



VOLUME 52: NO. 1, 1998

THE MIGRATION SEASON

August 1

to November 30, 1997

field notes

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION IN ALLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Ultimate Ice & Water Glass.

Many people feel that Swarovski Optik offers the finest binoculars on the planet when you consider value and performance, and perform they will... under the very worst of conditions!

Swarovski binoculars are filled with nitrogen, sealed against moisture and carry a Limited Lifetime Warranty.*



Swarovski optics were chosen to accompany the '95 American Mt. Everest Expedition. "Swarovski optics performed flawlessly under the worst of conditions. They really came through and helped us succeed", Colin Lynch, Deputy Expedition Leader shown on the summit of Everest with his Swarovski Optik binoculars.

Swarovski optics have been chosen to go to the top of Mt. Everest as well as to the bottom of some of the dampest holes in Central America.

All Swarovski binoculars are extremely rugged and waterproof/submersible. Every lens element is fully multi-coated. Roof prisms are phase corrected for ultimate light transmission and brilliant image resolution.



All Swarovski SLC binoculars are center focusing and light in weight. Full multi coatings and phase corrected roof prisms give over 98% light transmission!

Try a pair yourself. See the ultimate in bright and sharp images. See birds and wild life as you have never seen them before. We offer 8X30, 7X42, 10X42, 7,8, & 10X50 and the new 8X56 SLC models.

Call 800-426-3089... We'll send more information or visit us at www.swarovskioptik.com

Swarovski Optik North America, Ltd.
One Wholesale Way, Cranston, RI 02920



SWAROVSKI

OPTIK

With The Eyes of a Hawk

*Original warranty card must be postmarked within 30 days of purchase from an authorized Swarovski dealer in good standing.

Entire product must be returned with warranty claim by registered warranty holder.

contents

FIELD NOTES • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 52: NUMBER 1 • 1998

THE MIGRATION SEASON: AUGUST 1–NOVEMBER 30, 1997

THE REGIONAL REPORTS

22 Atlantic Provinces

BRUCE MACTAVISH

25 Québec

PIERRE BANNON
and NORMAND DAVID

28 New England

WALTER G. ELLISON
and NANCY L. MARTIN

34 Hudson–Delaware

ROBERT O. PAXTON,
WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.,
and DAVID A. CUTLER

40 Middle Atlantic Coast

MARSHALL J. ILIFF

45 Southern Atlantic Coast

RICKY DAVIS

49 Florida

NOEL WAMER

52 Ontario

RON RIDOUT

56 Appalachian

GEORGE A. HALL

61 Western Great Lakes

DARYL D. TESSEN

66 Middlewestern Prairie

KENNETH J. BROCK

71 Central Southern

GREG D. JACKSON

3 Editor's Notebook

4 Outstanding Rarities of Autumn 1997

6 The Tropical Kingbird North of Mexico

STEVEN G. MLODINOW

14 Changing Seasons: Fall Migration 1997

MICHAEL A. PATTEN

20 How to Read the Regional Reports

138 Market Place

139 Pictorial Highlights

76 Prairie Provinces

RUDOLF F. KOES
and PETER TAYLOR

80 Northern Great Plains

RON MARTIN

82 Southern Great Plains

JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

86 Texas

GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON,
MARK LOCKWOOD,
CLIFF SHACKELFORD,
and WILLIE SEKULA

93 Idaho–Western Montana

DAN SVINGEN
and DAVID TROCHLELL

96 Mountain West

VAN A. TRUAN
and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

100 Arizona

CHRIS D. BENESH
and GARY H. ROSENBERG

104 New Mexico

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

107 Alaska

T.G. TOBISH JR.

111 British Columbia– Yukon

JACK BOWLING

114 Oregon–Washington

BILL TWEIT
and JEFF GILLIGAN

118 Middle Pacific Coast

DON ROBERSON,
STEPHEN F. BAILEY,
and DANIEL S. SINGER

124 Southern Pacific Coast

GUY MCCASKIE

130 Hawaiian Islands

ROBERT L. PYLE

132 West Indies

ROBERT L. NORTON

ON THE COVER

The afternoon of November 6, 1997, at Cape May, New Jersey, was stormy and gray, the kind of weather that drives most people indoors. But most people are not Paul Lehman. A world-class expert on bird distribution, Lehman recognized that the conditions could produce some unusual bird records, so he went out looking, and sure enough, in the fading light, a large swallow flew past. An exceptionally late fall record for Purple Martin? No, something better . . .

Many bird species are migratory within South America. Some of these are such strong flyers that, with an error in navigation, they can wind up in North America. The unmistakable Fork-tailed Flycatcher is the best-known example; some other austral migrants may be overlooked. Swallows are especially problematic. Many birders do not look at swallows closely, and these highly mobile birds are often detected only as fly-bys, never to be seen again. Fortunately, Lehman's bird was more cooperative. This Brown-chested Martin (*Progne tapera*) remained at Cape May until November 15, to be seen by many. It represented only the second confirmed record for North America.

Fortunately, Cape May is also a frequent habitat for ace photographer Kevin T. Karlson, who took the portrait on the cover. Ever mindful of the welfare of the birds, Karlson photographed the martin from a distance, using long lenses. The spring-like green background in this November portrait resulted because the martin often perched on wires near a large green building. For more photos and information, see page 4, plus the Changing Seasons and Hudson–Delaware Region columns in this issue.



American Birding Association

PRESIDENT
Allan R. Keith

VICE-PRESIDENT
Wayne R. Petersen

SECRETARY
Blake Maybank

TREASURER
Gerald J. Ziarno

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Margaret Bain
Sharon Bartels
P. A. Buckley
George G. Daniels
Jon Dunn
Daphne D. Gemmill
Thomas J. Gilmore
Dennis H. Lacoss
Greg W. Lasley
Stanley R. Lincoln
Michael Ord
Richard H. Payne
Ann Stone
William R. Stott Jr.
Henry Turner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gregory S. Butcher

CONTROLLER
Lynn Yeager

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION
Paul Green

DEVELOPMENT
Carol Lambert

CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES
Ken Hollinga

GENERAL COUNSEL
Daniel T. Williams Jr.

