

## The Fifth Salon of Photographs

*Although the announcement of the Fifth Photographic Salon published by American Birds was buried in small type on the last page of the February issue, 45 entries were received. And although the overall quality did not appear to be quite as high as in recent years, enough excellent prints were received to give us an exhibit that is both varied and interesting.*

*Last year, we remarked, not in all seriousness, that perhaps pictures of photogenic birds such as herons should be handicapped. This year our words seem to have had impact, because of all the entries received, only two were of herons, and none were of Snowy Egrets, possibly the candidate for the highest handicap of all.*

*The six judges this year included members of the staffs of American Birds and AUDUBON. Once again, photographs were exhibited with no information about them visible, judges were given ballots and asked to select their first five choices in order. Points were awarded those photographs selected on a descending order from 5 to 1.*

*Unfortunately, neither the first nor the second prize photographs are of a shape that is adaptable to our cover dimensions. And so, breaking an ancient one-year-old tradition of using the first prize winner as our August cover, we have chosen to use instead the photograph that was a close third. But since third prize went to the same photographer who won first prize, we are delighted that this double winner will be honored by a cover photograph – even if not of his judged-best entry.*

*Finally, our sincere thanks to all who submitted: winners and losers. Try again next year!*

### COVER

*– Third Prize goes to Ian C. Tait, of Mill Valley, California (see next page) for this immaculate photograph of a Rough-winged Swallow, taken at Bolinas Lagoon, California. The camera here seems to have caught the shyness and alertness of the bird, ready to spring into motion in a fraction of a second. Taken with Nikkormat camera, 300 mm lens, in available light at 1/500 second. The photograph was taken from a blind set up on the edge of the lagoon. The swallow was one of a pair actively searching for a nest site in a nearby bank.*

