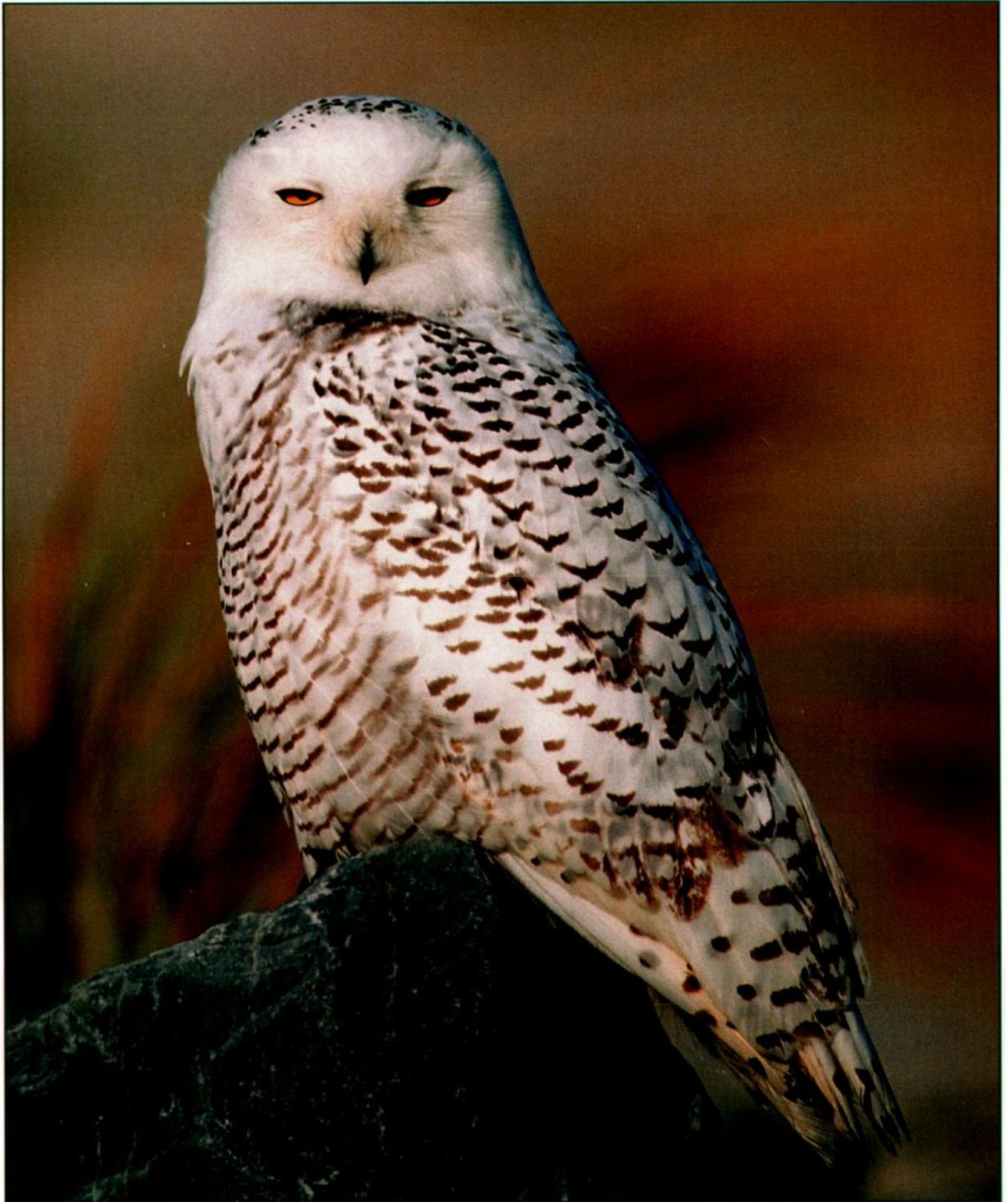


# NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION



Volume 55: No. 1, 2001 • August Through November 2000

FALL MIGRATION

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The Snowy Owl staged a modest invasion into the northeastern United States in late fall 2000, with some birds arriving fairly early, such as this immature male at Jones Beach State Park, Long Island, New York, 7 November 2000. By season's end, dozens had been reported in New England and Hudson-Delaware regions. *Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.*



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# How to Read the Regional Reports

## 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:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
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
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

### Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenile or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

**B**irds 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 run-down 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.)

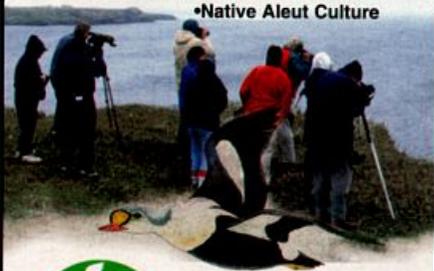
### What are the boxes in the text marked “SA”?

“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 *North American Birds* 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.

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**Tikal, Guatemala**  
February 9-16

**Highland Guatemala:  
Cloudforests &  
Quetzals**  
February 15-24

**Belize: Chan Chich,  
Hidden Valley  
& Caracol**  
March 16-24

**Panama**  
March 16-30

**Costa Rica**  
March 16-31

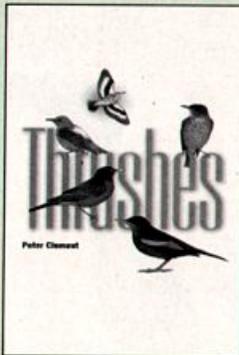
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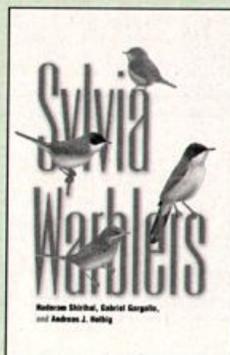
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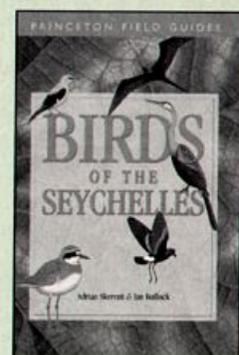
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