PAST PRESIDENTS
Daniel T. Williams Jr. (1993–1997)
Allan R. Keith (1989–1993)
Lawrence G. Balch (1983–1989)
Joseph W. Taylor (1979–1983)
Arnold Small (1976–1979)
G. Stuart Keith (1973–1976)
G. Stuart Keith (1970 *pro tem*)

field notes

is published by
the American Birding Association
in alliance with
the National Audubon Society.
The mission of the journal
is to provide a complete overview
of the changing panorama of North America's
birdlife, including outstanding records, range
extensions and contractions, population
dynamics, and changes in migration patterns
or seasonal occurrence.

PUBLISHER
ABA/George G. Daniels

EDITOR
Kenn Kaufman

EXECUTIVE EDITOR **MANAGING EDITOR**
Carol S. Lawson Victoria H. Irwin

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Susan Roney Drennan

FIELD EDITORS
Stephen F. Bailey, Pierre Bannon,
Chris D. Benesh, Jack Bowling,
William J. Boyle Jr., Kenneth J. Brock,
Steven W. Cardiff, David A. Cutler,
Normand David, Ricky Davis,
Walter G. Ellison, Jeff Gilligan,
Jim Granlund, Joseph A. Grzybowski,
George A. Hall, Peter Hunt,
Marshall J. Iliff, Greg D. Jackson,
Rudolf F. Koes, Greg Lasley, Gerard Lillie,
Bruce Mactavish, Nancy L. Martin,
Ron Martin, Blake Maybank,
Guy McCaskie, Ian A. McLaren,
Robert L. Norton, Rich Paul,
Robert O. Paxton, Brandon K. Percival,
Simon Perkins, Wayne R. Petersen,
Bill Pranty, Robert D. Purrington,
Robert L. Pyle, Ron Ridout,
Don Roberson, Gary H. Rosenberg,
Ann F. Schnapf, Chuck Sexton,
Daniel S. Singer, Stephen J. Stedman,
Dan Svingen, Peter Taylor, Daryl D. Tessen,
Bill Tice, T.G. Tobish Jr., David Trochlell,
Van A. Truan, Bill Tweit, Noel Wamer,
Richard West, Sartor O. Williams III

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Susanna v.R. Lawson

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Constance J. Eldridge and Julie D. Reid

CIRCULATION
Kim Bentz, Manager
Mary Carr

National Audubon Society



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
Donal C. O'Brien Jr.

PRESIDENT
John Flicker

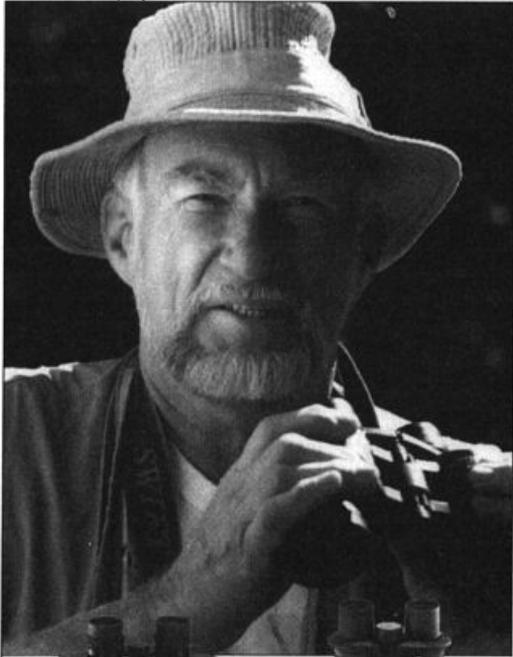
VICE-CHAIRPERSONS
John B. Beinecke
Ruth O. Russell

MANAGEMENT TEAM
Daniel P. Beard
James A. Cunningham
Eric Draper
Frank B. Gill
Carol Ann May
Glenn Olson
Victoria Shaw

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Oakes Ames
John B. Beinecke
Charles G. Bragg Jr.
Howard P. Brokaw
Harriet S. Bullitt
Donald A. Carr
Douglas M. Costle
Leslie Dach
Jack Dempsey
Lynn Dolnick
David D. Dominick
Helen M. Engle
W. Hardy Eshbaugh
Ted Lee Eubanks
John W. Fitzpatrick
Christopher Harte
Patricia H. Heidenreich
Marian S. Heiskell
Reid B. Hughes
Vivian Johnson
Arsenio Milian
Benjamin Olewine IV
David H. Pardoe
Ruth O. Russell
Walter C. Sedgwick
Norman Shapiro
Amy Skilbred
Robert H. Socolow
John L. Whitmire
Joyce A. Wolf
Bernard J. Yokel

Field Notes (ISSN 0004-7686) (USPS 872-200) is published quarterly by the American Birding Association, Inc., 720 West Monument Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3624. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: return postage guaranteed; send address changes and POD forms 3579 to *Field Notes*, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80934-6599. Subscription prices: \$20/year (US) and US\$25/year (Canada). Copyright © 1998 by the American Birding Association, Inc., all rights reserved. Printed by Publishers Printing, Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the American Birding Association or its management. ABA is not responsible for the quality of products or services advertised in *Field Notes*, unless the products or services are being offered directly by the Association. GST Registration No. R135943454.



“Gotcha!”

On the way to his 2,290th life bird Warren Harrington and his Swift Audubons® tracked down a real poor sport.

The Rufescent Tiger-Heron has never been known as “birder friendly”. It hides, camouflaged in the tall reeds, then streaks away like an arrow at the first sign of anacondas, jaguars or birders. Just getting to the remote nesting area in northwest Ecuador means out-boarding up a tributary of the Amazon, then paddling across the lake in a dugout canoe to the La Salva Lodge. The jungle can be murder on binoculars and camera gear. What the smug Tiger-Heron didn't count on was Warren's persistence and his Swift Audubon advantage: Binoculars rugged enough to withstand the heat and humidity; powerful and sharp enough to identify a poor sport hidden in the tall reeds and a field of view wide enough to capture it in flight.