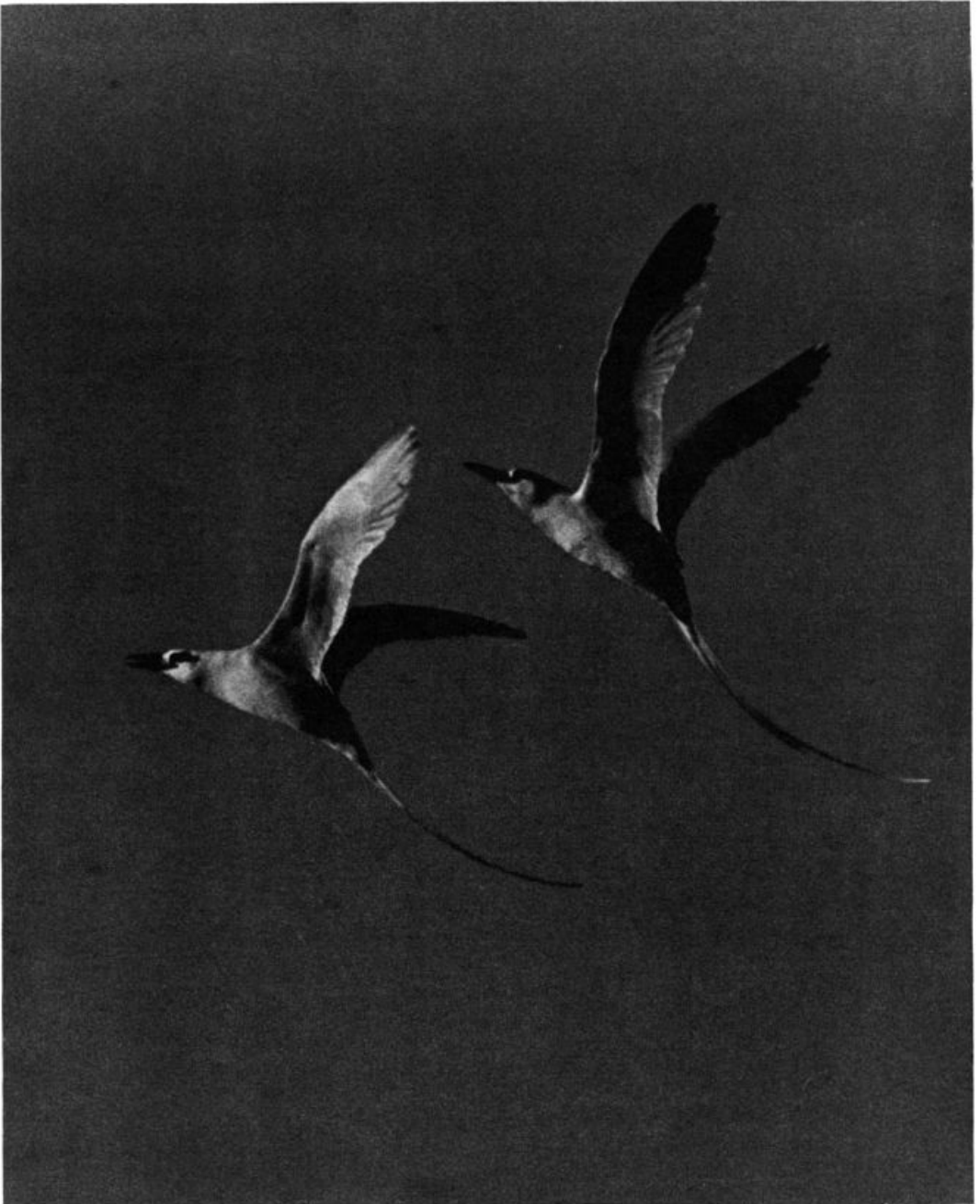


*Our First Prize this year goes to Ian C. Tait, of Mill Valley, California, whose handsome photograph of two Pigeon Guillemots in compassionate communication intrigued and pleased the judges. It took three first place votes and two seconds, achieving by far the best score among all the entries.*

*Tait, who notes that he has won only minor awards, just recently took the Grand Prize, (a trip for two to Rio de Janeiro), in Natural History Magazine's 1975 color photography contest, so he is suddenly no stranger to the pleasure of winning. And no mean photographer.*

*The winner tells us that he has been photographing birds for five years, that he has photographed about 50 species, and is interested in all natural history and wildlife.*

*For this photograph, taken on Southeast Farallon Island, California, Tait used a Nikkormat camera, with 300 mm lens, in available light. The film was Tri-X and the exposure unremembered, with a shutter speed of 1/250 second. It was taken from a blind set up near the rocky perch the birds were known to frequent.*



*Second prize this year has been awarded to Frank Schleicher, of Verona, N.J., who submitted several photographs, one of them this poetic vision of two White-tailed Tropicbirds. Although we have always limited the salons to North American Birds, the inclusion of Bermuda, where this photograph was taken, in North American avifauna was long ago sanctioned by the A.O.U., and this year we will publish a Christmas Bird Count from the island colony.*

*Schleicher doesn't tell us much about himself, except that he has been photographing birds for about five years, and that his son Frank assists. The "Longtails" were shot with a Pentax equipped with 400 mm. lens, on Tri-X film, with exposure at f.8 at 1/1000 second. The camera was hand held.*



