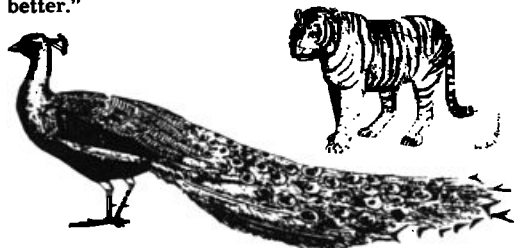


## DROOL OVER THIS!

Don't read any further if you're a lukewarm birder who wouldn't care about missing a new North American record a few miles from your home. Or if you would give up a Harpy Eagle for your life-list because it might delay your breakfast. But if you *really love* birds and want to see as many as humanly possible on your precious vacations, BIRD BONANZAS 1978 tours may be a temptation you won't be able to resist.

Our leaders are field birding geniuses who know the most about each area we tour so that you can find the maximum number of birds. After each tour participants write statements like, "The leadership was super-excellent—there couldn't have been a leader who knows the area and the birds better."



**Ben King**, author of "A Field Guide to the Birds of Southeast Asia," is legendary as a field birder. He will lead the **TOUR-OF-THE-YEAR to INDIA**, followed by **CEYLON**, the most extensive tour ever of that subcontinent, with 600 species expected, including many rarities.

**Ben** will also lead our Alaska tour again in 1978. Species recorded on the last tour included Brown Shrike, Red-throated Flycatcher, Dusky Warbler, Common Rose Finch, Indian Tree Pipit, Dusky Thrush, Whiskered Auklet, Ross' and Ivory Gulls, Common, Wood and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Mongolian Plover, Bean Goose and Laysan Albatross. Many others not mentioned would make most birders drool.

**Steven Hilty**, a neotropical birding legend, will lead tours to **COSTA RICA**, **COLOMBIA** and **VENEZUELA**. Birds like Quetzals, Harpy Eagles, Horned Screemers and Umbrellabirds are seen regularly on our tours.

**Len Robinson**, a top Australian field man, led a tour for us that recorded 495 species. In 1978 he will lead our tours to **AUSTRALIA** and **NEW GUINEA**.

**Don Turner**, one of East Africa's leading field birders, will lead our tour to **KENYA**; then one to **MADAGASCAR**, where Don has the highest list.

We also have great tours with great leaders to **ISRAEL**, **FLORIDA**, **ARIZONA-NEW MEXICO**, **Zaire** and a **Dry Tortugas Boat trip**. And we will be operating the **ABA tours** to **Costa Rica** and **Surinam**.

Don't just drool. Don't sit there passively dreaming of the great birds others are *actually seeing* on **BIRD BONANZAS** tours. See them yourself. Write us for detailed information about the tours that interest you most.

## **Bird Bonanzas**

12550 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 501  
North Miami, Florida 33181

## The Last Word

For many years, but especially in the last seven, *American Birds* has been making a consistent and calculated effort to attract more Canadian readers, with increasing attention to Canada's birdlife. Our seasonal summaries now feature separate reports from Québec, Ontario, and Northwestern Canada. Additionally, the Atlantic Provinces are covered extensively in our Northeastern Maritime Region report, the Great Plains provinces in our Northern Great Plains Region, and British Columbia in two other reports. Indeed, *American Birds* gives more complete seasonal coverage of Canadian field notes than any publication anywhere.

At the same time we publish Canadian Winter Bird-Population Studies, Canadian Breeding Bird Censuses, and articles about Canadian birdlife, as well as many other articles and features of interest to all North American readers. Finally, this year alone, we will publish 129 Canadian Christmas Bird Counts, which listed a total of 2739 participants, including multiple-count participants.

In these past seven years, the overall number of subscribers to *American Birds* has tripled. But in this same period, the total of our Canadian subscribers has grown by exactly 64, to 364, a 21% increase! If the ratio of CBC participants to subscribers was, in the United States, as low as it is in Canada (13:1), *American Birds* would have less than one-third its present total.

By every logical measure, we ought to have at least 900 Canadian subscribers, and this causes us much concern. Should we continue to appropriate 11% of our publishing budget for 2.8% of our subscribers? Should we continue to publish the Northwestern Canadian Region, where we have *not one single paying subscriber*? Are hundreds, if not thousands, of Canadians interested in submitting records to a publication they never see? Apparently they are.

We wish we knew the answer to this problem. Is it the name *American Birds*? Over the years we've made it clear that the America we cite in our title is the Americas, not the United States. Is it the extra cost (\$2 per year)

of a Canadian subscription? Unfortunately, this increment is more than consumed by a postal rate differential and an exchange rate presently unfavorable to the United States.

We want to expand, rather than contract or terminate, our involvement with and coverage of Canada. But we would like to know that there is widespread support there. And for the moment, we would appreciate hearing from Canadians (and others), as to how to triple our subscription list in Canada. We can supply individuals and clubs subscription folders for distribution, on demand.

\* \* \* \*

Mixed reaction greeted our announcement last year that there would be a modest publication fee to help defray the sizable cost of publishing our two environmental studies, the Winter Bird-Population Studies and the Breeding Bird Censuses. Many of the authors agreed that such a fee was fair, reasonable, and justified, and acknowledged that other journals in this and other scientific fields were increasingly forced to ask for publication charges. Others cited many instances where their studies were actually funded by grants which include publication costs. Others deplored our action, citing the hardship that such charges would cause students and others of limited means, and offering suggestions as to other ways in which *American Birds* could raise funds or economize. One or two contributors wrote impassioned jeremiads to the president of the society. The attitude of most dissenters was that since they had spent so much time and effort producing these studies *for the benefit*

*of the National Audubon Society*, we had an absolute obligation to publish them entirely at our own expense, as in the past.

There is one fallacy in this argument. The authors do not do this work for the National Audubon Society. We do not publish them for our own benefit. We both do this in partnership for the benefit of science, and to enrich the world's knowledge of habitat use by birds. But each year it becomes more costly: in editorial time, staff time, printing and mailing. *American Birds* has been under a stringent mandate to reduce its budget deficit. The fee, finally, was inevitable. This past year we tried to soften the blow by making the fee voluntary, and acknowledge payment of it as a contribution to the society. And the response has been heartening. At this writing \$1234. in fees has been offered, (although it is less than 10% of the cost of publication).

For this coming year, *the fee* will still be modest, but it *will no longer be optional*. Authors unwilling to pay the publication fee as stated will have their manuscripts sorrowfully returned. There will be two exceptions to this mandatory fee: undergraduates or graduate students *who are not funded* may write a letter certifying to this; retired persons may also write a note of explanation. For all others the fee will be a flat \$5 per double-spaced manuscript page, plus \$5 per illustration used (refunded if not used). The total fee or request for exemption is to accompany the manuscript. Checks should be written payable to *American Birds*.

We much regret that we are forced to take this step. - R A

1978  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
TOURS



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