Warren's companions on the trip were Dennis Sheets from Falls Church, VA. (2,030 Life Birds) and Jose, the native guide whose only English was the names of every bird in the jungle. Together they identified 177 species including the rare Zig Zag Heron. In addition to the love of birding they had another thing in common. They all carried Swift binoculars. Serious birders know what they're looking for—and what they're looking with.



Swift 804ED Audubon®
8.5x, 44 Wide Field

Swift 827 Audubon®
8.5x, 44 Showerproof

Warren Harrington, photographer, birder and lecturer. In some far off corner of the world, look for a man with a wide brim hat and a pair of Swift Audubons.

Swift Instruments, Inc.
952 Dorchester Ave., Boston, MA 02125
In Canada: Vision Canada LTD., Pickering, Ontario L1W 3S1



Swift Instruments supports INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY.

Discover the entire Swift line of binoculars at better specialty stores. For the name of your closest Swift retailer call 1-617-436-2960.

St. Paul
ISLAND
ALASKA'S PRIBILOFS



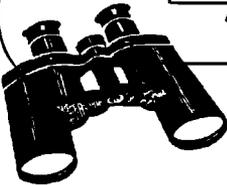
REMOTE. WILD. UNBELIEVABLE.

Unravel the mysteries of a land where time stands still and nature displays an astonishing array of wonders—St. Paul.

A birder's paradise ♦ Over 230 species identified ♦ Common species, such as Red-faced Cormorants, Red-legged Kittiwakes, Parakeet, Least and Crested Auklets, murres, fulmars, and comical Horned and Tufted Puffins ♦ Uncommon species and rare Asian vagrants, such as Falcated Teal, Mongolian Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Gray-tailed Tattler, and Common Cuckoo.

Accommodations are cozy, food excellent, and the Aleut people are eager to show you the wonders of St. Paul. Complete package tours available. For reservations and information, see your travel agent, call toll free 1-800-544-2248, or visit our web site: <http://alaskan.com/vendors/tdx.html>

Focus on Nature TOURS



FOR BIRDING IN '98 & '99

● **BRAZIL** (MATO GROSSO)

The Pantanal, Chapada

Aug 8-17 \$1795

Alta Floresta, Rio Cristalino

Aug 17-22 \$695

These two tours can be combined.

● **BRAZIL** (SOUTHEAST)

Itatiaia & Ubatuba

Sep 23-Oct 4 \$1695

Minas Gerais

Cipo, Caraca, Canastra

Oct 4-15 \$1695

These two tours can be combined.



6 rare Brazilian Mergansers,
during our '97 tour.

● **ARGENTINA**

Northeast & North-Central

Ibera Marshes, Iguazu Falls, Tucuman

Oct 24-Nov 8 \$2295

North-Central & South

Cordoba, Valdes Peninsula, Patagonia

Nov 1-15 \$2395

These two tours can be combined.

Each tour to the Chaco Region,
with specialties & endemics

Optional extension to CHILE

Andes & Pacific pelagic

Nov 15-19 \$495

● **CHILE**

Central, South, further South

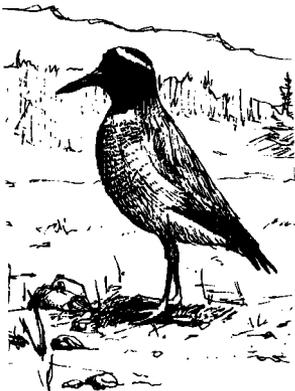
Nov 14-26 \$1995

Far-North

Nov 26-30 \$495

These tours can be combined.

In '97, two of the best pelagic trips ever,
with 6 species of albatrosses, and, in all,
thousands of seabirds!



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover,
during all Chilean tours.

● **JAPAN** Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu Jan 16-25 \$2395

Amami, Okinawa Jan. 25-30 \$ 895

These two tours can be combined.

In '98, 5 species of cranes, 2 sea-eagles, Blakiston's Fish-Owl,
Chinese Merganser, Baikal Teal, Okinawa Woodpecker

TOURS TO BE LED BY ARMAS HILL & VARIOUS LOCAL GUIDES.
ABOVE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE FLIGHTS.

A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL BIRDS FOUND DURING OUR EURASIAN TOURS
ON OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.focusonnature.com>

CONTACT US TOLL-FREE: 1-800-362-0869

E-MAIL: FONT@focusonnature.com

FAX: (302) 529-1085 PHONE: (302) 529-1876

Focus On Nature Tours, Inc. PO Box 9021

Wilmington, DE 19809, USA



RAPTOURS, Inc.

for enthusiasts
of Birds of Prey

In 1998 & 1999
tours & workshops

VERACRUZ, MEXICO MIGRATION!!!

Oct 3-11, 1998 \$1250

MONTANA WINTER RAPTOR & OWLS

Nov 29-Dec 5, 1998 \$ 850

SOUTH TEXAS RAPTOR SPECIALTIES

Dec 11-20 1998 \$ 950

WASHINGTON STATE SKAGIT FLATS

Feb 6-13, 1999 \$ 950

SOUTH TEXAS SPRING MIGRATION

Mar 27-Apr 4 \$ 950

ISRAEL PALEARCTIC RAPTOR

Apr 10-25 \$2590

SNAKE RIVER, ID NESTING RAPTOR

May 8-15 \$ 950

SE ARIZONA NEOTROPICAL SPECIES

Jul 10-17 \$ 950

VERACRUZ, MEXICO MIGRATION!!!

