## WESTERN BIRDS

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## **EDITORIAL**

With this issue California Birds becomes Western Birds, and the journal's geographic coverage expands to encompass states and provinces from the Rocky Mountains westward, including Alaska and Hawaii, western Texas, and adjacent portions of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. This expansion is designed to increase the flow of manuscripts, the shortage of which has made it impossible to publish California Birds on a regular schedule, and to provide a medium for publication of field studies from those areas of the West where no state or other local publication of a similar nature exists.

The general content and objectives of the journal, as set forth in California Birds, Volume 1, Number 1, will continue, but it is hoped to broaden the appeal of Western Birds by publishing several new features. One such feature, a series of photographic essays by some of the West's outstanding bird photographers, will be edited by Arnold Small. The first of this series, portraying the very fine work of Herbert Clarke, appears in this issue. Also being solicited are papers that will help birders locate birds in a given area but which at the same time will add significantly to published knowledge of bird distribution, status, or population in the area.

A new Editorial Board, including leading amateur and professional bird students from each western state and province, has been organized through the efforts of Laurence C. Binford, Mrs. Hubert Fry, and Stephen F. Bailey. Editorial Board members will solicit papers and promote membership in their respective areas, and review papers within their particular field of knowledge.

The support and encouragement received from active field ornithologists in many areas of the West is greatly appreciated. Continuance of this support, particularly contributions in the form of papers and notes, will assure the success of Western Birds. The opportunities for making a significant contribution in this field are boundless, and are open to everyone. Many individuals have expressed willingness to assist those who desire help in preparing observations for publication. As a final note, I want to stress that criticism and suggestions are always welcome. AMC