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## Editor's Note

**I**N TAKING ON MY NEW responsibilities as Editor of *American Birds*, I am very much aware of the imprint that Bob Arbib has made on this magazine. During his long and productive tenure as editor, *American Birds* acquired a new and more all-encompassing title, an enlarged format, color illustrations, a great increase in the number and quality of scientific papers, and several special features. Over the years, *American Birds* has come to occupy a unique position in ornithological literature; it is now a vital, continent-wide link between amateur and professional ornithologists and birders. While there will certainly be changes in the magazine in the future, one of our guiding principles will be to make no change that compromises its present level of excellence. I would like to salute Bob for his imagination and effort in bringing about these improvements and to commend his staff, and especially Associate Editor Susan Roney Drennan, for working with him to make *American Birds* what it is today. All of us on the staff of the magazine wish Bob and Renée Arbib a prosperous and productive retirement, and we look forward to seeing the completion of the many projects Bob has planned.

**I**N LEAVING *AMERICAN BIRDS*, Bob has shown his continuing interest in the magazine and its goals in a tangible way. He has instituted and funded the Robert Arbib Prize. This prize will be an annual cash award of \$250 to the author or authors of the paper judged to be the best contribution by an amateur or graduate student published in each volume of *American Birds*. The judges will be three ornithologists not on the staff of the National Audubon Society and not the major professors of any possible candidates. Eligible papers may report the results of research on any topic, but may not be part of a graduate student's Master's or doctoral thesis. The Prize will first apply to the current volume, and the first winner will be announced in the issue for January-February 1985. It would be helpful if authors submitting a paper indicate their eligibility when they send their manuscripts to *American Birds*.

**W**E ARE HAPPY TO REPORT that all of our expert Editorial Advisors have

agreed to continue to serve, and that we have added three new names to the list: Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Carl E. Bock, and Alexander Sprunt, IV. We look forward to working with all of our Editorial Advisors as we chart the future course of the magazine.

**W**E ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE the recent retirement of several Regional Editors: in the *Quebec Region*, Normand David and Michel Gosselin; in the *Central Southern Region*, Winter Season Editor Brent Ortego; and in the *South Texas Region*, Fred S. Webster, Jr. We appreciate the fine job all of these editors have done, and would like to thank them for their hard work and valuable service to the magazine and its readers. Fortunately, we have been able to line up a group of highly experienced replacements for these retiring editors. The new Regional Editors are: in the *Quebec Region*, Yves Aubry (670 Calixa Lavallée, Apt. 3, Québec, P.Q. G1S 3G6) and Richard Yank (566 Chester Road, Beaconsfield, P.Q. H9W 3K1); in the *Central Southern Region* (Winter Season), Mac Myers (730 Frenchmen St., New Orleans, LA 70116) and David Muth (1425 Bourbon St., New Orleans, LA 70116); and in the *South Texas Region*, Greg W. Lasley (5103 Turnabout Lane, Austin, TX 78731) and Chuck Sexton (P.O. Box 519, Austin, TX 78767). We would like to welcome these new editors to the team, and we look forward to working with them on future issues of *American Birds*.

**W**E WOULD ALSO LIKE to call attention to a new and more detailed version of "Information for Contributors" on the inside front cover of this issue. We plan to prepare an even more detailed set of instructions in the near future.

**O**NE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT sources of information for a magazine editor, whether he is new or an old hand, is the readers. In concluding my first Editor's Note, I would like to invite the readers of *American Birds* to write to me and express their views on any subject relating to our magazine. I look forward to hearing from you, and to the excitement of editing *American Birds*.

—John Farrand, Jr