

National Audubon Society

Winter 1996 Vol.50 No.5

FieldNotes



National Audubon Society





EXPLORING ANTARCTICA & THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

JANUARY 26 — FEBRUARY 10, 1998

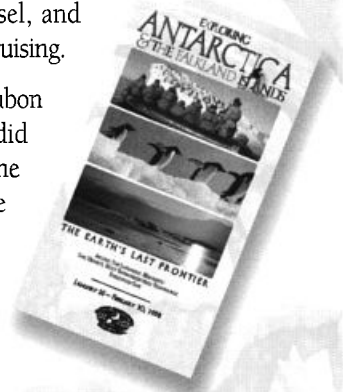
OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS TO EASTER ISLAND OR THE LAKE DISTRICT AND PATAGONIA

Far to the south lies a land of dazzling snowfields, crystalline glaciers and dramatically carved ice mountains soaring above an untamed frozen wilderness. There are no human sounds in this land of primeval beauty, only the wild cries of birds, seals, and whales echoing across a vast expanse of land and sea.

Next winter, the National Audubon Society invites you to experience the wonders and grandeur of a land where few have ever set foot as we discover the world's last frontier—the great White Continent. Ornithologist Geoffrey S. LeBaron, editor and coordinator of the annual Christmas Bird Count for the past ten years, will accompany Audubon participants on this incredible voyage.

Our voyage takes place during the austral summer, when the weather is best and temperatures are moderate and days long. Penguin chicks are hatching and it is common to see elephant seals along the beaches. Zodiac landing craft—swift and sturdy motorized rubber boats developed by Jacques Cousteau—carry us from the ship to virtually anywhere along the coast. We will sail aboard the five-star 170-passenger *Hanseatic*. The *Hanseatic* is a sturdy ice-class vessel, and represents state-of-the-art in expedition cruising.

We hope that you will join National Audubon Society Nature Odysseys on this splendid expedition and count yourself among the privileged few who have experienced the wonders of the White Continent. **For a detailed brochure, call Beth Ryan today at 212-979-3066.**



PRESENTED BY
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY





Officers

Donal C. O'Brien, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

John Flicker
President

Scott W. Reed
Ruth O. Russell
Vice-Chairmen

James A. Cunningham
Eric Draper
Frank B. Gill
Glenn Olson
Victoria Shaw
Management Team

Willem Brans
Michael W. Robbins
Senior Vice-Presidents

Katherin R.R. Carpenter
Susan Roney Drennan
James H. Fishman
Carole J. McNamara
Talbert Spence
Celia Tennenbaum
Kathryn Wright
Vice-Presidents

Patricia H. Heidenreich
Secretary

John B. Beinecke
Treasurer

Peter A.A. Berle
Russell W. Peterson
Elvis J. Stahr
Presidents Emeriti

Patricia M. Douglas
Verna B. Lin
Midge Smith
Assistant Secretaries

Board of Directors

Oakes Ames
John B. Beinecke
John C. Bierwirth
Howard P. Brokaw
Harriet S. Bullitt
Donald A. Carr
Douglas M. Costle
Leslie Dach
Reginald E. David
Jack Dempsey
Lynn Dolnick
David D. Dominick
Cindy Adams Dunn
George Ellman
Helen M. Engle
W. Hardy Eshbaugh
Ted Lee Eubanks
John W. Fitzpatrick
Patricia Heidenreich
Marian S. Heiskell
Thomas W. Keese, Jr.
Carol Ann May
Arsenio Milian
Donal C. O'Brien Jr.
Benjamin Olewine IV
Francis P. Pandolfi
Scott W. Reed
Ruth O. Russell
Walter C. Sedgwick
Norman Shapiro
Robert H. Socolow
John L. Whitmire
Joyce A. Wolf
Bernard J. Yokel

From the Editor

With the advent of the computer age and a revolution in both communications and business, we thought that there was the possibility that subscribers to *Field Notes* might like to have the opportunity to access the information in this magazine in a computer compatible format. With that in mind, a mail-back questionnaire was sent out in the Spring 1996 (Volume 50, Number 1) issue of *Field Notes*. Our goal in distributing the questionnaire was to get a more complete profile of our present readership, especially to determine reader demographics, reader computer literacy and interest, and reader interest and opinions regarding *Field Notes* being offered in a cyber format. We warmly thank all of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire and submit it to us. In fact we had a fantastic response, as might be anticipated with so loyal a readership.

