

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

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



Volume 55: No. 2, 2001 • December 2000–February 2001

WINTER SEASON

E L CLASS

THE ULTIMATE BIRDING GLASS...
NO COMPROMISES



NEW "E L Class" birding binoculars represent a radical breakthrough in premium optical technology from Swarovski Optik. In optical performance... wide field of view with great depth of focus, weight – 27.5 oz, close focus – 6 ft, and a narrow tube "Grip-ability" for hand comfort, perfection was achieved. No compromises were allowed in the E L Class design* or manufacture.

*patent applied for

Available in 8.5 x 42 and 10 x 42 specifications, the new E L's have rugged, light weight magnesium alloy housings, and an entirely new optical system delivering extreme image sharpness and brilliant,

neutral color transmission. There are no other birding binoculars on the planet as good as the new E L's from Swarovski. See what no compromising means for your birding.

Call 800-426-3089 or visit our homepage: www.swarovskioptik.com for more information.



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK

WITH THE EYES OF A HAWK

Swarovski Optik North America, Ltd., 2 Slater Road, Cranston, RI 02920

CONTENTS

WINTER SEASON: December 2000 Through February 2001

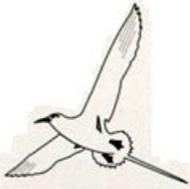
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 55: NUMBER 2 • 2001

- 124 Editors' Notebook
- 125 In Memoriam: Fred Scott
Henry T. Armistead
- 127 Arctic Terns Nesting in Montana:
First Modern Interior Breeding Records
for the Lower 48 United States
Stephen J. Dinsmore and Joel G. Jorgensen
- 132 Changing Seasons, Winter 2000–2001
Edward S. Brinkley
- 241 History of the Sage Grouse in Kansas
Roger D. Applegate
- 242 Nominate Rock Sandpiper at Ocean Shores,
Washington
Tom Aversa

The Regional Reports

- 141 Atlantic Provinces
Brian Dalzell
- 144 Québec
Pierre Bannon, Samuel Denault, Yves Aubry, and Normand David
- 146 New England
Pam Hunt
- 151 Hudson–Delaware
Joseph C. Burgiel, Robert O. Paxton, and David A. Cutler
- 156 Middle Atlantic Coast
Marshall J. Iliff
- 160 Southern Atlantic Coast
Ricky Davis
- 163 Florida
Bruce H. Anderson
- 167 Ontario
Hugh G. Currie
- 169 Appalachia
Robert C. Leberman
- 172 Western Great Lakes
Jim Granlund
- 175 Middlewestern Prairie
Kenneth J. Brock
- 179 Central Southern
C. Dwight Cooley
- 184 Prairie Provinces
Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor
- 186 Northern Great Plains
Ron Martin
- 187 Southern Great Plains (Spring Migration 2000)
Joseph A. Grzybowski
- 191 Southern Great Plains (the Nesting Season 2000)
Joseph A. Grzybowski
- 193 Texas
Chuck Sexton
- 198 Idaho–Western Montana
David Trochlell
- 200 Mountain West
Van A. Truan and Brandon K. Percival
- 203 Great Basin
Ted Floyd and Mark Stackhouse
- 206 Arizona
Gary H. Rosenberg and Roy M. Jones
- 209 New Mexico
Sartor O. Williams III
- 212 Alaska
Thede Tobish
- 215 British Columbia–Yukon
Donald G. Cecile
- 219 Oregon–Washington
Steven Mlodinow and Bill Tweit
- 223 Middle Pacific Coast
Steven A. Glover, Scott B. Terrill, Daniel S. Singer,
and Don Roberson
- 226 Southern Pacific Coast
Guy McCaskie and Kimball L. Garrett
- 230 Baja California Peninsula
Robert A. Hamilton, Richard A. Erickson, and Eduardo Palacios
- 232 Hawaiian Islands (the Winter Season 1999–2000)
Robert L. Pyle and Peter Donaldson
- 234 Hawaiian Islands (the Winter Season 2000–2001)
Robert L. Pyle and Peter Donaldson
- 236 West Indies
Robert L. Norton and Anthony White
- 238 Central America
H. Lee Jones
- 245 Pictorial Highlights

On the cover: There was no question this season: the cover belonged to this incredible Greater Sandplover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) found and identified 29 January at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin County, California by Sue Abbott, Steve Howell, and others. It remained through the period and was seen by hundreds of birders, thanks to the generosity of local landowners. Photograph by Peter La Tourrette.



AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Richard H. Payne

VICE-PRESIDENT

Wayne R. Petersen

SECRETARY

Ann Stone

TREASURER

Dennis H. Lacoss

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenneth P. Able
Margaret J.C. Bain
David M. Bird
Lynda Brothers
Jon L. Dunn
Thomas J. Gilmore
Bettie R. Harriman
John C. Kricher
Greg W. Lasley
Michael Ord
Richard H. Payne
Father Tom Pincelli
Harry Tow
Gerald J. Ziarno

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul Green

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Lynn Yeager

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Lina DiGregorio

CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

Ken Hollinga

ADVERTISING

Ken Barron

GENERAL COUNSEL

Daniel T. Williams Jr.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Allan R. Keith (1997–1999)
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*)

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

is published by the American Birding Association.

The mission of the journal is to provide a complete overview of the changing panorama of our continent's birdlife, including outstanding records, range extensions and contractions, population dynamics, and changes in migration patterns or seasonal occurrence.

PUBLISHER

ABA / John C. Kricher

EDITOR

Edward S. Brinkley

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Stephen J. Dinsmore
Alvaro Jaramillo
Paul E. Lehman

PHOTO EDITOR

Matthew F. Sharp

EDITORIAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Kenneth P. Able, P. A. Buckley, Richard Cannings, Alan Contreras, Jon L. Dunn, Matt T. Heindel, Kevin T. Karlson, Jon King, Tony Leukering, Joseph Morlan, Michael O'Brien, Kenneth V. Rosenberg, P. William Smith, Richard R. Veit, David Wingate, Alan Wormington

REGIONAL EDITORS

Bruce H. Anderson, Yves Aubry, Margaret J. C. Bain, Pierre Bannon, Kenneth J. Brock, Joseph C. Burgiel, Steven W. Cardiff, Donald G. Cecile, C. Dwight Cooley, Hugh G. Currier, David A. Cutler, Brian Dalzell, Normand David, Ricky Davis, Samuel Denault, Peter Donaldson, David H. Elder, Walter G. Ellison, Richard A. Erickson, Ted Floyd, Kimball Garrett, Jeff Gilligan, Steven A. Glover, Jim Granlund, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Robert A. Hamilton, Theo Hofmann, Pam Hunt, Marshall J. Illiff, Greg D. Jackson, H. Lee Jones, Roy Jones, Rudolf F. Koes, Greg W. Lasley, Robert C. Leberman, Gerard Lillie, Mark Lockwood, Bruce Mactavish, Nancy L. Martin, Ron E. Martin, Blake Maybank, Guy McCaskie, Ian A. McLaren, Steven G. Mlodinow, B. Mac. Myers, Robert L. Norton, Eduardo Z. Palacios, Robert O. Paxton, Brandon K. Percival, Simon Perkins, Wayne R. Petersen, Bill Pranty, Robert D. Purrington, Robert L. Pyle, Don Roberson, Gary H. Rosenberg, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, Cliff Shackelford, Michael G. Shepard, Daniel S. Singer, Mark Stackhouse, Stephen J. Stedman, Peder Svingen, Peter Taylor, Scott B. Terrill, Bill Tice, Thede G. Tobish Jr., David Trochlell, Van A. Truan, Bill Tweit, Phillip A. Wallace, Ron Weeks, Anthony W. White, Sartor O. Williams III

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Weaver Design

PRODUCTION & ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Melissa Fivecoat-Borger

CIRCULATION

Carissa Pigott

TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

Marshall J. Illiff
Steven G. Mlodinow
Bill Pranty

North American Birds (ISSN 1525-3708) (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 *North American Birds*, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80934-6599. Subscription prices: \$30/year (US) and US\$35/year (Canada). Copyright © 2001 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 *North American Birds*, unless the products or services are being offered directly by the Association. GST Registration No. R135943454.

Tropical Bird Ecology

with John Kricher
January 7-14, 2002
Chan Chich, Belize

Shorebirds

with Wayne Petersen
August 5-12, 2001/August 4-11, 2002
Sackville, New Brunswick

Fall Warblers

with Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett
August 27-Sept. 2, 2001/August 26-Sept. 1, 2002
Leamington, Ontario



WORKSHOPS FOR BIRDERS

Institute for Field Ornithology

American Birding Association
PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599
800/850-2473 ext. 233
<http://americanbirding.org/programs/edufowksp.htm>

AviSys™ 4.57 for Windows

As Simple As You Wish ~ As Powerful As You Need

Palm Support! Clements' 2000 World Taxonomy!

The Leader ~ A Giant Step Ahead Of All The Rest

AviSys is a full-featured worldwide database and reporting system for serious birders. It can be enhanced by adding the Official Shawnee Finnegan Worldwide Nation Checklist Add-On (as provided in BirdArea by Santa Barbara Software Products), providing the most authoritative, highest quality, and most up-to-date checklists of the 254 nations of the world. The checklists are tightly and seamlessly integrated with AviSys, providing beautiful screen and printed output with seen, seen-in-nation, and endemic markers, and instant worldwide nation-by-nation range query for any species. AviSys produces seen reports, checklists and hit lists of any nation or state, any group of nations or states, and all ABA Regions and Areas.

