

AMERICAN BIRDS

incorporating Audubon Field Notes



FEBRUARY 1975, VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1



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FEBRUARY 1975, VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1
PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

A bimonthly journal devoted to the birds of North America

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AMERICAN BIRDS is published six times a year. Editorial and business offices are located at 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Subscription: \$8.00 a year for the U.S.A., \$8.50 Canada, \$9.00 foreign. Single copies: Christmas Bird Count (April), \$4.50 per copy; Fall Migration (February), Winter Season and Winter Bird Population Study (June), Spring Migration (August), Nesting Season (October) and the Breeding Bird Census (December), \$1.50 per copy. Checks and money orders should be made payable to AMERICAN BIRDS. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and additional Post Offices. Copyright© 1975 by the National Audubon Society, Inc. *Postmaster: if undeliverable, please notify American Birds on Form 3579 at 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.*

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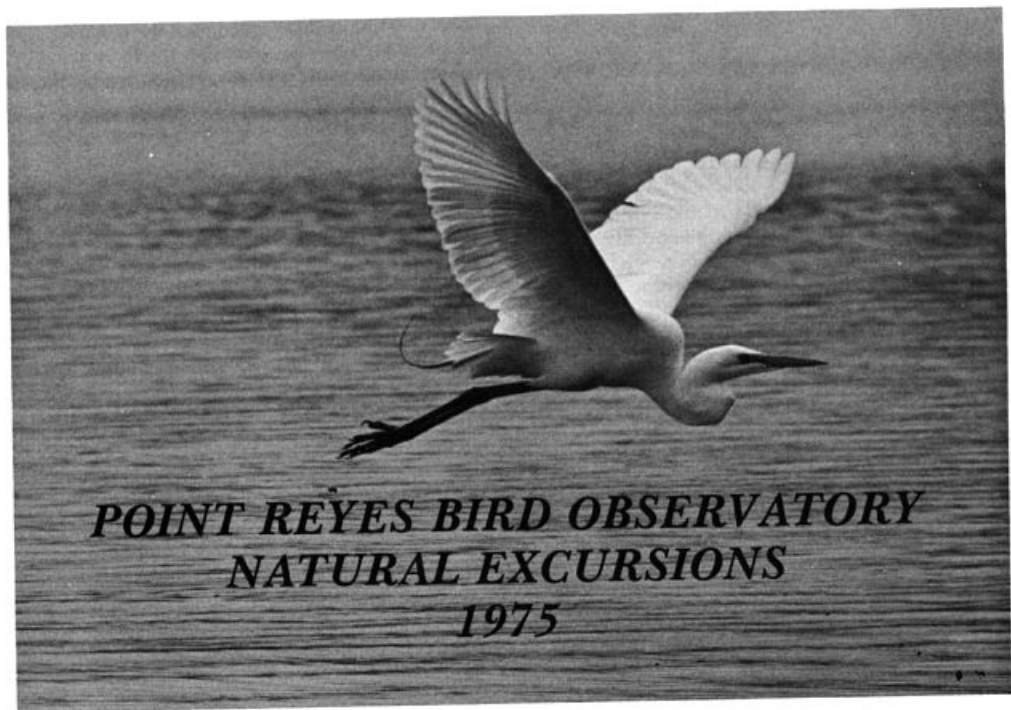
AMERICAN BIRDS welcomes the submission of articles and photographs for publication.

Our major areas of interest are the changing distribution, population, migration, and rare occurrence of the avifauna of North America, including Middle America and the West Indies. We solicit articles on problems in field identification, in our "Site Guide" series of birding locales, in our "Centers of Learning" series that profiles institutions concerned with ornithology, photo-essays of unusual interest, or single photographs illustrating identification features, rare occurrence, unusual locale or habitat.

For a "Work in Progress" column, we welcome notices of research projects seeking field reports or other collaboration; we publish advance notices of important conventions, meetings, symposia, seminars, and conferences or other ornithological news. We are looking for more articles on the techniques of birding, bird photography or sound-recording, on the order of "On the Art of Estimating Numbers," (AB 26: 706-12).

All submissions will be carefully considered, but authors considering major submissions should correspond with the editor first. AMERICAN BIRDS publishes papers of a technical nature but only when written in a less-than-technical, easily readable style: i.e., no complicated equations, lengthy tables, or complex graphs. Major articles should be limited to 3000 words; exceptions may be agreed upon after consultation. Prospective authors should consult the index of articles in this issue and recent issues for an understanding of our interests. All material submitted should be original, and previously unpublished. Manuscripts should follow accepted rules of format and style, be typewritten, double-spaced, on white paper, with generous margins. Photographs should be glossy black-and-white or color prints, clearly marked with author's name and address. We require the original typescript and one carbon copy. All manuscripts will be acknowledged, but authors must recognize that a backlog exists which may entail delayed publication after acceptance.

For further information address the editor at the American BirDs offices, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N Y 10022



Great Egret. Photo / Ian C. Tait

Birds of Southeast Arizona 19-25 May

A trip through one of the best birding areas in the country with attention to other vertebrates and general ecology of deserts. Three nights camping; 3 nights with lodging; all food and lodging included in cost. Rich Stallcup and 3 other leaders. \$250.

Transect of California 21-27 June

A six-day camping transect of California to observe native vertebrates and flora of major habitats from east of the Sierra Nevada to Monterey. Cost includes all food and camping expenses. Transportation by private car pool. Rich Stallcup and 3 other leaders. \$200.

Birds of San Blas Mexico 21-29 November

This is a field course for people with some experience as bird watchers. San Blas on the coast of western Mexico is a virtual bird paradise. Here over 225 species winter in an area dominated by mangrove and jungle. Three 5-hour boat trips will provide close looks at many Mexican species. Even good birders will improve their seeing and listening skills after a week with leaders Bill Clow and Art Earle. Cost does not include lodging and dinner meals. \$250 from Mazatlan.