Several trends were evident in the data set. Our readers are highly educated, having far more education than random samples from the American populace. The educational background of respondents revealed a staggering 93% had attended college, and 57% had attended graduate or professional school beyond the four-year college. Our readers are among the most avid of birders with about 100 days per year averaged birding away from home and an average of 263 days per year birding while at home. Two-thirds of our readers are married. Most are relatively affluent. Males outnumbered females by about three to one. The average age is 55

years, with about one-third of our readers being retired.

Computer literacy among our readers is very high with two-thirds owning computers and 40% using some sort of computer service to connect to the internet, e-mail, or world-wide web. Several who had no computer at home stated that they had access to computers at work or through friends. Cyber-birding is already quite popular and the number of computer services/homepages available is quite broad. Many of you out there now use bird homepages. In fact, respondents listed a total of nearly 40 specific on-line addresses/services that they use to get information on birding, birds, and bird conservation.

Despite the fact that a majority of subscribers are computer literate and

many use computers at home regularly, responses to questions focusing on whether *Field Notes* should consider publishing a cyber magazine that would be available in a format for computers revealed a lack of strong support for such a move. It is for this reason that we are not going to further explore a cyber/computer format.

Thank you once again for making your views known. We genuinely appreciate your efforts.

Stay tuned!!



Susan Roney Drennan

During 1995, our nation will observe the 50th anniversary of Franklin Roosevelt's death. You are invited to plant a tree grown from seeds hand-picked from the trees that grow at Franklin Delano Roosevelt's home. In your own yard, you can plant a white oak from Hyde Park, New York, or a red-bud or southern magnolia from Warm Springs, Georgia. The small trees are the direct offspring of FDR's own trees and are guaranteed to grow. Each small tree comes in a complete planting kit with a special certificate issued in observance of the 50th anniversary of FDR's death.

As Governor of New York during the Great Depression, Franklin

Roosevelt arranged for thousands of unemployed people to work on reforestation projects and as president he made the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) a centerpiece of his strategy for putting people back to work. Thus the tree symbolizes FDR's effort to rebuild the country and his faith in the future.

To mark the 50th anniversary of his death, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and AMERICAN FORESTS are sponsoring this commemorative tree-planting program and you are encouraged to join us. Place a toll-free call to 800-320-TREE and receive information at no cost.

"FORESTS ARE THE LUNGS
OF OUR LAND, PURIFYING
THE AIR AND GIVING FRESH
STRENGTH TO OUR PEOPLE."

Franklin Roosevelt



**AMERICAN
FORESTS**

People Caring For Trees
And Forests Since 1875.

National Audubon Society Field Notes

published by the
National Audubon Society

Volume 50, No. 5

SUSAN RONEY DRENNAN
Editor-in-Chief
Vice President for Ornithology

VICTORIA IRWIN
Managing Editor

KENN KAUFMAN
Associate Editor

GEOFFREY S. LE BARON
Christmas Bird Count Editor

JEAN DOBBINS
Administrative Assistant



JONATHAN B. FOSTER
Art Director

HEIDI DEVOS
Production Manager



J. KEVIN SMITH
Associate Publisher

National Audubon Society Field Notes is published five times a year. Editorial and business offices are located at 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003 (212) 979-3000. Subscription, all in U.S. \$: One year, \$25.00. Canada and foreign: \$37.00. Libraries and Institutions: \$35.00. Single copies: Spring Issue (Autumn Migration), Summer Issue (Winter Season), Fall Issue (Spring Migration), Winter Issue (Nesting Season) all \$5.00 each. Christmas Bird Count issue \$15.00. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and additional Post Offices. Copyright 1996 by The National Audubon Society. Postmaster: Send address changes to **National Audubon Society Field Notes**, PO Box 490, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. ISSN 0004-7686.