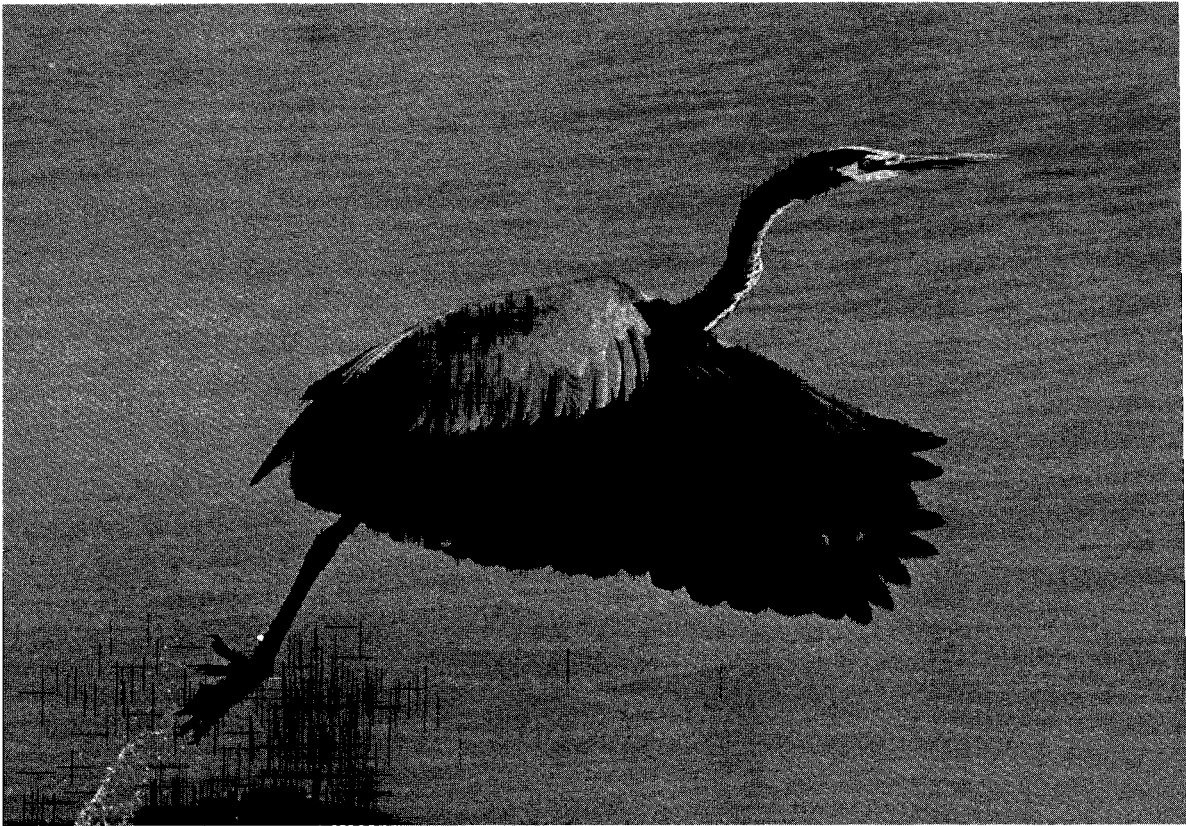
**Honorable Mention goes to Stephen Laymon, of Red Bluff, California, for this fully alive and singing Long-billed Marsh Wren at Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Willows, California. Laymon, who has been photographing birds for only three years, already has a "photo list" of 125 species, but is also on the lookout for good flower, animal, and scenery pictures. Laymon does his own darkroom work, both black-and-white and color, and has traveled extensively in California, and in Texas and Arizona.**

**The wren photograph was taken with Laymon's favorite camera set-up, a Pentax Spotmatic 35 mm. SLR equipped with 400 mm Novoflex lens. Exposure on Panatomic X film was at f 5.6 at 1/125 second. The bird was free, the camera hand held, and no blind was used.**



***Honorable Mention is won a second time by Stephen Laymon of Red Bluff, California, for his rather impressionistic print of a Common Snipe in tall grass, taken near in the Bend District of California.***

***Laymon used the same equipment that won him an Honorable Mention for his Long-billed Marsh Wren. This time the exposure was f 5.6 at 1/500 second, on Panatomic X film. "The bird was free. I used the car as a blind. It was a very windy day and the snipe didn't want to fly. The camera was used with a shoulder pad."***



*Honorable Mention had to be awarded this handsome Great Blue Heron print, heron or no. The photographer, Henry L. Bunker, IV, has been represented in our salons before, (he took Second Prize last year) and can be counted on for clean, beautifully composed bird portraits. Bunker, who has been taking bird photographs for only two years, turned professional a year ago, and is currently documenting the life history of the Barn Owl for National Geographic Magazine He teaches bird photography at the University of Delaware.*

*The Great Blue Heron was caught rising from the water at Sanibel Island, Florida, in 1973. The camera was a Nikon, equipped with 105 mm lens. The film was Tri-X, the exposure data unrecalled, and the bird, we are assured, was free.*





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