academy of Natural Sciences,
19th and The Parkway,
Philadelphia, PA 19103.

A fuller description of the VIREO program, including the problems and methods of archiving color slides, will appear in a forthcoming issue of *American Birds*.

The Last Word

ALTHOUGH WE OURSELVES have been known to be subject to undiscovered typographical errors in the one million words we publish each year, we can truthfully say that we do *know* the correct spelling and punctuation of the bird names we print. We are, however, constantly astonished at the lack of familiarity with those names shown by some—many, actually—of the authors of the studies we publish in January, the Christmas Bird Counts, and even some major papers. Many of these are prepared by graduate students or their mentors, and presumably reviewed by the latter before we get them. We can understand obvious typing errors such as Sprauge's Pipit, Overbird, Lesser Goldfinch, and Tudded Titmouse, but countless others are received that indicate unfamiliarity with long-established nomenclature.

Probably the commonest class of error is the capitalization of hyphenated names (but correct in Storm-Petrel, etc.) such as Long-Billed Dowitcher, Ring-Billed Gull, Double-Crested Cormorant, and Red-Breasted Merganser. Others frequently appear as unmodified generic names: Pheasant, Cowbird, Meadowlark, Crow, Coot, Redwing, Shoveler. Some are hyphenated where none is needed: Great-horned Owl, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Tri-colored Blackbird. Others omit required hyphens: Blackbellied Plover, Redwinged Blackbird. Others misspell patronymics: Allan's Hummingbird, Heerman's Gull, Stellar's Jay. Perhaps the commonest mistake is Eastern (or Western) Peewee, notwithstanding the kiddie baseball leagues. Vermillion as a Fly-

catcher is wrong, as it is for places in five states and one province, but correct in South Dakota and Indiana. Phoebe is not spelled Pheobe, Chickadee is not Chicadee. It's no longer American Crow, Common Bushtit (or Bush Tit), Bob White, Sora Rail or Night Hawk. Widgeon has been spelled Wigeon for a number of years.

Authors can expect us to catch and correct their mistakes, but if a paper has thirty of them the chances are greater that we miss one, than if there aren't any to start with. With the correct names available in any infinite variety of sources, there is little excuse for any more Shovellers.

All this is prefatory to a new complication, which is the imminent publication of our "Bible" on nomenclature, the A.O.U. Check-List, of which the 6th Edition is due in 1983. Already a list of species names for Canada and the United States has been circulated, with a number of largely-anticipated changes. We will adopt these changed names, and more importantly the new taxonomic sequence, with the September 1982 issue. Manuscripts intended

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for publication with, or following, that issue, should use the new sequence and taxonomy. The May and July, 1982, issues will retain our present usage.

WITH A TYPICALLY excellent report in this issue, Clive Goodwin bows out as Regional Editor for Ontario. His is a record of continuous service to *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* that goes back even beyond his first report, for Spring 1966, which would mean that he has provided a record and analysis of field work in Ontario ornithology for 16 years, or 63 consecutive seasons. This is a contribution to Canadian (and North American) ornithology whose importance cannot be overstated, and we thank him for the high standards he set for himself and for us, and for his always-cheerful friendship. His successor, whom we welcome, will be Dr. Ronald D. Weir. Field notes should be addressed to him at Department of Chemistry, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario K7L 2W3.

Clive Goodwin is but one of those unsung but totally dedicated contributors to American ornithology who have volunteered their time and talents performing the almost impossible task of the Regional Editor for *American Birds*. Readers of this issue will find some new and unfamiliar R.E.s listed, and some familiar and honored names missing. This is all part of the process of change and evolution that seems traditional with *American Birds*. Some of our volunteer editors find that they relish developing contacts with the birders of their region, love the challenge of producing ever more meaningful reports, and seeing these reports published in a way that makes them a part of a unique continental panorama. These—people like Clive Goodwin and Hugh Kingery (12 years), Tom Rogers (25 years), and George Hall (23 years), Dan Gibson (15 years), Guy McCaskie (18 years) and Fran Williams (18 years), all of whom prepare four full reports a year, have continuous, unbroken records going back years.

Others with ever lengthening records of four-season, go-it-alone service include Doug Kibbe, Henry Armistead, Peter Vickery, Harry LeGrand, Helmut Grünberg, Bruce Peterjohn and Rob Norton. Editors who share each report, or write one or two reports each year solo, comprise a lengthy list, including the august (and still occasional R.E.) Bob Newman (31 years), Bob Paxton (19 years), Michel Gosselin, Normand David, Tom Imhof (21 years), John Hubbard, Herb Kale, Phil Mattocks, Gene Hunn, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Bob Pyle, Dave Cutler, C. John Ralph, Bill Boyle, Jerry Jackson, Kim Eckert, Daryl Tessen, Bob Purrington, Bob Hamilton, Henry Stevenson (30 years), Ken and Gary Rosenberg (soon leaving their region to be replaced by a returning Janet Witzeman), Craig Faanes, Brent Ortego, Brooks and Lyn Atherton and Rich Paul. A sterling crew. The Middle Pacific Coast Region now has three editors who are bravely serving second terms (sentences?)—Dick Erickson, Jules Evens and Ron LeValley. Newcomers include Jim Wedgwood, who has replaced Wayne Harris, David Lambeth, who is sharing his region with Bernie Gollop, and Victor Emanuel, now sharing Fred Webster's traditional bailiwick with John Arvin. We welcome them all.

Few readers appreciate the burden of work these reports entail. Not only

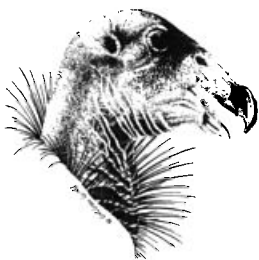
must the wheat be separated from the chaff, but from ever-increasing stacks of "wheat," the most salient and meaningful trends and individual records must be chosen for attention or mention. Some will involve verifying by letter or telephone with requests for photographs. Finally, all must be written in our own style and in proper sequence, with every species, place, date, number, and observer correct. All this, with the psychological stress that comes from stringent space limitations that may wipe out this loyal reporter's pet observation, or anger that club's membership with a doubting comment. More than one of our dedicated R.E.s were so frustrated with all the decisions that they couldn't stand the heat, and regretfully resigned. On top of everything there's the anxious Editor, applying his own deadline pressures.

—The Editor

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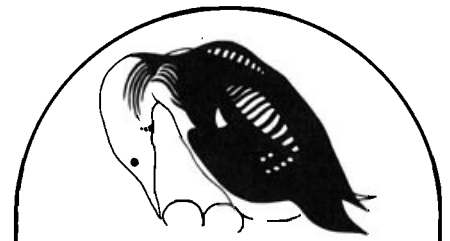
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