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Western Specialty: **Sage Sparrow**



Photo by Mike Danzenbaker of Mountain View, California:
Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli nevadensis*)
Mono County, California, June 2000

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Front cover photo by © Kenneth Z. Kurland of El Centro, California: Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*), Niland, California, 15 January 2003.

Back cover "Featured Photo" by © Jim Rosso of Arlington, Virginia: Apparent hybrid between American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) and Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County, California, 13 March 1994.

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, western 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 matters of style consult the Suggestions to *Contributors to Western Birds* (8 pages available at www.wfo-cbr.org/journal.html) and the *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* (available for \$60 from Cambridge University Press at 1-800-872-7423).

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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.