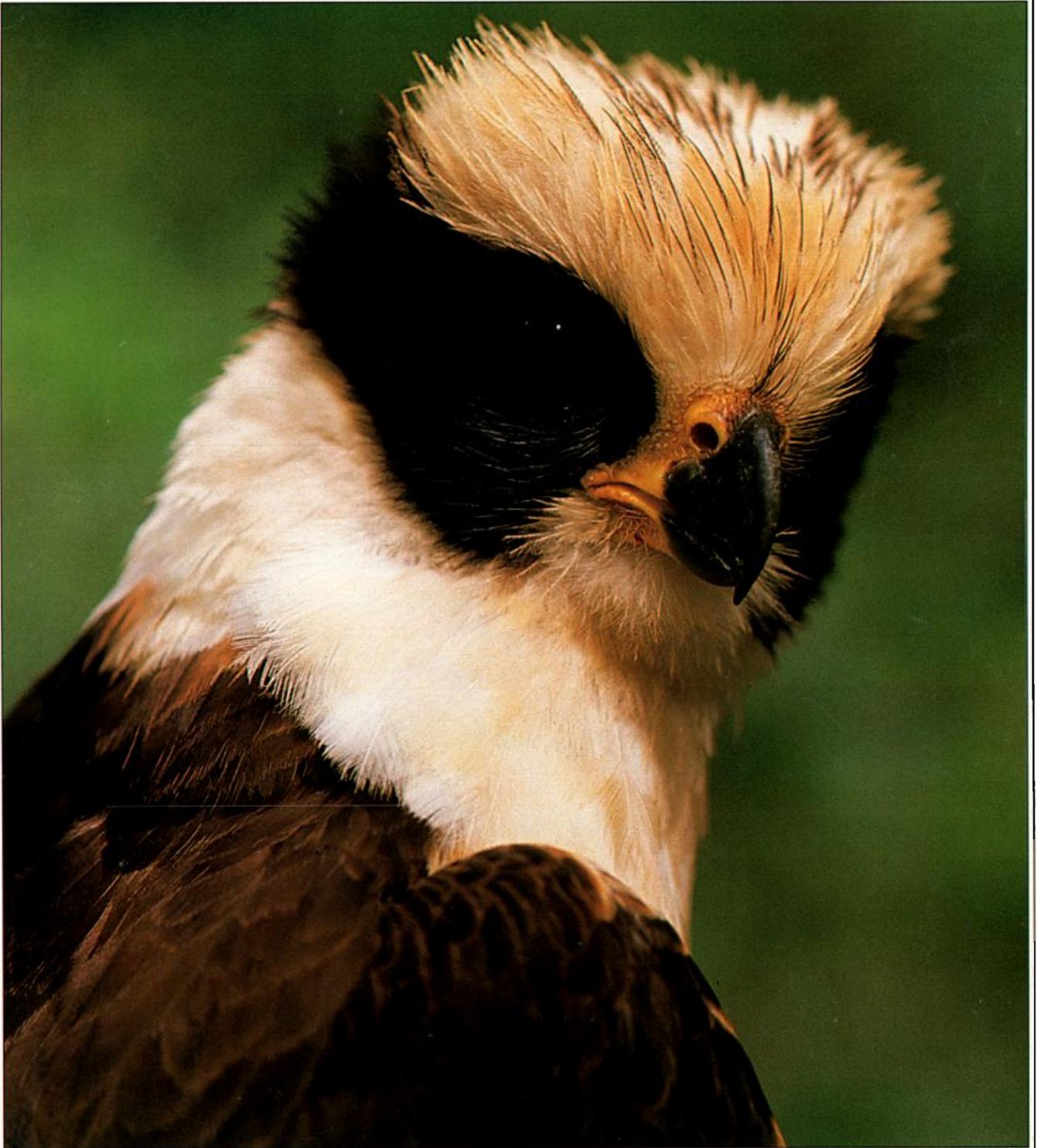


The Dance of Death · McCaskie as Mentor ·
James Bay Birds at Risk · Laysan Albatross in Mexico · Western Kingbird Identification

American Birds

THE MAGAZINE OF RECORD AND DISCOVERY · SUMMER 1992



A FALCON IS LAUGHING IN THE JUNGLE, p. 196

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Greg Horne

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American Birds

The Magazine of Record and Discovery

FROM THE PRESIDENT

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY birds—vireos, flycatchers, swallows, and other passerines that navigate routes throughout countries in the western hemisphere—are in decline. In the United States, migratory birds have found their forest, wetland, and prairie breeding grounds destroyed and fragmented by rapid, ill-planned suburban development. Poor forest management and widespread use of pesticides and other chemicals have taken their toll. In Latin America, habitats of more than 150 migratory birds are being sacrificed to pay off staggering national debt, converted for ranching and marginal farming, and squeezed by rapidly growing human populations. These declines ought to serve as a warning that we face even