Oct 3-11 \$1250

N. INDIA NUMEROUS RAPTOR

Oct 30 - Nov 21 \$3590

MONTANA WINTER RAPTOR & OWLS

Nov 28 - Dec 4 \$ 950

SOUTH TEXAS RAPTOR SPECIALTIES

Dec 10-19 \$ 950

TO BE LED BY BILL CLARK, CO-AUTHOR
OF THE "RAPTOR PHOTO GUIDE",
THE PETERSON GUIDE TO "HAWKS",
AND OTHER EXPERTS

Contact same address, phone, fax,
as for Focus On Nature Tours
E-mail: raptours@focusonnature.com

FONT EAST COAST USA

PELAGIC TRIPS IN '98

MANTEO, NORTH CAROLINA

TO THE GULF STREAM

Aug 1,2,3,8,9,10 \$ 95 ea

All on the fast boat, the "Country Girl"

NEW JERSEY

TO THE HUDSON CANYON

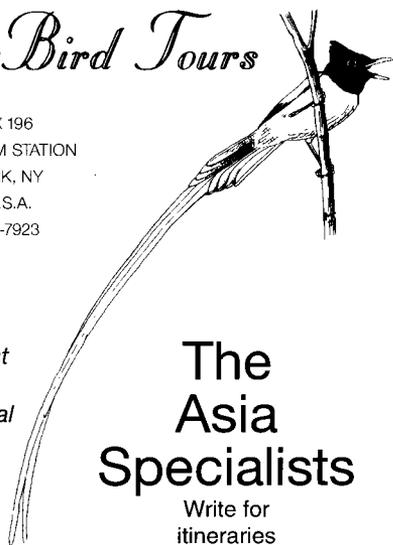
Aug 29, Dec 5 \$ 70 ea

King Bird Tours

P.O. BOX 196
PLANETARIUM STATION
NEW YORK, NY
10024 U.S.A.
(212) 866-7923

"the greatest
operator of
ornithological
tours on
earth"

Arthur
Frommer



The Asia Specialists

Write for
itineraries

1998 BIRDING TOUR

VIETNAM

North, South
19 November-13 December

INDONESIA #1

Halmahera/Sulawesi
7 July - 1 August

INDONESIA #2

Lesser Sundas
Flores, Timor, Sumba
Komodo, Sumbawa
1-22 August

1999 BIRDING TOURS

THAILAND

North, Central, Peninsular
9-31 January

NORTHWEST INDIA

Rajasthan/Gujarat

7-30 January

Gujarat Pre-tour

2-8 January

Punjab (Harike) Post-Tour

30 January - 4 February

SRI LANKA

30 January - 15 February

PHILIPPINES

Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu,

Palawan, Bohol, Negros

5 February - 8 March

BHUTAN

West to East Traverse

9 April - 2 May

WEST CHINA

Sichuan (Szechwan)

Panda Reserves

Tibetan Grasslands

7-31 May

MALAYSIA

Malaya, Borneo, Mt. Kinabalu

26 June - 18 July

BirdBase *Lower Prices!* BirdArea

Nearly all ABA birders reporting life lists over 6000 who use computers use our software. It is the software most widely used by all those over the 1400 bird threshold. Why? Because it lets them easily keep track of birds seen and *helps them see new birds* with its unique ability to list the birds of any world area, labeling endemics and birds previously seen in the area, outside it, or both.

BirdBase switches between displaying all of Clements' world birds or any selection of them, when recording sightings. It allows sighting notes of up to 5000 words. And it instantly updates any number of annual/life lists (e.g., yard, county, state, country, ABA region/area, world). These can show details of every sighting or of only each bird's first sighting. Or they can just name the birds seen. BirdBase can list all sightings of a bird, list in order of date all trips or first sightings of all birds, tabulate Christmas counts, etc., etc. It handles all changes in the world bird list.

BirdArea can list in detail the range of any of Clements' birds. And it can produce check lists of the birds of any world area (i.e., U.S. state, Canadian province, country, ABA region/area, faunal zone) with endemics labeled. Printouts can have places for multiple check marks and/or for field notes. The annually-updated ranges come from many hundreds of publications and from experts who bird the areas.

If BirdBase is used BirdArea can label birds already seen on each check list, make lists of birds not already seen, and find any recorded sighting in which a bird is outside its known range. If BirdArea is used BirdBase can switch to displaying only birds whose ranges include any world area when recording sightings of a trip to that area. This makes recording easier and calls to attention out-of-range sightings.

BirdBase is \$59.95 + \$4.00 shipping; so is BirdArea. Buy both for \$99.95 + \$6.00. Or start with BirdBase and N. American birds for \$39.95 + \$3.00. Add 8% for CA orders. Double overseas shipping. Visa, MasterCard OK. For Windows 3.1, 95, NT.

Santa Barbara Software Products

1400 Dover Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93103 USA --- Phone/Fax: 805 963 4886
E-mail: sbasp@aol.com --- Home page: <http://members.aol.com/sbsp/index.html>

THE POKE BOAT®

IT'S EVERYTHING A CANOE ISN'T.

A canoe is tippy. A Poke Boat isn't. It's remarkably stable.

A canoe is hard to turn and difficult to keep in a straight line. A Poke Boat isn't. It stays in a straight line, yet is easy to maneuver.

A canoe is heavy. A Poke Boat isn't. It weighs only **22 pounds** — built with aircraft strength.

You can buy
more
than a
canoe.

For more information, give us a call.

606-986-2336

Visit us at our website:
www.pokeboat.com

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 North America's dynamic birdlife. When 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? Do the Regional Editors just 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 so many abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding

hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their 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 initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

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. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add “v.o.” (for “various observers”) or “m.ob.” (for “many observers”) after the first sets of initials.

Who are the people who send 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 or 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 or blacker 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

Why are some of the place names in italic type?

In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

What are the boxes in the text marked “SA”?

