

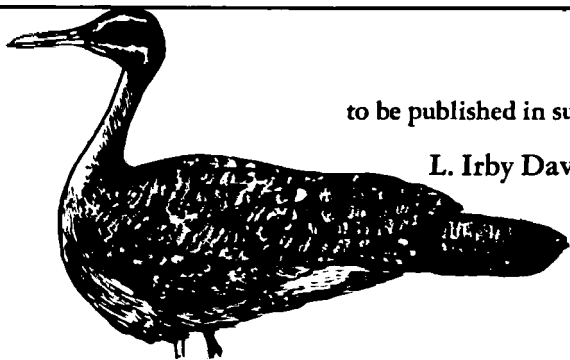
## In Other Journals

Readers whose interests in ornithology are limited to the distribution, migration, abundance and rare occurrence of birds (subjects that are featured in this journal) may find *The Auk* for July, 1971 (88:3) offering slim pickings. True, there are notes on the nesting of the Ringed Kingfisher in the United States, of borderline interest, and a record of the British Storm Petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus*, for Sable I., Nova Scotia, but the major papers in this issue are divided almost entirely between biology and behavior. In the former category as a detailed study of the molt and annual cycle of the Chuck-will's-widow by Sievert A. Rohwer, with an interesting speculation on wintering ground selection, a skeletal analysis of two groups of sparrows by Jerome D. Robbins and Gary D. Schnell, and a paper on the sex ratio (more males) in Brown-headed Cowbirds in Ontario by James A. Darley.

The behaviorists give us results of research on courtship feeding in gallinaceous birds, ter-

ritory and its density dependence factor in the Dickcissel, vocalizations in the Com. Crow, foraging behavior of the Mangrove Swallow, and territoriality in the Alaskan Spruce Grouse. Most readable, undoubtedly, is the latter. Least readable but perhaps most significant is the sparrow taxonomy study, in which the authors conclude that in place of the six genera now comprising the 12 species of grassland sparrows studied, there are actually only two, of which, *Ammodramus*, the grassland sparrows, would include the Black-chested, Ipswich, Savannah, Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows, and *Ammospiza*, a "marshland" species cluster comprising the Le Conte's, Sharp-tailed, Seaside, Dusky Seaside, Cape Sable, Sierra Madre, and Henslow's Sparrows.

Biology and behavior similarly monopolize *The Wilson Bulletin* for June, 1971 (83:2). There is one brief distributional note on the breeding of Bell's Vireo in North Dakota. Major articles include one on the attack posture of the Red-tailed Hawk, by James W. Grier, who studied captive birds, some notes on the life history of the Rusty-margined Flycatcher in Surinam, by F. Haverschmidt, an analysis of the songs of six *Aimophila* sparrows (all southwestern except Bachman's), in which two



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groups of three species each were found to have song similarities. There is a paper on breeding success in a mixed Herring-Greater Black-backed Gull colony, one on sapsucker breeding behavior, and other behavioral studies.

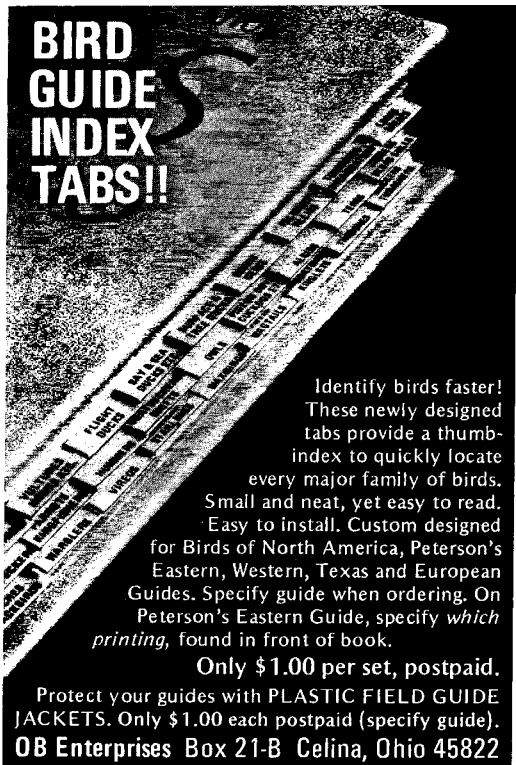
In an unusual but intriguing experiment, Paul A. Stewart scattered dead House Sparrows in the travel lanes of a busy interstate highway, on a paved country road, and along the clipped shoulder of the same road. He found that on the highway, all traces of all birds disappeared within two hours, that on the country road traces persisted throughout one day, and that on the shoulder, remains could be found from

5 to 16 days later. He concluded that roadkill counts should take into consideration hourly traffic rates, and other factors, to be meaningful.