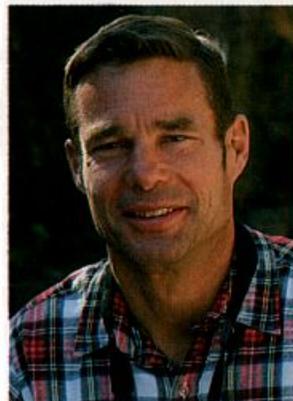
further decimation of the biodiversity in the western hemisphere.

We can begin to address the problems, but only if we combine comprehensive studies with protective measures throughout the birds' ranges. But as it stands now, data vital to conservation of migratory species in the United States, while extensive, are largely unorganized. Only a small number of species have been designated as threatened or endangered and their habitat targeted for preservation—e.g. Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo, Kirtland's Warbler. But hundreds of others remain in a statistical and regulatory no-man's land. In Latin America, the lack of data is even more profound.

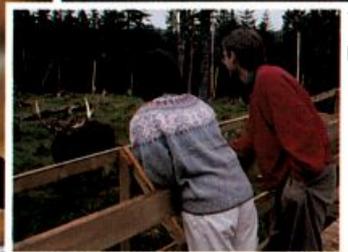
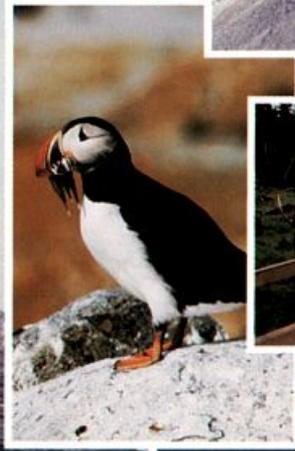
Audubon has already played key roles in the efforts to protect migratory birds' habitat in Canada's James Bay, on both sides of the Bering Strait, and along the Platte River. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network began as a joint pro-

ject between Audubon, Manomet Bird Observatory, and numerous individuals in North and South America. Audubon's 513 chapters in the United States and Latin America can forge a multinational citizens network that can work for hemisphere-wide migrant monitoring and protection. By doing this we may be able to prevent migratory birds from further swelling the ranks of species in danger of extinction.

Peter A.A. Berle



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Short-tailed Albatross returns to Midway. To kill or not to kill for science? Bald Eagle receives blood transfusion. And more.

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Why, when so many people care, is there so little data on the status of birds? *Paul R. Ehrlich* examines the few references there are, and what we can do to help.

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J.P. Myers gives us a tongue-in-cheek look at the very serious problem of how today's government is handling, or not, the decline in avian life.

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As a mere child he drew startlingly accurate bird pictures, but it was overlooking a drawing of a Purple Finch that really caused Robert Ridgway to become a famous ornithologist. *John Farrand, Jr.*



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Distinguishing the Western Kingbird should be easy, right? *Kenn Kaufman* shows us that reality may not be so simple.

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Stress invades all points of life. *Pete Dunne* explores the stresses at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary; for those who work and visit there, and for the birds who live there.

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In Guatemala, the Laughing Falcon battles to survive in a rapidly changing habitat. But Megan Parker and the Peregrine Fund's Maya Project in Tikal is studying, tracking and trying to help the Laughing Falcon succeed. *By Michael Tennesen.*

JAMES BAY BIRDS AT RISK 216

The coastlines of James and Hudson bays constitute an extremely important migratory pathway and staging area



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for innumerable bird species. Those birds are now in danger as their habitat has been, and continues to be, lost due to the flooding created by James Bay hydrodevelopment. *By Chris Rimmer.*

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A passionate innovator and birder *par excellence* succeeds in revolutionizing the birding community. *By Susan Roney Drennan.*

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Front Cover: The Laughing Falcon's telltale sign: her mask. Photograph by Megan Parker.

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FROM THE EDITOR

No one associated with this publication works with more diligence than the regional reports editors. Their common denominator is their wealth of knowledge, dedication, and industry. As dedicated volunteers, they spend hours crafting painstakingly accurate, readable, and timely reports. In the aggregate theirs is a remarkably solid and well-balanced legacy for the future.