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

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

PUERTO RICO

is our speciality



- * El Yunque Rain Forest
- * Guanica Dry Tropical Forest
- * S.W. Puerto Rico Hot Spots
- * 14 Endemic Species
- * 276 Total Species
- * Expert Guides
- * Small Groups
- * Beach Front Hotel

SOUTHERN SAFARIS

211 W Plasuela, Refugio TX 78377

512-526-2767 e-mail: prbirding@aol.com

**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.	juvenile or juvenile
sp.	species
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

BINOCULARS AND SPOTTING SCOPES



*Optic Outfitters
for Birders*



Authorized Dealer for:
Leica, Zeiss, Swarovski, Swift, Nikon, Celestron, Bausch & Lomb, Kowa, Questar, Tele Vue, Pentax, Canon, Meade, Steiner, Leupold, Bushnell, Burris, Fujinon, Eagle Optics, Bogen, Velbon, Brunton, Mirador, Redfield

Get the best information, advice *and* prices from Birders who know: *Birds, Birders, Birding and Birding Equipment.* We've built a nation-wide reputation on offering birders the best in selection, service and prices on quality optic products and are told by our customers that our comprehensive catalog is the most complete birding optic catalog available. Our courteous and knowledgeable sales staff will assist you in selecting from our complete and extensive inventory, your best value in quality birding equipment.

(800) 289-1132

Web Site: <http://www.eagleoptics.com>

Call and ask for your FREE Comprehensive Optic Buying Guide & Discount Price List on optics from all major manufacturers

Eagle Optics

2120 W. Greenview Dr. #4 Middleton, WI 53562
Technical Assistance: (608) 836-6568
Order Line: (800) 289-1132 Fax: (608) 836-4416



Dry Tortugas

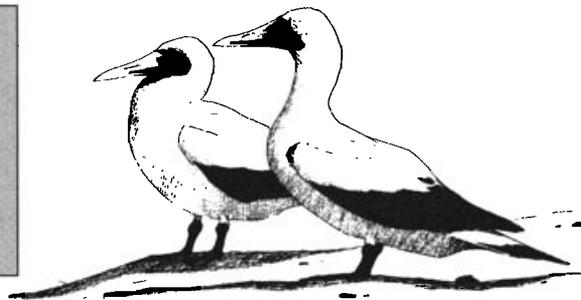
Great seabird spectacle, migrants, sometimes in dazzling numbers, and frequent rarities, all in an appealing setting.

1999 Dates

April 19-21

April 23-25

April 27-29



Cost for each 1999 shuttle is \$395 and includes boat berths the night before departure. Special arrangements for campers and groups.

For information, please contact:

WINGS

1643 N. Alvernon Way, Ste. 105 • Tucson, AZ 85712
Tel: 520-320-9868 • Fax: 520-320-9373 • E-mail: wings@wingsbirds.com

taking part in the *field* notes reporting network

Every issue of *Field Notes* presents an overview of what the birds were doing all over North America for an entire season. These summaries are based on observations by thousands of birders. If you enjoy *Field Notes*, we urge you to consider becoming a contributor of information as well as a reader.

The columns are written by regional editors, all of whom are experts on the birdlife in their areas. These hardworking individuals are all volunteers. While they are generally glad to receive more reports (to make their accounts more thorough), we need to practice some courtesies to avoid overwhelming them.

As a first step, you should know the significance of the information that you are reporting. Never just send in a list of the birds you saw, expecting the regional editors to sift through it. If you are new to this publication, it would be a good idea to read a few issues' worth of reports from your region to get a better idea of the kinds of bird records that are included.

Basically, we cover news. If you see the expected species in normal numbers and at normal places and dates, this is reassuring and important, and well worth recording in your own field notes. But we can't publish all of that in *Field Notes*. (Can you imagine the heft of a *New York Times* that published the daily activities of every resident of the city?) We report the unusual. However, this doesn't mean you should ignore the "common" birds. The regional reports are far more than summaries of rarities. If there is a major invasion of American Robins, for example, or if the Barn Swallows come back exceptionally early, such things are part of the story of what happened during a season.

To find out the "normal" bird situation in your locale, you need to consult other types of publications. Most states and provinces, and many smaller areas, have books or annotated checklists on bird status and distribution. Such references are essential to help you understand the significance of your own observations. Checking such sources can make your birding not only more educational, but more enjoyable

Another good way to learn about local bird distribution is to establish contact with your nearest Audubon chapter or other bird clubs.

Perhaps you are reporting to *Field Notes* for the first time because you have found a bird that is definitely unusual where or when you saw it. When reporting rarities, it is always important to include the details of the record. Points to cover include:

- Date, time, and exact location.
- Viewing conditions (lighting, weather, distance to bird).
- A detailed description of the bird: appearance, voice, behavior. Include only those things you actually observed. A description written on the spot, during the observation, is always more useful than one written later.
- Names of other observers who identified the same bird.
- Photographs, even of marginal quality, are very worthwhile for establishing records. And if video or audio tapes have been made, it's worth mentioning that they exist, although it's not necessary to send them along in most cases.

In asking for details, regional editors are not casting doubt on anyone's abilities. The top bird experts in North America routinely write up details to support their unusual sightings, and all birders would do well to follow their example. Reports of truly rare finds are usually kept on permanent file. Maybe everyone knows today that you're a sharp birder, but what about people fifty years from now who are researching past records? They probably won't know your reputation, and they'll want to see details.

In some regions, especially large ones with lots of birders, reports are funneled through subregional editors, and it is best to send your reports to these individuals. Some regions list the mailing addresses for these subregional compilers. Others do not, but you may be able to find their addresses in the *ABA Membership Directory*. If you are not sure of the address, it's better to send in notes to the main regional editor than to not send them anywhere.

Don't be discouraged if your sightings

are not specifically quoted in a particular report. Even minor observations help the regional editors to form a more complete picture of the season. By becoming part of our reporting network, you put your birding observations to good use, and you contribute to the permanent record of North America's birdlife.

For each season, your field reports (along with supporting details and photographs) should reach the Regional Editors as soon as possible after the season ends. The Regional Editors are working on strict deadlines, and it makes their task much easier if they have time to consider and analyze your reports before writing their columns.

Winter Season

(December through February)
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after March 1.

Spring Season

(March through May)
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after June 1.