Two issues of *The Condor* have been received, for Summer, 1971 (73:2) and Autumn, 1971 (73:3) and both seem to have more "meat" than the other journals published in this period, although here too behavior and biology monopolize the pages. Leading off the Summer number is an immaculate study by John Davis on the annual cycle of the Andean Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*, in Peru. In an environment which seemed to offer nearly minimal seasonal variations in daylight hours, food availability, nesting material abundance, predator abundance and weather, Davis sought to discover which external factors determined the timing of the reproductive cycle. In a provocative discussion, he concluded that a slight increment, not in daylight, but in *sunshine* hours, and in insect abundance, probably stimulated the males into breeding condition, and that the females were influenced mainly by the behavior of the males.

On the same subject, J. David Ligon reports on autumn breeding in the Piñon Jay in Arizona, a phenomenon noted in 1968 after a piñon cone crop failure the previous year. Ligon believes that the jays maintained breeding condition throughout the summer, their late nesting (with food more abundant) actually interrupting the molt in August. He surmises that the two energy-demanding processes (molting and breeding) could overlap because of the abundant food supply and because the females are fed at the nest by their mates.

The Piñon Jay comes under further scrutiny in *The Condor* for Autumn, in a paper by Russell P. Balda and Gary C. Bateman, who followed the activities of a flock of jays near Flagstaff, Arizona during a two years' study.



**BIRD GUIDE INDEX TABS!!**

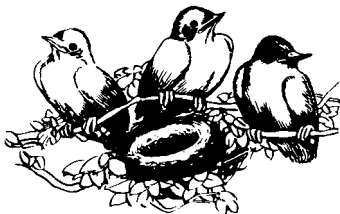
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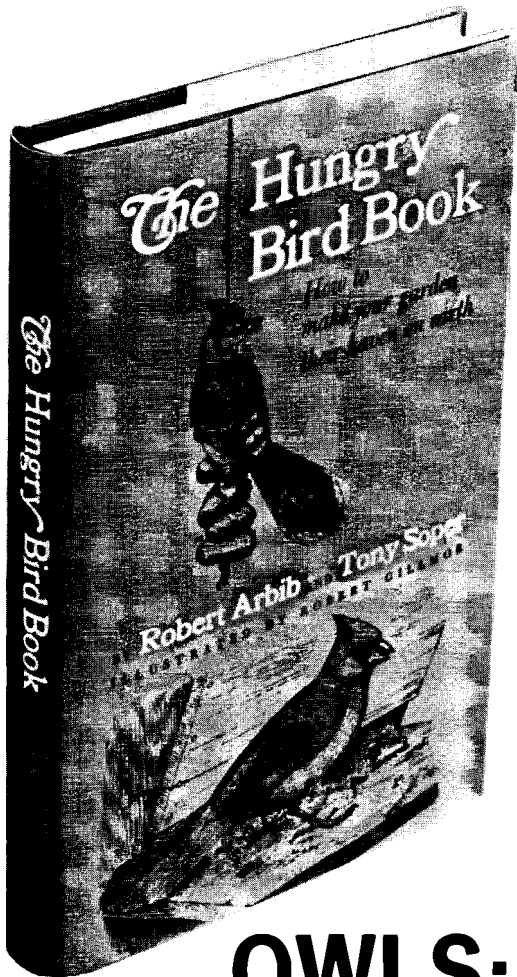


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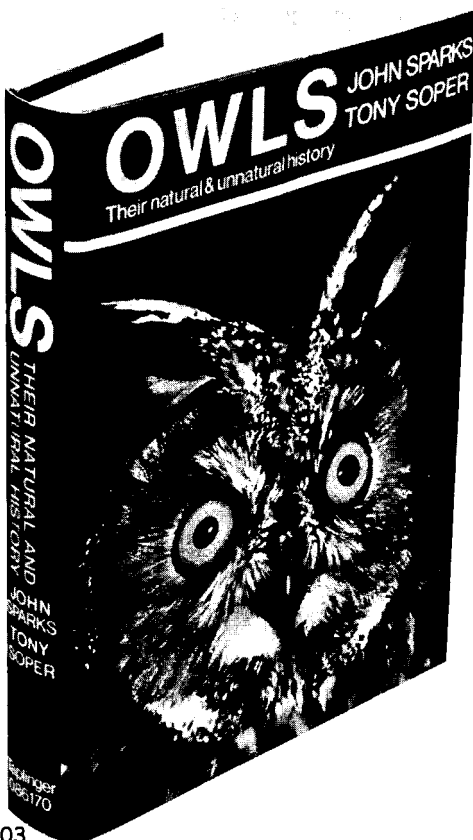
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The flocking and feeding behavior of the various components of the flock are analyzed, and survival factors of the actions of the flock are discussed. The Burrowing Owl comes in for considerable attention, with a fine paper by Harry N. Coulombe on the species in the Imperial Valley of California, and another paper by Lise Thomsen at Oakland International Airport. Coulombe stresses population dynamics and ecology, while Thomsen complements nicely with emphasis on behavior. Both are in the Summer issue.