You can instantly reduce the on-screen list from a world or NA list to the checklist of any nation, state, county, wildlife refuge, etc., whether provided by AviSys or created by you. Deal with only the birds you need. Rotate through modes instantly.

One AviSys user wrote: "OUTSTANDING! I have been a computer professional for over 30 years and must congratulate you on generating state-of-the-art, convenient to use, efficient and reliable software." Another says: "AVISYS IS A BLAST!" Precisely our objective.

- * **Unlimited Number of Lists:** all major geographic lists automatically updated. Example: assigning a sighting to your yard also updates your City, County, State, Nation, Continent, worldwide ABA Area, worldwide ABA Region, and Life lists.
- * **Full ABA N.A. Checklist, Clements World Checklist, and Official Tony White State/Province Checklists,** all fully integrated with screen and report facilities.
- * **The Fastest, Easiest and Most Flexible** sighting entry—just click on the birds. AviSys has absolutely unmatched search facilities, including **World Band Codes!**
- * **Unlimited Reporting and Listing** by date range, season, geography, species, habitat, behavior, sex, nesting status, heard-only, photographed, key-words, etc.
- * **Census Spreadsheets** for population, sighting, CBC, and ornithology studies.
- * **Palm PDA data entry support (opt.)** ~ comprehensive, powerful, quick, easy!
- * **Free! NABA Butterfly, Dragonfly, Reptile/Amphibian, and Mammal data sets!**
- * **BirdBase users** – ask for our free comprehensive data conversion facility.

Visit our web site at: www.avisys.net

Orders or info, call 1-800-354-7755 ~ 24 hours ~ MC/VISA

AviSys 4.57 for Windows 95/98/3.1/NT/2000 ~ \$99.95 ~ S&H \$4.00

Nation Checklist Add-On (BirdArea) ~ \$59.95 ~ (S&H \$4.00 if ordered separately)

60 day money back ~ Perceptive Systems, PO Box 3530, Silverdale, WA 98383

Fast as a Falcon ~ Powerful as an Eagle ~ Friendly as a Chickadee

field guides® BIRDING TOURS 2002

Call or write for itineraries
more than 100 departures worldwide

Thailand

January 19–February 8, 2002

Amazonian Ecuador:

Sacha Lodge

January 17–26, 2002

Jewels of Ecuador:

Hummers, Tanagers & Antpittas

January 26–February 12, 2002

Panama's Canopy Tower

February 21–28, 2002

March 1–8, 2002

Bhutan

March 15–April 1,
2002

Big Bend, The Davis Mountains & Hill Country

April 26–May 5, 2002

May 3–12, 2002

Alaska

May 30–

June 8, 2002

June 7–17, 2002

Finland & Arctic

Norway

June 1–17,

2002



field guides®
BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE

800-728-4953

9433 BEE CAVE ROAD
BUILDING 1, SUITE 150
AUSTIN, TX 78733

www.fieldguides.com

fieldguides@fieldguides.com

Tours for 2002

A B A - E N D O R S E D

Jan 28 to Feb 9 - Winter Wonders of Japan

Huge concentrations of cranes, eagles & geese; Asian specials; with Chris Cook & Tetsuji Hidaka
Siemer & Hand Travel, (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000; travel@siemerhand.com

Feb 10 to 23 - Belize and Tikal

Bird with superb, enthusiastic local & U.S. guides; see up to 300 species while supporting local conservation.

Wildside Birding Tours, (888) 875-9453; (610) 363-3033; tours@adventurecamera.com

Feb 23 to Mar 5 - Cruise the Orinoco River and Lower Caribbean

Tropical forest birding at its most comfortable; 200 species last year including many psittacidae, raptors and tanagers.

Clipper Cruise Line, (800) 325-0010, x275; (314) 727-2929, x275

Mar 23 to 31 - Dominican Republic

27 endemics and many more Caribbean species. Baoruco Mtns. & SW lowlands. Small group; locally resident U.S. guide.

OBServ Tours, Inc., (615) 292-2739; observinc@aol.com

April 15 to 28 - Botswana

Birding safari to Mashatu, Chobe & Okavango. Extraordinary birding, exciting views of mammals; excellent accommodation.

Siemer & Hand Travel, (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000; travel@siemerhand.com

Apr 27 to May 11 - Wales & Norfolk

Bird the mountains of Wales, the plains and marshes of Norfolk; expert local guides; expect 175 species.
Celtic Bird Tours, tel (44)-1656 645 709; Birds@celtictours.org.uk

May 19 to Jun 1 - Finland & North Norway

Join 50 million breeding pairs of birds in the Land of the Midnight Sun; excellent local guides; warm hospitality.