Summer Season

(June and July)
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after August 1.

Autumn Season

(August through November)
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after December 1

SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS TO FIELD NOTES

The photographs that appear in the regional reports in *Field Notes* add much to the interest and information value of this journal. *Field Notes* does not pay for the use of photographs in this area, but we do provide the opportunity to share your photos with thousands of other active birders.

In each issue, about 20–25 of the photos submitted with the regional reports are selected to be printed in color, in a feature called “Pictorial Highlights.” Generally these are very good photographs showing birds of exceptional interest—either very rare vagrants, or birds taking part in unusual invasions or migrations.

The best way to submit photos to *Field Notes* is to send them to the appropriate regional editor. To make things easier for these individuals (and for us), please label all photos clearly with the species, place, date, and your name. In particular, print your name legibly, as you would want it to appear in the photo credit. We also need to know the address to which photographs should be returned. All photos will be returned (to the regional editors or to the photographers), but it may take several months from the time they were submitted.

Either slides or prints can be reproduced in *Field Notes*, although given a choice we generally prefer slides. Photographs of either kind should be packaged so that they will not be bent or crushed in the mail. Prints should be labelled on the back, but not with ballpoint pen, which may damage the emulsion of the photograph. If felt tip pens are used for labelling, the prints should be separated with sheets of paper so that the ink from the back of one will not rub off on the face of another photo.

BIRDING SPECIAL PLACES

REQUEST OUR 1999 BROCHURE



SMALL GROUP TOURS

SOUTH AFRICA

Jan 23-Feb 14, 1999

ZIMBABWE-BOTSWANA

Sep 25-Oct 16, 1999

NAMIBIA

Monthly Departures in 1999

FINLAND-NORWAY

May 21-June 6, 1999

NEW ZEALAND

Oct 31-Nov 16, 1999

COLORADO

May 1-12, 1999

DAY BIRDING FROM DENVER

Call for more information

CUSTOM TRAVEL TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

Call for more information



Bellbird Safaris, Inc.

19 Old Town Square, Fort Collins, CO 80524

1-800-726-0656 • Fax 970-498-9766

email: bellbird@jymis.com

More Leaders, Smaller Groups!

Ecuador

March 6–21, 1999, **8 only**, with Jim Danzenbaker and resident ornithologist, Juan Carlos Matheus. Sacha Lodge on the Rio Napo, Papallacta Pass to San Isidro, and west of Quito to Mindo and Coca Falls. Sponsored by the ABA. \$2730, plus airfare.



Costa Rica

March 1–21, 1999, **12 only** with Maggie Wittner and resident birder Paco Madrigal. Tiskita Lodge near the Panama border, Tempisque River Basin, Carara NP, Monteverde, Volcan Arenal, La Selva and Tortuguero. \$3780, plus airfare.

Hawaii:

The Big Island, Kauai & Midway Atoll
November 9–21, 1999, **10 participants**. From endangered endemics to several hundred thousand breeding albatross at the peak of their mating displays. Leaders: Les Chibana throughout, Jack Jeffrey on Hawaii, and David Kuhn on Kauai and a resident naturalist at Midway. \$2700, plus airfare to Hilo, two inter-island flights (\$65 each), and Honolulu/Midway round trip, \$750.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Exclusive charter.
6 days at South Georgia! 13
staff for **87 passengers**,
December 27, 2000–
January 24, 2001,
\$9750 early registration
until June 1, 1999, plus air.
\$500 increase after this date.

Non-smoking Policy



Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

20800 Kittredge Road, Saratoga, CA 95070

800-527-5330

www.cheesemans.com

ABA-SPONSORED BIRDING TOURS

If you are interested in an ABA-sponsored tour listed here, please contact the tour company directly for information AND reservations. IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS AN ABA MEMBER. ABA sponsors these tours because many factors suggest a particularly fine birding experience and because the tour operators have agreed to return to ABA a percentage of the tour's cost for participating ABA members.

North America

ABA AREA Lifer Weekends-Plus

Boreal Owl and Other Northern Owls.

Prime time for owls in the Okanagan, before snow while birds are still calling. From Penticton, British Columbia. Led by Dick Cannings. **October 22-25, 1998. Code R/A***

Dovekie, Other Alcids, Iceland & Glaucous

Gulls, many boreal species, including Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Black-backed Woodpecker. From Halifax; NS: limit 7. Led by Blake Maybank. **January 6-10, 1999. Code R/A***

Yellow Rail, Masked Duck, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Whooping Crane, Reddish Egret, White-tailed Hawk.

From Houston; limit 7. Led by P.D. Hulce. **January 12-16, 1999. Code R/A***

Contact: All "Lifer Weekends" are operated by OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Rd., Nashville, Tennessee 37215; (615) 292-2739.

Africa

ZIMBABWE and BOTSWANA

Includes Eastern Highlands, Victoria Falls, Chobe, Savut, Moremi, and Okavango Delta. Leaders Derek Solomon and Chuck Bell.

September 26-October 17, 1998. Code A*

Contact: Chuck Bell, Bellbird Safaris, 19 Old Town Square, Suite 238, Ft. Collins, CO 80524; (800) 726-0656.

Caribbean, Central and South America

ARGENTINA

Four major regions, including Tropical Lowland Rainforest, Pampas, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego. 360 species possible. Leader Michael Carmody. **January 10-23, 1999. Code A***

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508. Tollfree phone/fax 888-754-6186.

CHILE

Covering all habitats from Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia to Viña de Mar and Arica. Includes a pelagic trip from Valparaiso and a search for Chestnut-throated Huet-Huet. Leaders Al Jaramillo and Peter Burke.

November 2-19, 1998. Code A*

Contact: Vic Smith, Eagle-Eye Tours, P.O. Box 5010, Pt. Roberts, WA 98281; (800)373-5678; fax 604/948-9085; bird-tours@eagle-eye.com

ECUADOR

Paramo, mountain passes, riparian areas, temperate and sub-tropical forests, and tropical Amazon basin. Leaders Juan Carlos Matheus (resident ornithologist) and Jim Danzenbaker.