Migration as a subject does manage to make *The Condor* (73:2) in a piece by Bill Forsyth and Douglas James, who detail their studies of migration in spring 1963 and 1964 along the lower Texas coastline. Counts were taken almost daily from mid-March to May 20, including counts of grounded migrants at three inland locations, by moonwatching, and by daylight sky telescope. The study indicated that migrants were grounded by cold fronts, adverse or threatening weather, that the major direction of migration was in the northeast quadrant,

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with some northwestward flight noted (attributed to overwater migration from the gulf coast of Mexico) but that in this area the bulk of migration is overland. Stored fats in newly arrived migrants was lowest, as expected, in birds collected in the morning after trans-Gulf flights. A distributional note in this issue reports on the nesting of the Skylark on San Juan I., Washington State in 1970. Twelve pairs were estimated to be present, a presumed colonizing from the larger population on Vancouver I., B.C., fifteen miles distant. This is the first recent nesting on U.S. soil.

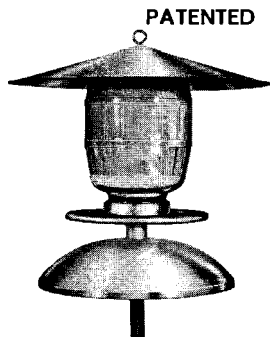
—R.S.A., Jr.

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equipped birds (blue left, orange-blue left, orange-blue right, and white-blue right) are noted, please call (612) 373-1715 or 644-0348 collect.

## Going Places

Following is a partial listing of nature and bird-watching trips and tours scheduled for the months of December 1971, and January and February, 1972. It has been compiled from information supplied by tour sponsors and AMERICAN BIRDS is not accountable for any subsequent alterations in plans or prices. Prices are the base prices quoted: there are usually additional costs. Air fares, when included, are from New York, unless otherwise noted. Tour sponsors are listed by key initials; full names and addresses (to which all inquiries should be addressed) will be found at the end of the listings. Tours scheduled for March-August, 1972, will be found in the February issue of AMERICAN BIRDS. Deadline for information to AMERICAN BIRDS is January 2, 1972.

### NATURE TOURS

Friends are reminded that we continue to operate group trips in the U.S. and most countries of the world at the rate of 30 to 40 tours a year.

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#### UP-COMING DATES, 1972

**NORTH AMERICA:** Florida, Jan. 8; Arizona, May 27; Alaska South, June 17; Alaska North, July 1; Outposts, July 15.

**MIDDLE AMERICA:** Bahamas, Dec. 27; Yucatan I, Jan. 22; Yucatan II, Feb. 5; Central America, Feb. 19; Mexico East Coast, Mar. 25; Mexico West Coast Apr. 8.

**SOUTH AMERICA:** Colombia, July 22; Amazon Ext. one week; Ecuador/Peru, Aug. 19.

**EUROPE:** Scandanavia I, May 4; Ireland/Seminar 2 weeks; Scandanavia II, June 14; Highlands & Islands, June 14; S.E. Iceland, 4 days; Iceland, July 13; Balkans, May 25; Europe East, June 15.

**AFRICA:** North Africa, May 24; East Africa, Aug. 3; Central Africa, 2 weeks; South Africa, Sept. 6.

**ASIA:** Himalayas, June 28; Himalayas East, July 20.

**PACIFIC:** Melanesia, July 6; New Guinea, July 27; Indonesia, Aug. 24; W. Australia, Sept. 14; East. Australia, Oct. 5; New Zealand, Oct. 26.

### CROWDER NATURE TOURS

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### DECEMBER, 1971

13—Surinam, Guyana, Venezuela. 14 days (approx.) Birds. Leader, Major C.V. Bowes. Price not quoted. CVB.

24—Cozumel I., Mexico. 4 days. Birds. Leader, Walter George, \$285 from Miami. BB.

27—Bahama Is. 14 days. Birds, botany. Leader and price not announced. CN.

### JANUARY, 1972

7—Western Mexico. 10 days. Birds, nature. Leader and price not announced. MAS.



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