

American Birds

Winter 1985



American Birds

A seasonal journal devoted to the birds of the Americas

Published by the National Audubon Society

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AUTHORS—AMERICAN BIRDS publishes papers of a technical nature, but only when written in an easily readable style, without complicated equations, long tables, or complex graphs. Lengthy papers should be accompanied by an abstract of about 50 words. All submissions will be carefully considered, but authors planning major submissions should correspond with the editors first. Major articles should not exceed 3000 words and six display items, but exceptions may be agreed upon after consultation. All material submitted should be original and not published previously. Manuscripts should follow accepted rules of format and style, be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of white paper, with generous margins. Submissions should include suggestions for subheads and full captions for all figures, tables, and photographs. We require the original typescript, display items of publishable quality, and at least two copies of everything submitted. All manuscripts will be acknowledged and evaluated promptly, but authors are advised that a backlog exists, and that this may entail a delay in publication after acceptance. Manuscripts will be refereed before being accepted. Submissions judged to be unsuitable for publication in AMERICAN BIRDS will be returned. We also welcome letters to the editor of moderate length.

For a Work in Progress section, we welcome notices of research projects seeking field reports or other collaboration and requests for assistance; we publish advance notices of important conventions, meetings, symposia, seminars, and conferences.

ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS—AMERICAN BIRDS is now able to publish more pages of illustrative material, both in color and in black-and-white. We welcome submission of photographic essays or series of topical interest, high-quality photographs of significance, transparencies of paintings in color, as well as line or wash drawings that can be used in an illustrative or decorative manner. Photographs should be glossy black-and-white prints or transparencies, clearly marked with the photographer's name and address. We would like to hear from (with a sample or two) artists who might be willing to illustrate articles for us. As usual, documentary photographs will be used, space permitting, in our Changing Seasons and Regional Reports sections.

AMERICAN BIRDS is published five times a year. Editorial and business offices are located at 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Subscriptions, all in U.S.\$: One year U.S.A. \$25, Canada and Foreign \$30, Libraries and Institutions, \$32. Single copies: Christmas Bird Count \$15.00. Fall Migration (Spring issue), Winter Season (Summer issue), Spring Migration (Fall issue), Summer Season (Winter issue) all \$4.50 U.S.A. Checks and money orders **in U.S. \$ only** should be made payable to AMERICAN BIRDS. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and additional Post Offices. Copyright © 1985 by the National Audubon Society, Inc.

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. . . from the editor's desk

This is the final issue of Volume 39 of AMERICAN BIRDS. We hope that you enjoy it and remember to renew your subscription promptly and to promote us to your friends. The more subscribers the better for all of us.

With this issue we'd like to introduce our new Christmas Bird Count Editor, Tony Leukering. He has been on staff now for nearly one month and is busily tending to the myriad details required before actually getting the counts typeset, proofread, and ultimately published. He is a person deeply committed to the concept of Christmas Bird Counts, and appreciates the motherlode of data they embody. On a perfectly practical level, he brings upwards of 10+ years of hardcore field birding to the job, and has been on approximately 25 different Christmas Bird Counts in those years. Tony's enthusiasm and energies were never more in evidence than this year, when he participated in six different CBCs in the Midwest and on the East Coast, thereby rapidly expanding his on-the-job training. In addition to his birding skills, he brings a strong background in computers, as well as in English and writing, most of which he gained while a student at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. He looks forward to working with CBC participants, compilers, CBC regional editors, and of course, the rest of the staff at AMERICAN BIRDS, to bring you, the reader, a continually better Christmas Bird Count issue that is on time. Our projected date of publication for the 1985-1986 CBC is the last week in October, 1986. Toward this end we will all be working to help

him reach this goal. Welcome to the staff, Tony.

In Volume 40, AMERICAN BIRDS looks forward to bringing you many more stimulating articles in the areas of identification, distribution, migration, rare occurrence, ecology, and the behavior of birds in the Americas.

We will, of course, be publishing the Changing Seasons and Regional Reports as ever, and beginning with Volume 40, we will be adopting a system of archiving photographs of distributional records with scientific merit; those establishing new and significant facts about distributional limits or providing essential documentation for the occurrence of rarities. These photographs will be deposited in the VIREO collection at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Each accession into the repository will carry a VIREO accession number in the caption accompanying the photo when published in the regional report, thereby making access to those data relatively easy. This participation will be AMERICAN BIRDS' effort in the joint project to establish a centralized repository of photographs of distributional records for the New World.

The staff of AMERICAN BIRDS thanks the many readers who sent holiday greetings and best wishes for a successful new year. In turn, we here wish to each of you a very fulfilling New Year along with the promise to bring you a more exciting and readable volume than ever in 1986, and on time!

Stay tuned!

—S.R.D.

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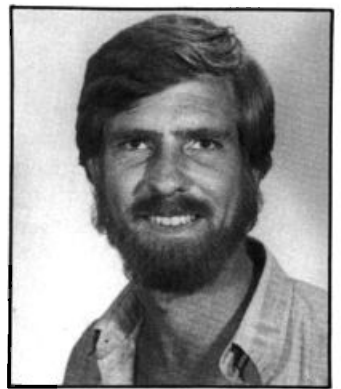
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The *American Birds* birding team includes (from left to right), Sandy Sprunt, Vice President and Director of the National Audubon Society's Science and Sanctuaries Division and member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *American Birds*; Joseph Siphron, member of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society and an avid birder who has traveled throughout several continents looking for birds; Susan Drennan and Kenn Kaufman, Editor and Regional Reports Editor, respectively, of *American Birds*. Each of them devotes quite a bit of time to pursuing birds.

On April 29, 1986, these four birders will be covering all of the hot-spots in southern Florida in hopes of running up a big species list for their one-day birdathon. With diligent work, a carefully planned strategy, and a large helping of luck they should work up a team list of anywhere from 135 to 150 species. They will be covering south Florida, south of the Tamiami Trail, including Everglades National

Park, Florida Bay, and the upper Keys. Part of the Birdathon will be covered by boat.

The *American Birds* team is looking for sponsors, each of whom will be willing to pledge a certain amount of money for each species the team sees or hears. Then it is the team's responsibility to find as many as possible on April 29.

The purpose of this Birdathon is to raise funds to defray some of the costs of producing *American Birds*. Right now the magazine is operating at a sizeable deficit and every penny earned in the Birdathon will be of direct benefit.

If you feel that you can sponsor the team, please complete one of the coupons on the facing page and submit it to *American Birds* as soon as possible. Each person who makes a pledge will receive a running account of the trip, together with the species total that will determine the amount of his contribution. Every contribution is tax deductible.

We need your help!! Please support this Birdathon with your generous pledge.

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