

nesting along Sonoita Creek in the Huachucas, Chiracauhaus and in Guadalupe Canyon

This problem is not exclusive to Southeastern Arizona. It occurs to a greater or lesser extent nationwide. In order to not only preserve the critical breeding habitat of many rare birds but also to prevent exclusion of all birders from prime areas located on private lands we emphasize again that a sense of propriety and respect for the rights of private landowners is imperative.

In recent years, worldwide interest and concern has grown for the carrion-eating vultures of both the Cathartidae and Accipitridae. It has been proposed that a symposium be held within the next two years to discuss their status and problems. If you are interested in participating in such an exchange, either in person or by submitting a paper for the published proceedings, please contact: Sanford R. Wilbur, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1190 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, California USA 93023. Please indicate your particular areas of interest.

Communications

To the editor:

In October 1976 *American Birds* carried a review of a book called *Where to Watch Birds in Britain and Europe* by John Gooders (1974). The review listed the book as being available through either Andre Deutsch or Taplinger Publishing Company. We are not handling this title, but a check of the 1974 Books in Print lists it as being available through the British Book Center, 996 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10021. We would appreciate it if you could correct the listing for your readers. — Roy E. Thomas, Promotion Manager, Taplinger Publishing Co.

To the editor:

Enclosed is a copy of the November 19, 1976, *Federal Register* (41 FR 51019-51022) in which we announced our determination that the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xan-*

thomus) is an Endangered Species. This action makes the protection provided by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 available to this imperiled bird.

The prohibitions provided for in the Act are rather broad and the penalties for violation may be severe. In this context, and since you or your colleagues may be involved in research or other activities which may now require permits, I would appreciate it if you would pass this information to any persons to whom you feel it would be helpful. — Harold S. O'Connor, Acting Associate Director, Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

The endangered species status for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird followed, and largely resulted from the work of William Post and James Wiley, as published in Am. Birds 30 (1):13-20, 1976. — Ed.

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Reservations are now being accepted for our 1977 Summer Seminars on Bird Art, Nature Photography, Ornithology, Tropical Ecology and Entomology. 15-days, all inclusive, \$602, including round trip air fare from New York. Please write for details. Each seminar limited to 20 participants and two leaders.

To the editor

I noted that you gave DuMont's "admirable — but out of date" list as the sole regional bird "book" for Iowa. Another fine, and much more recent (and hence only slightly dated) annotated list of Iowa birds was compiled by Woodward H. Brown, and published by the Iowa State Journal of Science (45:387-469, 1971) Nobody birding in Iowa now can do without Mr. Brown's annotated list which, of course, is not strictly a regional "book" either, but is much preferable to DuMont's antiquated list. It is available for \$1 from Beryl Layton, 1560 Linmar Dr., NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 42402.

— N. S. Halmi, Iowa City, IA.

To the editor:

I would like to comment on an exclusion from the *American Birds* Blue List published in your December, 1976 issue.

In neither your listed species or those suggested is the Roseate Tern even mentioned. This species has a very limited range of substantial breeding sites in the U.S., roughly from Cape Cod to Long Island. In both Massachusetts (Nisbet, 1976, *Mass. Aud. Newsl.* 15 (8):3-5; and pers. comm.) and Long Island (Duffy, in press 1977, *Proc. Linnean Soc. N.Y.*) the Roseate Tern has been decreasing since 1972.

Furthermore, the Roseate Tern seems to nest mainly in a few very large colonies (Great Gull Island, N.Y.; Bird Island, Massachusetts). This could make the species rather vulnerable to oil spills. It is not inconceivable that one such spill could put this species on the endangered list.

Your introduction to the blue list in the December *American Birds* indicates that the list is being increasingly used for impact statements and other environmental assess-

ments. If the list is to be effective, I hope you will find a way to adequately evaluate species with rather narrow ranges. Since, for example, the Roseate really breeds in only two of your reporting regions, it would seem rather difficult for it to fulfill your requirement that it be "nominated" from three. The species' exclusion might lead to a false sense of security — certainly not for the birds — for birders and others concerned with this species. If any species needed inclusion on such a list as the Blue List, it is the Roseate Tern.

— David C. Duffy,
Dept. of Biology, Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J. 08540

To the editor:

On the back cover of *AMERICAN BIRDS*, October 1976, Volume 30, Number 5, it is stated that the female Hook-billed Kite on the cover is the first nesting pair in the United States. In the "Birds of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge" leaflet (Refuge Leaflet 124-R5 May 1969) it is noted that the Hook-billed Kite has nested on the refuge. This notation is not noted for this kite on "Birds of Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge" leaflet (RF-2354600-2-R7 July 1973), presumably because the nesting notation is for birds that nest locally, the kite then not doing so. Further, when at the refuge in March 1976 one of the assistant refuge managers took me down the road and showed me the tree where the Hook-billed Kite nested twelve years before. Therefore, I would think that the back cover statement is incorrect. In the text Fred Webster does not say that it is the first U.S. record. — Michael Lee Bierly, 2415 Crestmore Rd., Nashville, TN 37215.

One other letter called this error to our attention. — Ed.