

# WESTERN BIRDS



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# ***Western Specialty:*** **Black-chinned Sparrow**



Photo by Jim Greaves of Santa Barbara, California: Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*), Simi Valley, California, April 2001.

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**Front cover photo by © Joe Fuhman of Los Angeles, California: Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), Chuckwalla Mountains, Riverside County, California, April 1997. Spring sightings of male Painted Buntings in Southern California invariably cause problems for record committees, because of the difficulty of determining natural occurrence.**

**Back cover "Featured Photo" by © Steve N. G. Howell of Marin County, California: immature gull, Petaluma, Sonoma County, California, 27 December 2001.**

*Western Birds* solicits papers that are both useful to and understandable by amateur field ornithologists and also contribute significantly to scientific literature. The journal welcomes contributions from both professionals and amateurs. Appropriate topics include distribution, migration, status, identification, geographic variation, conservation, behavior, ecology, population dynamics, habitat requirements, the effects of pollution, and techniques for censusing, sound recording, and photographing birds in the field. Papers of general interest will be considered regardless of their geographic origin, but particularly desired are reports of studies done in or bearing on the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states and provinces, including Alaska and Hawaii, awestern Texas, northwestern Mexico, and the northeastern Pacific Ocean.

Send manuscripts to Kathy Molina, Section of Ornithology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007. For matter of style consult the *Suggestions to Contributors to Western Birds* (8 pages available at no cost from the editor) and the *Council of Biology Editors Style Manual* (available for \$24 from the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814).

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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. Also needed are black and white pen and ink drawings of western birds. Please send these, with captions, to Graphics Manager.