

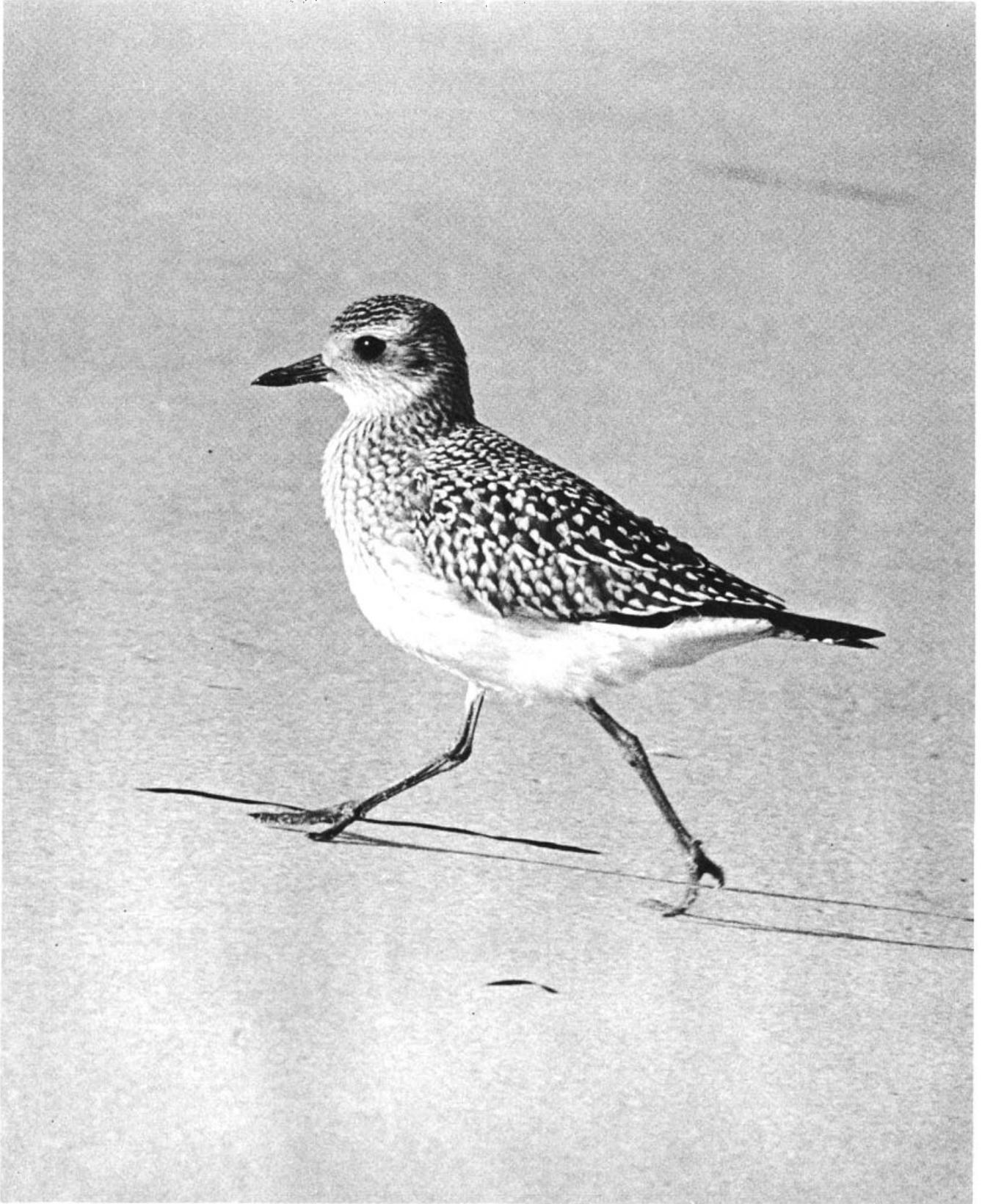
Ken Gardiner's shorebirds

IN AN AGE when nearly all photographers use color film, Kenneth W. Gardiner of Menlo Park, California, a senior research engineer at the Stanford Research Institute, is one of the last, and perhaps the most successful, practitioners of the art of black-and-white photography of birds. Although he is not above going after a rarity when one turns up in his favorite haunts along the California coast between Monterey Bay and Point

Reyes, he prefers to concentrate on the commoner species, trying to obtain ever better portraits of the familiar birds of his own region. On page 275 of this issue, in our article on VIREO, the repository of bird photographs at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, we show one of Ken's portraits of a Brown Pelican. Here we show a sample of Ken's work with one of his favorite subjects—shorebirds.

Ever since he first took up bird photography in 1970, he has spent many hours filming the sandpipers and plovers that are so numerous along the California coast at all seasons except early summer. Shown here is a mixed flock of species, all in winter plumage, speeding along the coast about 40 miles south of San Francisco. Included are two Black Turnstones, seven Surf-birds, 18 Sanderlings, and a single Dunlin. Can you find the







Kenneth W. Gardiner.

Dunlin?

Ken Gardiner specializes in flight shots, but he is equally adept at photographing birds on the ground. Our second photograph shows a Black-bellied Plover striding over the sand at Sunset Beach State Park on Monterey Bay, on a clear winter morning.

Ken has exhibited his work at both Stanford and Cornell universities, and his photographs have appeared in *Sunset* magazine and AUDUBON. He is no stranger to regular readers of this journal; his work has won prizes in the Photo Salons of 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1982.

Shorebird photos by Ken Gardiner have appeared on the covers of such works as *Shorebirds in a Marine Environment*, edited by Frank A. Pitelka, and *Where to Find Birds in New York State*, by Susan Roney Drennan.

While no one will deny the value and beauty of color photographs of birds, the medium of black-and-white has an appeal all its own. It is good to know that photographers like Ken Gardiner have not abandoned black-and-white, and we are pleased to present this sample of his work and to pay tribute to one of America's outstanding bird photographers.



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