Contents

Summer Season June 1—July 31, 1996

- | | |
|---|---|
| 915 From the Editor | 958 Central Southern Region
Robert D. Purrington |
| 918 Changing Seasons
Kenn Kaufman | 961 Prairie Provinces Region
Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor |
| 922 How to Read the Regional Reports | 963 Northern Great Plains Region
Gordon Berkey |
| 923 The Regional Reports Summer Season
The Summer season is June 1, 1996—July 31, 1996. | 965 Southern Great Plains Region
Joseph A. Grzybowski |
| 923 Atlantic Provinces Region
Bruce Mactavish | 968 Texas Region
Greg W. Lasley, Chuck Sexton, Willie Sekula, and Mark Lockwood |
| 925 Quebec Region
Yves Aubry and Pierre Bannon | 973 Idaho-Western Montana Region
Dan Svingen |
| 927 New England Region
Wayne R. Petersen | 975 Mountain West Region
Van A. Truan and Brandon K. Percival |
| 931 Hudson-Delaware Region
William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton, and David A. Cutler | 978 Southwest Region
Arizona: Chris D. Benesh and Gary H. Rosenberg |
| 936 Middle Atlantic Coast Region
Marshall Iliff | 980 New Mexico: Sartor O. Williams III |
| 940 Southern Atlantic Coast Region
Ricky Davis | 983 Alaska Region
T. G. Tobish, Jr. |
| 943 Florida Region
Richard T. Paul and Ann F. Schnapf | 986 British Columbia/Yukon Region
Jack Bowling |
| 946 Ontario Region
Ron Ridout | 989 Oregon/Washington Region
Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson |
| 948 Appalachian Region
George A. Hall | 992 Middle Pacific Coast Region
Stephen F. Bailey, Daniel S. Singer, and David G. Yee |
| 951 Western Great Lakes Region
Daryl D. Tessen | 995 Southern Pacific Coast Region
Guy McCaskie |
| 954 Midwestern Prairie Region
Kenneth J. Brock | 999 Hawaiian Islands Region
Robert L. Pyle |
| | 1000 West Indies Region
Robert L. Norton |

ON THE COVER: Western Scrub-Jay
Photograph by H.P. Smith/VIREO

How to Read the Regional Reports

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about our dynamic birdlife. To those seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

What kind of information is included, and do the Regional Editors report everything that's reported to them?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

Why are there abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently used words and phrases to save space. Most are easy to understand and remember. (See the following list of abbreviations.) In addition, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after the introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

What do the initials in parentheses mean?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source, the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by *et al.* (short for *et alia*, meaning “and others”), or preceded by *fide* (literally, “by the faith of”—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person cited is the one who passed it to the Regional Editor).

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly.

Who sends in their sightings?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations on migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

Why are some bird names in heavier type?

We use boldface type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province; or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete rundown of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

What are the sections marked “S.A.”?

“S.A.” stands for “Special Attention” (and, by coincidence, is pronounced “essay”). The purpose of the essays is to draw attention to noteworthy phenomena or trends.

Likely topics include new population trends or new patterns of bird distribution, unusual invasions or migration events, field research projects that have yielded new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of some outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers make it a point to flip through all the reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.

Standard Abbreviations used in the Regional Reports

Abbreviations used in place names:

In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Other abbreviations:

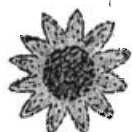
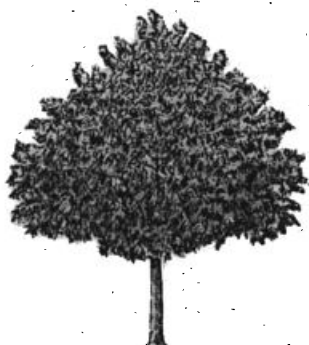
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

Abbreviations used in the names of birds:

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

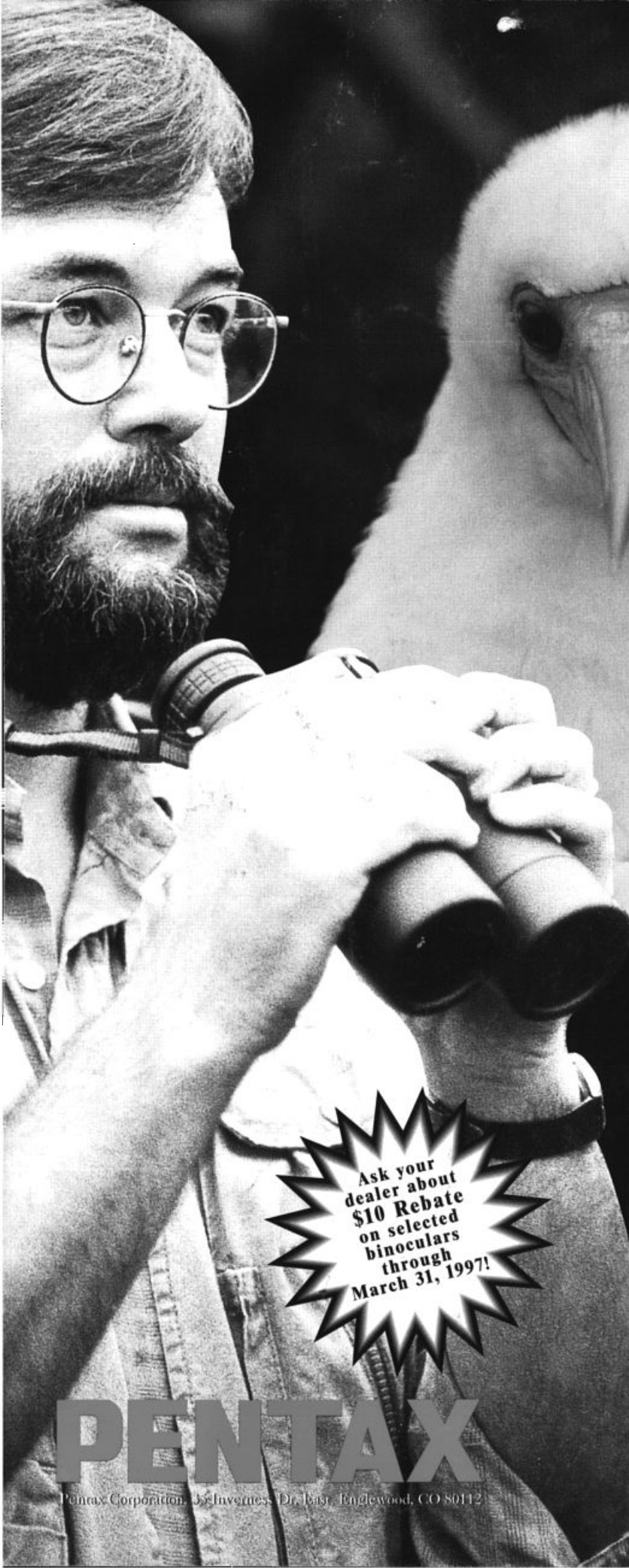
ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvénal or juvenile
sp.	species
v.t.	video taped
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count



THE ROOTS OF THIS TREE
SPREAD CLEAR ACROSS THE WORLD.

They are part of the land. Which is boundary to the water. Which is partner to the sky. Which are all connected to us. Because everything is connected, choosing one environmental cause can be hard. But now, helping one, or all, is easy. It's called Earth Share. It's over thirty of the world's most respected environmental charities working together under one name. You can give through your office. And you will be helping to make sure the roots that join nature and us, are never severed. To find out how you and your company can become involved, call:

 **Earth Share**
1-800-MY SHARE



Why Pentax?

As a Galapagos and Antarctica birding guide I spend a lot of time at the business end of my binoculars. Only one binocular gives me the close focus and long eye relief I need, while putting up with the knock-about demands of my job. Pentax works for me... and has for years.

Ask your
dealer about
\$10 Rebate
on selected
binoculars
through
March 31, 1997!



Richard J. Polatty
Galapagos Guide

8X42 DCF
High Resolution Binoculars

To receive free information
about Pentax Sport Optics products,
call 1-800-709-2020. <http://www.pentax.com>



PENTAX

Pentax Corporation, 35 Inverness Dr. East, Englewood, CO 80112