Siemer & Hand Travel, (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000; travel@siemerhand.com

Aug 4 to 18 - Cruise from Alaska to the Kamchatka Peninsula

Bird the Pribiloffs, the Aleutian chain to Attu; Bering Island and Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula; expert ABA guides.

Clipper Cruise Line, (800) 325-0010, x275; (314) 727-2929, x275

Nov 15 to Dec 1 - New Zealand

See unique endemics of these delightful isles; expert local guides; several boat excursions including pelagic birding.

Talon Tours, (707) 795-7547, talontours@yahoo.com

SHORT TRIPS FOR TARGET SPECIES**Pacific Northwest Pelagic Trips**

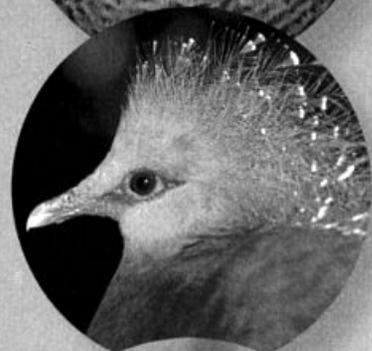
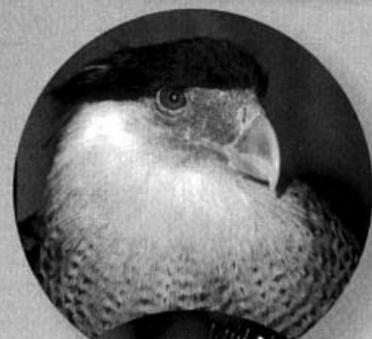
The Bird Guide, (503) 844-6876; guide@teleport.com

British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Maine, Texas, Colorado, California

OBServ Tours, Inc. (615) 292-2739; observinc@aol.com

Please contact tour company directly for information and reservations, and identify yourself as an ABA member. Tour companies pay ABA a commission for each ABA participant.

For Tour Codes go to www.americanbirding.org



TWO WAYS TO GIVE TO ABA

1 Give at the Office

Many companies will match your monthly or payroll deduction gifts as well as your annual gifts to ABA. Just obtain a copy of your company's Matching Gift Application form from your personnel office, fill it out, and send it to ABA.



2 Ask your Employer to Match Your Gift

Take advantage of this easy way to give to ABA conservation and education programs. Give us a call and we'll check to see if your employer is on our list of nearly 6,000 companies with matching gift programs,

800/850-2473

or write to us at:

ABA Development
PO Box 6599
Colorado Springs, CO 80934

Vermont, and up to 140 at Savoy, *Berkshire*, MA during Jan and Feb. Pine Siskins were generally scarce, and there was only a tiny echo of last winter's redpoll flight, most of which were in Maine.

Exotics

A Great Tit frequented a feeder in Sharon, *Litchfield*, CT for the entire winter (ph. F. Mueller). It wasn't that long ago that one of this species was exhibiting similar behavior in Rhode Island, and one cannot help but wonder how

common they actually are in captivity. There are at least four records from Iceland but none from Greenland.

Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and observers: **Ann Aversa** (VT), *Jim Berry*, **Alan Delorey** (NH), **Jody Despres** (ME), **David Emerson** (RI), **Greg Hanisek** (CT), *Richard Heil*, **Seth Kellogg** (MA), **Judy Peterson** (VT), **Marjorie Rimes** (MA), **William Townsend** (ME).



Birders' Exchange Needs You!



Assist in bird conservation, research, and outreach in the Neotropics by donating your used but still functional birding equipment to Birders' Exchange.

We collect binoculars, spotting scopes, neotropical field guides, and backpacks for distribution to research and education organizations in the Neotropics. We also accept financial contributions to support the program.

Please send your donations to: Birders' Exchange, American Birding Association, 720 West Monument St., PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599.



<http://americanbirding.org/programs/consbex.htm>



**We try
harder**

**for American Birding
Association Members
like you.**



Need a hand with your luggage? Ask us. We'll be happy to help, so you can get on your way quickly and easily. It's one of the many ways we try harder at **Avis** to serve American Birding Association members better.

And here's another way. Mention your **Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD)** number **A843000** when you or your travel agent call our toll-free number. Our reservations agents know your **Avis** membership benefits inside-out, and will see to it that you receive the very best rates to which your membership entitles you.

Helpful employees. Special member rates. Two ways **Avis** makes your American Birding Association membership more rewarding.

For reservations, call your travel consultant, **Avis** at **1-800-831-8000**, or reserve your car online at www.avis.com

AVIS

We try
harder:

For You.

Avis features GM cars.
© 1999 Avis Rent A Car System, Inc.