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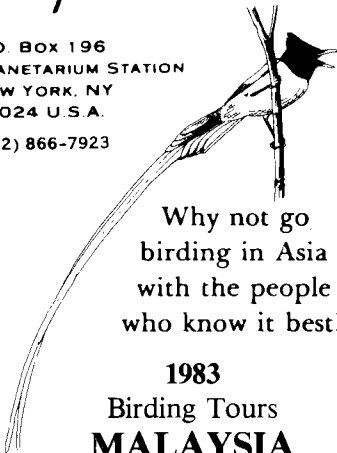
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The Last Word

AS MOST OF our readers are well aware, the long-awaited Sixth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-list will be published in mid-1983, and a preliminary list of species names, in its new order, has been published. *American Birds* has always based its nomenclature on the "official" A.O.U. list, with the various changes published in subsequent supplements. The problem now arises: when should *American Birds* switch to the new list? The original plan was to change with the first issue of 1983, but this would have entailed a radically revised Christmas Bird Count form this year, with many unfamiliar names and a confusing new order which were bound to give compilers and editors headaches. Since the CBCs are published in July, and since we cannot have a Volume of issues with two different lists (from the Index standpoint alone), we have decided to adopt the new list beginning with January, 1984.

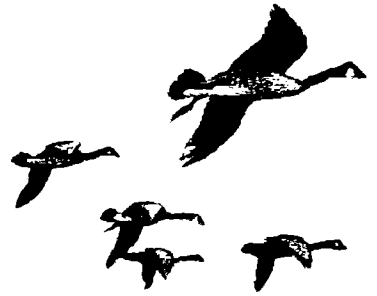
We hope that by this coming spring, when the Winter Bird-Population Studies are written for January 1984, and especially by December 1983, everyone will be familiar with the new list, which is quite similar to the Second A.B.A. Check-list, and the confusion will be at a minimum. Meanwhile, the CBC form for this year is revised only minimally, to acknowledge the names changed owing to lumpings and splittings. A near-future issue will have a full discussion of the Check-list.

Speaking of the future, forthcoming issues will bring a wealth of material we will be proud to publish. The next (November) issue, for example, will feature a complete discography of North American bird recordings, from the very first published record in 1931 to the present, including highlights from the record lists of other continents, a source list of bird sound libraries and other useful information, by Jeffery Boswall and Dominic Couzins. A never-heard-before bound-in record of two tropical birds—a thrasher and a wren, will be included. A photographic essay on the unique tussock habitat of the Falkland Islands (yes—they are American!) by O. Sewall Pettingill is another highlight. And promised or already moving through the pipeline are articles and illustrative material that we consider first rate by any standards. Stay tuned.

The Editor

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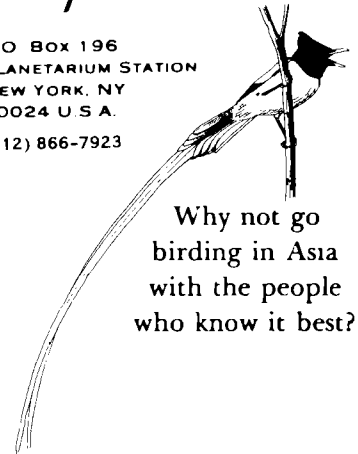


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