March 6-21, 1999. Code A*

Contact: Gail Cheeseman, Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris, 20800 Kittredge Road, Saratoga, CA 95070-6322; (800)527-5300.

PERU AND CHILE

West coast "Land of Humboldt and Darwin." Expect to see 70 of the world's 320 species of seabirds. Includes landings on the Guano Islands and mainland birding. Led by Peter Harrison. 19 days from **November 11, 1998. Code OB****

Contact: Werner Zehnder, Zegrahm Expeditions, 1414 Dexter Avenue North, No. 327, Seattle, WA 98109; (800) 628-8747; e-mail zoe@zeco.com

MEXICO

Southern region including Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Tabasco. Search for Nava's Wren. Expect 350 species. Leaders Hector Gomez de Silva and Bryan Gates. **October 31-November 14, 1998. Code A***

Contact: Vic Smith, Eagle-Eye Tours, P.O. Box 5010, Pt. Roberts, WA 98281; (800)373-5678; fax 604/948-9085; birdtours@eagle-eye.com

MEXICO

Northwest region. Pacific coast and Sierra Madre Mountains, Mazatlan to San Blas. Search for twenty-five endemics and rarities, including Black-throated Magpie, San Blas, Tufted, and Purplish-backed Jays, and Sinaloa Crow. Leader Michael Carmody. **March 7-14, 1999. Code A***

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508. Tollfree phone/fax 888-754-6186.

BELIZE/GUATEMALA

Chan Chich Lodge, Lamanai Outpost, and Tikal. Leaders Hector Gomez de Silva and Richard Knpton. **January 30-February 10, 1999. Code R/A***

Contact: Vic Smith, Eagle-Eye Tours, P.O. Box 5010, Pt. Roberts, WA 98281; (800)373-5678; fax 604/948-9085; birdtours@eagle-eye.com

GALÁPAGOS; ECUADOR'S ANDES

Travel to the Galápagos on any of 60 trip-dates and see most endemics as well as huge seabird breeding colonies. Options include Amazon Basin, Machu Picchu, and Ecuador's Andes. **Code R (Extension Code A)***

Contact: Linda Rehor, Inca Floats, 1311-ABA 63rd Street, Emeryville, CA 94608; (510)420-1550.

Antarctica

ANTARCTICA/FALKLAND ISLANDS

Expedition voyage aboard the *Clipper Adventurer* starting in Santiago, Chile, ending in Buenos Aires, Argentina. **November 29-December 15, 1998. Code GB/OB.**

Contact: Clipper Reservations, Clipper Cruise Line, 7711 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105-1956; (800) 325-0010.

Hawaii, South Pacific, and Australasia

NEW ZEALAND

North, South, and Stewart Island. Expect over 50 endemics. Leaders Tony Wilson and Chuck Bell. **November 1-November 17, 1998. Code A***

Contact: Chuck Bell, Bellbird Safaris, 19 Old Town Square, Suite 238, Ft. Collins, CO 80524; (800) 726-0656; bellbird@jymis.com; home page: www.jymis.com/bellbird

Europe

BRITAIN

ABA Birding workshop conducted jointly with British Trust for Ornithology. Surveys, banding research projects, migration counts with top British birders. Leader Peter Roberts. Operated by British Birding Tours. **August 16-26, 1998. Code R***

Contact: Carla White, Siemer and Hand Travel, 101 California Street, Suite 1750, San Francisco, CA 94111; (800) 451-4321; e-mail: siemerhand@aol.com

IRELAND

Countrywide, including Connemara, Dublin, Kilkenny, and Ring of Kerry. Expect 130 species including Corn Crake and Red-billed Chough. Leader Michael Carmody.

May 12-25, 1999. Code R*

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508. Tollfree phone/fax 888-754-6186.

***Tour Codes and **Cruise Codes are abbreviations for the following:**

R = Relaxed

A = Advanced

I = Intensive

GB = General Birding

OB = Optimal Birding

ABA Regional Conference — Fort Myers, FL

January 14 – 18, 1999

- Field Trips•Programs•Speakers
- Great Birding•ABA Sales

Start your new year right with a visit to Fort Myers on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast. Escape the winter doldrums and get an early start on your year list! Field trips will visit a wide variety of habitats, including pine woods, wet prairies, white sand beach, swamp, and Bald Cypress forest. Join us for an exciting winter birding adventure!

Full conference schedule and registration form in September *Winging It* or contact Convention and Conference Registrar, 800/835-2473; conven@aba.org

American Birding Association Sales

Where do you travel to watch birds?

Specializing in bird books, optics, birdsong recordings, videos, software, and accessories.

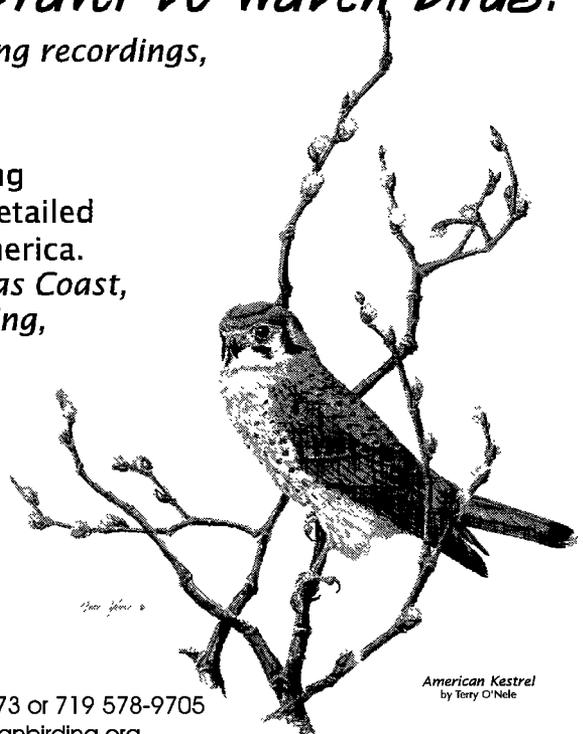
ABA/Lane Birdfinding Guides:

Essential birdfinding guides for beginning as well as advanced birders. Accurate, detailed instruction for finding birds in North America. *New Hampshire, Rio Grande Valley, Texas Coast, Southeastern Arizona, Arkansas, Wyoming, Eastern Massachusetts, Virginia, Southern California, Florida, Colorado, Churchill, Idaho, and Birdfinder: A Birder's Guide to Planning North American Trips*

Call today for a free *Birder's Catalog*

ABA Sales

P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934
Phone: 800 634-7736 or 719 578-0607 Fax: 800 590-2473 or 719 578-9705
email: abasales@abasales.com web site: www.americanbirding.org



American Kestrel
by Terry O'Nele

market place

PUERTO RICO

Seven-day small group tours. Led by expert resident guide. Tour encompasses El Yunque Rainforest, Guanica Dry Tropical Forest and S.W. Puerto Rico. Enjoy beautiful beaches, great food, and incredible birding! Call for itinerary: SOUTHERN SAFARIS, 211 W. Plasuela, Refugio, TX 78377, 512/526-2767, e-mail: prbirding@aol.com

BIRD SONG RECORDING EQUIP.

At last, a company that sells complete bird-song recording packages recommended by Cornell Lab! Telinga parabolas, Sennheiser microphones, Marantz & Sony portable cassette recorders, portable DAT recorders. Marice Stith Recording Svcs, 59 Autumn Ridge Cir, Ithaca, NY 14850; 607/277-5920; fax 607/277-5942, e-mail: msrsitha@aol.com

THE LODGE

ON LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

Only 30 guests on 10,000 acres of Georgia barrier island wilderness. 200+ species include Painted Buntings and Gull-billed Terns. Naturalists, canoeing, boating, fishing, bicycles, and horseback riding. Elegantly rustic accommodations and gourmet regional cuisine. Visit our web page www.pactel.com.au/lssi, or call toll-free (888) 733-5774.

NORTH CAROLINA

GULF STREAM PELAGICS

Winter trips for Great Skua and alcids from VA and NC. 30 trips planned for 1999. For more information, visit us on the Web, where we have dozens of quality seabird images for your viewing (www.patteson.com), or contact Brian Patteson, PO Box 1135, Amherst, VA 24521; 703/765-4484.

NEW JERSEY PELAGIC TRIPS

All-day from Brielle: Aug. 29, Dec. 5 (\$70). Also in '98: LEWES, DE: Sept. 13 (\$95). From MANTEO, NC in '99: May 29, 30, 31 & June 5, 6 (\$95) Send for our info packet. For reservation contact Armas Hill, Focus on Nature Tours, Inc., P.O. Box 9021, Wilmington, DE 19809; 800/362-0869; fax 302/529-1085; or font@focusnature.com; www.focusnature.com

RAPTOR TOURS & WORKSHOPS

Most led by Bill Clark. In '98: Montana: Nov. 29-Dec. 5 (\$850). South Texas: Dec. 12-19 (\$950). In '99: Skagit Flats, WA: Feb. 6-13 (\$950); South Texas: Mar. 27-Apr. 4 (\$950). Israel: Apr. 10-24 (\$2,590). Snake River: ID May 8-15 (\$950). Vera Cruz, Mexico: Oct. 2-10 (\$1,250). Northern India: Oct. 30-Nov. 20 (\$3,690). Information from RAPTOURS, INC., P.O. Box 9021, Wilmington, DE 19809; 800/362-0869; fax 302/529-1085; or raptours@focusnature.com; www.focusnature.com

CLOCKWORK TRAVEL, INC.

Great Birding Spots like: (1) London: 1/2 to full-day tours; (2) England: year-round guided tours, (3) Iceland: unique experience! (4) Costa Rica: over 400 species; (5) Belize: bird among Mayan Ruins; (6) 1,500 bird species. Call 1-800/752-6246 or e-mail to: kenneth@clockbird.com

field guides

BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

A few of our many upcoming birding getaways:

RIO GRANDE RARITIES

Feb 6-12, 1999 with Megan Edwards. Lots of south Texas specialties, possible vagrants, and a visit to Kenedy Ranch.

COSTA RICA

Mar 6-21, 1999 with Dave Stejskal & Chris Benesh. The favored sites of Monteverde, Rancho Naturalista, La Selva, Carara, and Cerro de la Muerte for quetzals, bellbirds, fabulous hummers, and hundreds of other species.

CHAN CHICH & HIDDEN VALLEY, BELIZE

Mar 13-21, 1999 with Doug McRae & Megan Edwards. Two wonderful lodges for great rainforest and highland birding.

BIG BEND

Two 10-day departures (Apr 22 or May 6) for Colima Warbler, Montezuma Quail & many other specialties in spectacular Big Bend National Park. Tours include a Hill Country visit for Black-capped Vireo & Golden-cheeked Warbler.

ALASKA

Two early-June departures of our popular two-parted tour, visiting Denali and the Pribilofs on Part One and Nome, Seward, and Barrow on Part Two.

OTHER JANUARY TO JUNE 1999 TOURS include ECUADOR, GUYANA, VENEZUELA, TIKAL, DARIEN (PANAMA), VIETNAM, POINT PELEE & CHURCHILL.

Call for free itineraries & catalog of 100 departures worldwide.

800-728-4953

field guides INC.

P.O. BOX 160723
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78716
512-327-4953 • FAX 512-327-9231
<http://www.fieldguides.com>
e-mail: fgileader@aol.com

Carefully designed, professionally guided, and worry-free birding trips to exciting settings since 1985.



3rd Annual
Salton Sea International Bird Festival
February 12-15, 1999
Registration information:
www.imperialcounty.com/birdfest
P.O. Box 156, Imperial, CA 92251;
(760) 344-5FLY