Birds of the Barrancas, Mexico 5-12 December

This is a field course in Mexico for bird watchers with some experience who have strong hiking capabilities. The Durango Highway east of Mazatlan provides access to two unique avifaunas: the highland species of the Mexican Sierra and the lowland species of the coast. Cost does not include lodging or dinner meals. Bill Clow, Art Earle \$200.

For Further Information: Please write or call Bob Stewart, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924. 415-868-1221. Course participants must be members of PRBO. Membership is \$7.50 per year.

Going Places

Following is a partial listing of nature and bird-oriented tours scheduled for the months of May - September, 1975. It has been compiled from information supplied by tour sponsors and *American Birds* is not responsible for any subsequent alterations in plans or prices. Recent fluctuations in dollar values and uncertainties regarding air fares means that in some cases quoted prices are approximate only.

An amazing array of fascinating tours is set forth below; readers should have no trouble finding the tours that are just right for them. 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.

MAY

1—Holland, Belgium 15 days Birds, nature
Leader, Stanley Quickmire. \$1199 from
N Y NAS

1—Florida, 11 days. Birds, the Tortugas. Leaders, James Lane and other. Approx. \$600 from Miami. MAS.

16—Iceland. 10 days. Birds, natural history. Leaders, Christopher Leahy & local guide. Price not set. MAS.

18—Portugal, Spain, Madeira. 14 days. Birds, wildlife. Leader, Noble Proctor. \$1189 from N.Y. NAS.

19—Arizona. 10 days. Birds, mammals. Leaders, James Lane and other. Approx. \$688 from Tucson. MAS.

19—Southeast Arizona. 6 days. Bird, wildlife transect. Camping, lodging. Leaders, Rich Stallcup & 3. \$250. PRBO.

24—England, Scotland. 17 days. Natural history, birds. Leader, Robert Turner, Charles Wilson \$1199 from N Y. NAS

29—Spain, Portugal 21 days. Birds, natural history Leaders, Christopher Leahy and other. Approx. \$1645 from Boston. MAS.

JUNE

- 1—Mexico. Rancho del Cielo. 7 days. Wilderness exploration, birds. \$170 from Gomez Farias. FSW.
- 3—Arizona, New Mexico. 14 days. Birds, best areas. Leaders, Dale Zimmerman, Carl Amason. \$595 from Tucson. RR.
- 8—Iceland. 15 days. Natural history, birds. Leader, Davis Finch. \$1495 from New York. NAS.
- 8—Alaska. 17 days. Birds, natural history. Pribilovs, Nome, Kotzebue, Mt. McKinley. Leaders, Roger Foxall, Joe Davoe. About \$1900 from Anchorage. CNF.
- 20—Florida. 14 days. Birds. Leaders, Robert Conn, Paul Sykes. \$795 from Miami. RR.
- 21—California. 6 days. Wildlife, ecology transect. Camping. Leader, Rich Stallcup & 3. \$200 PRBO
- 23—High Arctic 12 days Canadian Arctic Archipelago by air Wildlife Leader, price not announced CNF

Undated — June thru September. Alaska boat tours, wildlife, birds. See ad this issue FO

Undated — June thru September. Yukon. Wildlife, birds. See ad this issue. YWT.

JULY

- 1—Cape Breton, Newfoundland. 16 days Birds. Leaders, Russ Mason, Nina Steffee. \$685 double occ. from Halifax. FCT.
- 3—East Africa, Seychelles. 23 days. Wildlife, birds, ecology. Leaders, Don Turner & NAS staff. \$2442 from N.Y. NAS.
- 18—Maine, Gaspé. 10 days. Birds, wildlife Leaders, Robert Conn, Davis Finch. \$795 from Bangor. RR.
- 23—East Africa 14 days Birds Wildlife \$2295 from N Y 14-day extension total \$3285 from N Y FCT

American Birds 1975 *Photography Salon*. Deadline for entries is June 1. Black-and-white prints only. Clearly mark all prints with name and address.

★★★★

Sightings of color-banded House Finches in eastern states, with bands of green, orange, white, yellow-green striped, or yellow-pink striped, banded on the right leg, should be reported to Dorothy J. Foy, Box 164, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008.

★★★★

Winter-Bird Population Studies are due April 10. They should be sent direct to the editor: Ronald A. Ryder, Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., 80521. Seasonal reports are due Regional Editors on the same day.

audubon nature
tours

for 1975



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CHECK LISTS

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF GAMBIA. A comprehensive checklist of the birds of Gambia is currently being prepared by Jens Kirkeby and Jorn Vestergaard Jensen in cooperation with the Gambian Ornithologists' Society. Anyone having unpublished records for this area is requested to make these known to Jensen, Holtevej 13, DK-8000, Aarhus C., Denmark. All contributions fully acknowledged.

FIRST TIME PUBLISHED. Over 800 sp. Check List of the Birds of U.S. & Canada. BARBARA M. BODMAN, 9555 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. 50¢ pp.

BIRDERS — Keep your annotated lists in BIRDER'S LIFE LIST & DIARY. \$3.50 ppd. THE DIETERTS, 45 Treeland Rd., Huntington, CT 06484.

ORGANIZATIONS

Announcing the formation of the Raptor Preservation Fund, Inc. Dedicated to the conservation of predatory birds, supporting projects in education, research, rehabilitation, captive breeding, and habitat protection. For more information write: RAPTOR PRESERVATION FUND, INC., 5017 Dull Knife Road, Austin, TX 78759.

TOURS

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COVER PHOTO—Groove-billed Ani, near Lakeview, Riverside County. November 1974. First record for California. *Photo / Alan Altman.*