

BULLETIN BOARD

REQUEST FOR OBSERVATIONS ON LEAST BELL'S VIREO

The Least Bell's Vireo Working Group is soliciting information on the status and distribution of Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) in California and Mexico. Field survey of all known and likely breeding localities is planned for the 1983 and 1984 breeding seasons (April to July). Volunteer help is needed. Field census instructions can be obtained from Peter Sorensen, USFWS, 1230 N Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Reports of sightings within the last 10 years are also sought and should be sent to the above address. Please include your name, address and phone number, along with the following: date and location of sighting (including township, range, section, ¼ section, and a map if possible), behavioral notes, and other relevant information such as extent of and threats to habitat, presence of Brown-headed Cowbirds, and evidence of nest parasitism. Information obtained will assist State and Federal agencies in developing management plans for this declining, endangered subspecies.

NORTHERN HARRIER OBSERVATIONS WANTED

The Northern Harrier or Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) is commonly observed in grasslands and marshes throughout California. Its wintering habitats in the state are extensive but breeding habitats, typically marshes and protected grasslands, have been severely reduced. Some estimate that in excess of 90% of California's marshland has been lost since the early 1900s. Coastal bay and estuary and suitable Central Valley habitats are continuing to decline.

This ground-nesting species is listed as a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game (Remsen, CDFG Wildl. Manage. Br. Admin. Rep. 78-1, 1978) but unfortunately agency funds are not available for studies of the Northern Harrier at this time. As a result, the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group is attempting to establish baseline information on the species to provide to CDFG, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies having management responsibility for birds of prey or their habitat.

We are requesting Northern Harrier natural history observations from all sources. Of special importance are observations of breeding attempts, both successful and failing, and both current and historical. Information on breeding attempts in areas no longer suitable is as important as observations in areas remaining habitable.

If you can provide observations, opinions or comments on any aspect of Northern Harrier ecology in California, please respond to: Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, Room 231 Clark Kerr Hall, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064; (408) 429-2466. Information obtained will be provided in the form of a report to the Nongame Wildlife Investigations Section, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

PHOTOS WANTED

Good photographs of rare and unusual birds, unaccompanied by an article but with caption including species, date, locality and other pertinent information, are wanted for publication in *Western Birds*. Submit photos and captions to Photo Editor, Don Roberson, P. O. Box 985, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.



Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*)

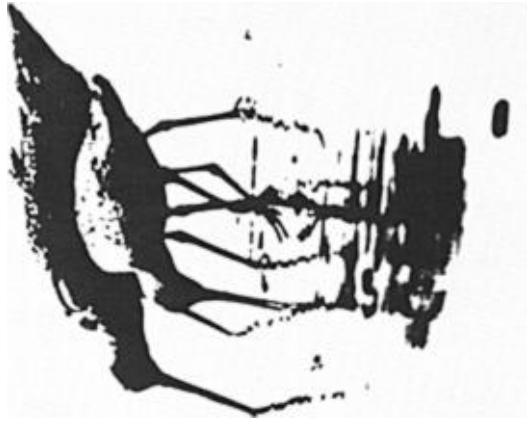


Photo by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.