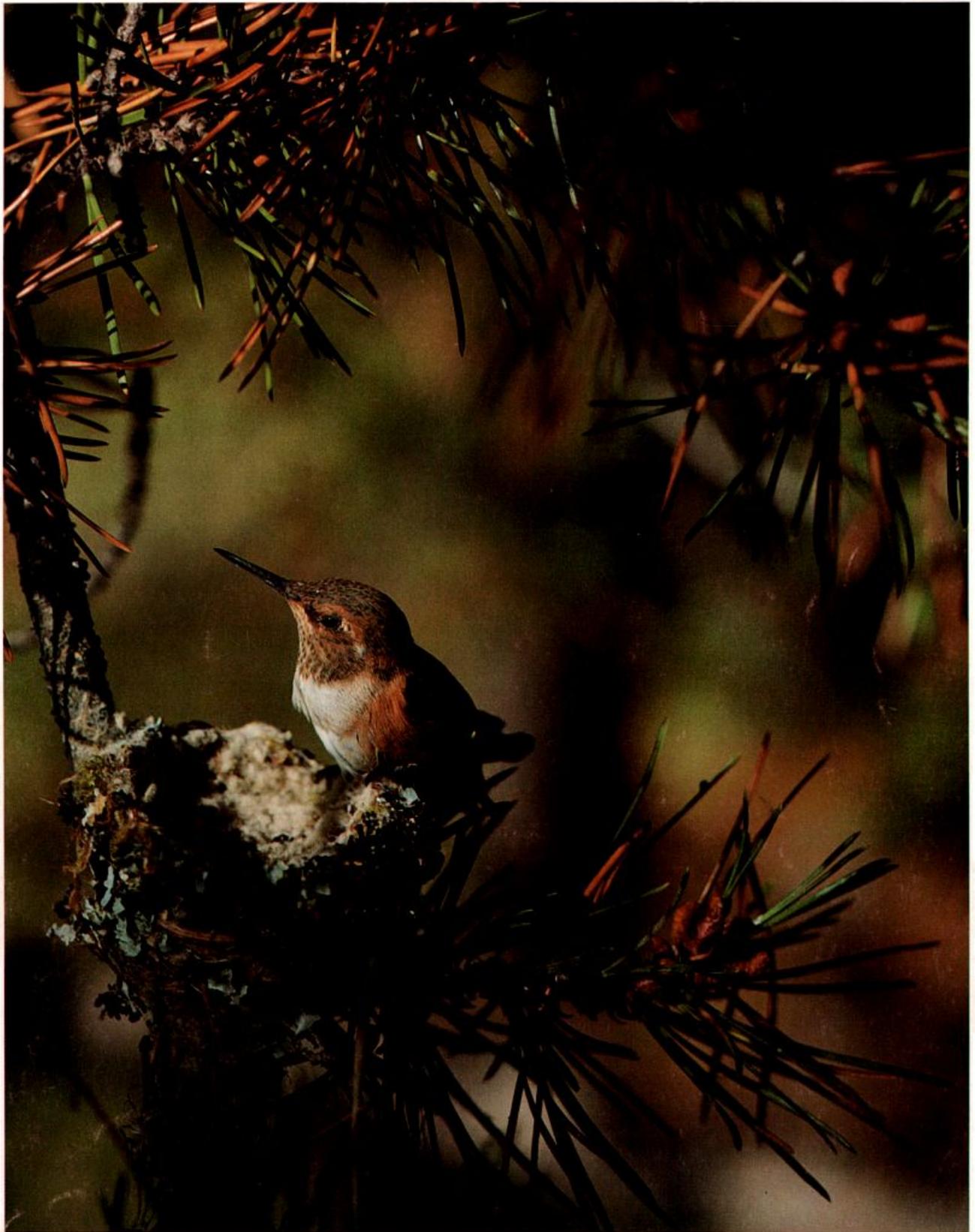


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. . . from the editor's desk

With this issue we say farewell to one of our longtime Regional Editors who has, for 23 years, kept birding's faith by submitting 91 consecutive seasonal reports to *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*. Frances Williams, venerable Editor of the Southern Great Plains Region, has inspired generations of budding Texas birders with her enthusiasm, energy, and unambiguous honesty. She has been skilled at portraying multiple perspectives of the avian life in her region throughout these decades in a straight-spoken and historically accurate manner. The sheer volume of her work stands as a testimony to her constant involvement with and loyalty to *American Birds*.

Back in 1965, when she submitted her first column to *Audubon Field Notes*, who could have guessed that she would be so prolific, versatile, and such great fun to read. Her reports were always based on careful observation and intimate knowledge of her region and they contain fascinating insights and analyses. Beyond this, she is a thinker, a prober, a generous supporter, and always quietly formidable. Thank you very much, Frances, for your balanced, admirable, high standards. Our cheers and fun wishes for success in each of your new projects. Believe me, you'll be a mighty tough act to follow!

Our Regional Reports are always struggling for a larger scope of reference and toward that end we've decided to restructure the configuration of several regions at this time. The overall strategy is straightforward and the end result should enhance the effectiveness of the reporting network.