John P. Hubbard, who has been with us for 17 years has retired from editorship of the New Mexico Region. His accounts have always been cohesive and incisive. In his own words: "My emphasis has always been on providing the greatest amount of reliable information possible in the space available, so that future users would have at least this as a published source of what had transpired with birds in this area. As a student of the changing status of birds in North America, I realize all too well the deficiencies in the historic record—which I believe persist even now in terms of many areas. However, we clearly need a great deal more information on "ordinary" birds, which may be far more at risk than people sometimes think—witness the declines in raptors and neotropical migrants." We thank you most sincerely, John, for your fine reports for the past 68 seasons. Having started in February 1975, and worked steadily through this season we are indebted to you for peerless service. Sartor O. Williams III will continue writing the New Mexico reports.

Bruce G. Peterjohn, who started writing the Middlewestern Prairie Region report in 1980, has moved from Ohio to Maryland to take the position of Breeding Bird Survey Coordinator with the Office of Migratory Bird Management;

retiring as regional report editor in the process. Bruce wrote virtuoso analyses and during his tenure also wrote *The Birds of Ohio*, published in 1989 by Indiana University Press. His authorship of this book won for him the Ohioana Book Award. Thank you for your 48 seasons of masterful reports, Bruce. Ken Brock of Gary, Indiana will take over as editor for the Middlewestern Prairies.

Robert L. Norton has put in 11 years of fruitful effort for us by not only initiating and developing a West Indies Region, back in 1980, but also in writing about the dynamic birdlife of the far-flung island communities for 44 seasons. Because Rob has now moved from the British Virgin Islands back to the states, we are without an editor in the Caribbean. For your energy, your thoughtful accounts, and your enterprising methods of building a constituency in your region, Rob, we thank you. We will miss you.

David J. Powell, editor for the Western Great Lakes Region since 1984, has moved from Michigan to California, resigning his editorship in the process. Dave has unflinchingly submitted discerning reports for the past 32 seasons illustrating his masterful grasp of the birdlife in the region. All of us thank you for an excellent job, Dave. Jim Grandlund will take over where Powell left off.

To all of the regional editors who are moving on to new, exciting endeavors, we wish you well and warmly thank you for serving on our all-star team.

Stay tuned!

