

# AMERICAN BIRDS

*Summer 1986*



Summer 1986  
Vol. 40, No. 2

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Postmaster: Send address changes to AMERICAN BIRDS, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. ISSN 0004-7686.

## ..... from the editor's desk

Congratulations are due our Special Projects Editor, J.P. Myers, for his careful and persistent efforts in getting large parts of the Delaware Bay shoreline set aside as a protected reserve. On May 21, 1986, representatives from the offices of the Governors of New Jersey and Delaware, the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Audubon Society, the World Wildlife Fund, Manomet Bird Observatory, New Jersey Audubon Society, and the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, along with numerous participants involved and interested in conservation in general and shorebird conservation in particular, met in Cape May, New Jersey, to formally dedicate the lower one-half of the Bay a shorebird conservation area. In the presentation, specific areas were designated as important shorebird migration staging sites and those areas have been set aside as Sister Reserves. As so designated, these sites enjoy full protection from development without being actually incorporated into the already existing wildlife refuge system.

The concept of Sister Reserves was originated by Pete Myers, and as his brainchild has commanded enormous amounts of his attention within the past few years. He and other shorebird biologists have every hope that these initial Sister Reserves will be the first in a growing network of systems throughout the Americas which will safeguard the crucial locations where plentiful food allows the birds to double their weight, replenish their lost energy and build up new energy reserves for their long flight to and from their nesting grounds.

The scope of the Sister Reserves is intercontinental. Those reserves with hemispheric importance host hundreds of thousands to millions of birds while regional reserves host tens of thousands of birds during their migration pauses. Serious damage to one of these critical stopovers could jeopardize an entire species' existence.

J.P. Myers, from the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, worked on this project with Pete McClain of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

We congratulate Myers on a real conservation *tour de force*. He seized the moment and resourcefully and skillfully affected a robust triumph for the environment. Smiles and applause—keep it coming, Pete!!

This issue of AMERICAN BIRDS has complete regional reports from all regions along with the three reports that were missing from the Spring 1986 issue. We implore all of you who contribute to these reports to get your sightings into your editor in time to be included in the seasonal summary. These dedicated Regional Editors devote prodigious amounts of time—all volunteer—to writing clear, intelligent reports season after season and we can all make that job easier by getting our contributions to them in a timely fashion.

We welcome John Ogden back, after a seven-year absence, as a Regional Editor for the Florida Region. His reports have always been especially well-written and comprehensive. We look forward to another long stint as an integral part of the Florida reporting scheme.

Greetings to Bruce Mactavish, of Newfoundland, as a new addition to the reporting team from the Northeastern Maritime Region. He will be writing the Spring Season report. Everyone who reads that regional report regularly recognizes Bruce as a keen birder and consistent contributor of records from Newfoundland and Labrador. A place for a new author was made in the Northeastern Maritimes by the resignation of Rick Heil after four years of dedication as the editor of the Winter Seasons regional report. We'd like to publicly thank Rick for his years of devotion and his readable, insightful reports. He has kept up a standard of reporting any editor would envy.

The Northern Pacific Coast Region has added a new co-editor: Michael P. Force. Typical of the ruggedness of the north Pacific, Michael waded in with both feet this season and co-authored the Winter Season report with veteran editor Phil Mattocks. You're in superb company, Michael. We hope you enjoy collaborating in one of our most vital and energized regions.

The hard-core trio from the Middle Pacific Coast Region: Campbell, Erickson, and Bailey, has added a fourth—Alan D. Barron. This is a marvelous birding and reporting region, carefully chronicled season after season. Barron's touch can be discerned for the first time in this issue. We hope, Alan, that you're part of the team for a good long time.

W. Gavin Johnston and Cathy McEwen have taken over the editorship of the Northwestern Canada Region. Their first column appears in this issue of AMERICAN BIRDS. They braved birding in the cold winter temperatures of the Whitehorse, Fort St. John, and Teslin areas and lived to write about it.

Welcome to all of our new regional editors. We're sure AMERICAN BIRDS will benefit from your efforts.

Stay tuned!!

S.R.D.

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