The Southern Great Plains and South Texas regions' boundaries have been altered. We have decided to establish all of Texas as a single region with Greg Lasley and Chuck Sexton as its editors. Their tireless enthusiasm and superb reporting style ensures that the new Texas Region will continue to be fascinating reading.

Joe Grzybowski, who has already enlivened the pages of *American Birds* with an impressively written Changing Seasons (Volume 41, Number 5, Winter 1987), and "History and current population status of the Black-capped Vireo in Oklahoma" (Volume 40, Number 5, Winter 1986) has agreed to author the new Southern Great Plains Region, which now includes Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

As promised in my last editor's note, we offer you now a solution to what has become known as "the Northeastern Maritime Region Problem."

Beginning with the Winter 1988 issue (Volume 42, Number 5) there will be two regions in the northeast. The new Canadian Atlantic Provinces Region will include Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and the French Overseas possessions of Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

Editors for this newly established region are clearly premier field birders. The Winter Season report will be authored by Ian A. McLaren. The Spring Season's editor will be Blake Maybank. Our topnotch veteran editor, Bruce Mactavish has consented to author both the Summer and Autumn seasons reports.

We feel that this newly constituted team will breathe vital life into the Canadian Atlantic Provinces Region and we enthusiastically urge all contributors to support the team by communicating with each editor promptly.

With our help, the new Canadian Atlantic Provinces Region should anticipate holding its head high in the august company of the old master regions.

(continued on page 342)

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... from the editor's desk (continued from page 166)

The new New England Region will now include the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. As expected, we've maintained our exceedingly high standards with respect to Regional Editors. With appropriate pride we announce that Blair Nikula will continue as expert author of the Winter Season reports. Simon Perkins will take over the Spring Season. Wayne Petersen has consented to author the Summer Season report, and Charles Duncan will write the Autumn Season report.

This qualifies as a *World Class* team of Regional Editors for what has traditionally proven a world class birding area. These literate, capable editors are committed, loyal, and resolved in their pledge to pass the test of merit, which is still the common measure of the qualities the time-honored regions possess. Let's all do our best to help them do theirs.

Additionally the Niagara-Champlain Region has been absorbed by adding Vermont to the New England Region and upstate and western New York State to the Hudson-Delaware Region.

We most sincerely thank Doug Kibbe for his 13 years of service as accomplished, thoughtful, and intelligent editor of the old Niagara-Champlain Region.

Unrestrained applause for the varsity team of Paxton, Boyle, and Cutler for incorporating the remainder of New York State into the Hudson-Delaware Region.

The job of Regional Editor, in many cases, belongs not only to the classiest birders but also to the least reticent. Welcome to Chris Siddle, as new Editor of the Northwestern Canada Region. As Gavin Johnston and Catherine McEwen step aside with our sincere thanks, Chris shoulders the new responsibilities after serving as a consistent regional contributor to *American Birds* since 1980, particularly in the Fort St. John, British Columbia area. He has birded throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, as well as being the Christmas Bird Count compiler for the North Pine, British Columbia count. He was a major contributor and editor of the *Birds of British Columbia* (Royal British Columbian Provincial Museum, 1986), writes for *Bird Finding in Canada*, and has written six site descriptions for *Where to Find Birds in British Columbia*. He has participated in the Breeding Bird Survey since 1981 and has actively censused for the Alberta Bird Atlas. Somehow he has managed all of this writing and field birding while teaching school and assisting in the rearing of his two children.

Welcome aboard, Chris. We're delighted to have you.

The changes outlined here, in total, are considerable. From both the reader's view and my own, the Regional Reports comprise an extraordinary collection and clear triumph for field ornithology. They are an impressive and hugely satisfying resource for birders nationwide and we at the National Audubon Society are very proud to publish them.

Let me, once again, thank those resigning and welcome those who are joining our ranks.

Stay tuned!!!
Cheers,

S.R.D.

Our Regional Editors

Greg Lasley
5103 Turnabout Lane
Austin, TX 78731

Chuck Sexton
101 E. 54th Street
Austin, TX 78751

Ian A. McLaren
Biology Department
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS B38 3J5

Blake Maybank
Site 14A
Box 43 RR 4
Armdale, NS B3L 4J4

Bruce Mactavish
37 Waterford Bridge Road
St. Johns, NF A1E 3C5

Blair Nikula
23 Atwood Lane
Chatham, MA 02633

Simon Perkins
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Drumlin Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773

Wayne Petersen
378 County Road
Hanson, MA 02341

Charles Duncan
Institute for Field Ornithology
University of Maine at Machias
Machias, ME 04654

Robert O. Paxton
460 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72
New York, NY 10027

William J. Boyle, Jr.
12 Glenwood Road
Denville, NJ 07834

David A. Cutler
1110 Rock Creek Drive
Wyncote, PA 19095

Chris Siddle
9535 112th Avenue
Fort St. John, BC V1J 2W1

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Front cover photograph: Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). Twenty-one-day-old bird on a July afternoon in the Ashnola Valley in the Okanagan Range, British Columbia, Canada. Photo/Jerg Kroener.

Back cover photograph: American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) with chicks. Photo/Dennis M. Henry.