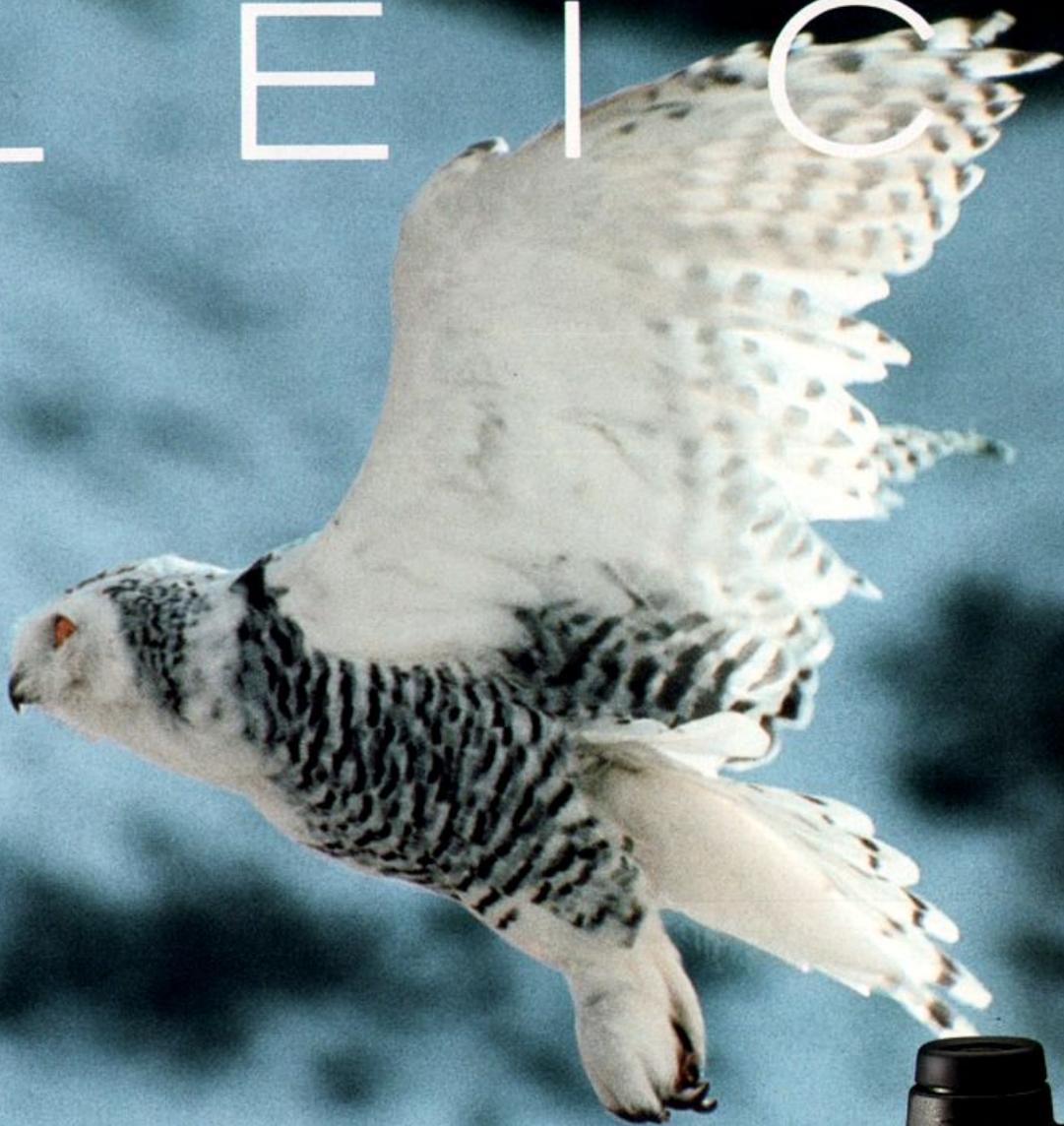
—S.R.Drennan



Answers to *That's Bird & Musica Entertainment*, Volume 46, No.1, Spring 1992 American Birds

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Swan Lake | 13. The Swan |
| 2. The Firebird | 14. The Eaglet |
| 3. The Swallow | 15. The Aviary |
| 4. duck | 16. Black-eared Wheatear, |
| 5. The Ugly Duckling | Golden Oriole, Buzzard, |
| 6. The Nightingale | Tawny Owl, Wood |
| 7. The Thievish Magpie | Lark, Alpine Chough, |
| 8. Curlew River | Cetti's Warbler, Rock |
| 9. The Lark Quarter or Bird | Thrush, Black Wheatear |
| Quarter-Op.33,no 3. | 17. owls, ravens, jackdaws, |
| 10. nightingale, cuckoo, | maggies |
| quail | 18. The Bluebird |
| 11. The Golden Cockerel | 19. The White Peacock |
| 12. Upon Hearing the First | 20. Symphony of Birds |
| Cuckoo in Spring | |

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Do you know what birders and jazz lovers have in common? More than you realize. Try this quiz and let's find out where the connection lies. *American Birds* thanks Wayne Mones, Director of Planned Giving for the National Audubon Society, and Gary Soucie for this terrific test of our musical ears.

THAT'S BIRD & JAZZ ENTERTAINMENT

1. This bassist works frequently with Carla Bley and is her current love interest. Who is he?

2. Who was the first tenor saxophone soloist in Jazz?

3. Charlie Parker wrote seven compositions with birds or ornithology in their titles. Name 5 of them.

4. Which Dixon & Henderson standard bade farewell to a pesky bird?

5. Name five Jazz birdy Jazz record labels.

6. Name a birdy Billy Strayhorn composition in Duke Ellington's "Far East Suite."

8. Name the Shearing and Foster lullaby which includes a famous Jazz venue in its title.

9. This New Orleans Jazz band was popular from 1907 to 1917 and was named for a large raptor. Name the band.

10. What bird call is heard prominently on Paul Winter's "Canyon"? PLATE XII

11. What J. Rowles composition on a Branford Marsalis album, includes a bird in its title?

12. The first recording of the VSOP Quartet included a composition named for a then-prominent trumpet player. Name the composition and the trumpet player.

13. The 1961 Bill Evans album "Out Of The Cool" closed with a hauntingly beautiful ballad. What was its name?

14. What famous trumpet player was nicknamed for his missing right arm?

15. Which song from "Porgy and Bess" uses a carion as a sign of foreboding?

If you answered fewer than 7 correctly, you may need to listen to your jazz a little more closely. If you answered 8-12 correctly, you've got a sharp ear. 13-15 right and you definitely have an ear for jazz and birds! Send us your answers and you may win a prize.



Baltimore Oriole. ILLUSTRATION BY BALTIMORE. Dated. Adult Male, Male two years old, 2. Female, 3. Adult Female, 4. Immature, 5. Immature, 6. Immature, 7. Immature, 8. Immature, 9. Immature, 10. Immature, 11. Immature, 12. Immature, 13. Immature, 14. Immature, 15. Immature.

7. Name two of three Hoagy Carmichael songs with bird titles.

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