

# American Birds

January-  
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# American Birds

*A bimonthly journal devoted to the birds of the Americas*

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plot (Census 204). The increases in both areas are attributed to an exceptionally successful 1982 breeding season followed by a 1982-83 winter season of average or low mortality. The fact that recovery of the breeding bird density was greater in the mature than in the successional stage coastal scrub implies that the mature scrub provides preferred breeding habitat for these species and was preferentially chosen by young birds establishing their first breeding territories. The densities of all permanent resident species increased or remained the same as last year with the exception of Rufous-sided Towhee which decreased slightly. California Quail, White-crowned Sparrow, and Song Sparrow showed the greatest increases with Song Sparrows reaching the highest density ever recorded on this plot. The densities of migratory species were very similar to 1982 with slight increases in Allen's Hummingbird and Am. Goldfinch and a slight decrease in Purple Finch. Breeding success in 1983 was poor compared to previous years for reasons discussed in Census 204. Nests found (21): Bushtit (1), Wren (4), Rufous-sided Towhee (1), White-crowned Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (14). Contribution No. 265, PRBO.—**DAVID F. DESANTE, ANDREA KIESERMAN, and SANDY SPON, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.**

#### 206. DISTURBED COASTAL SCRUB

**B.** — **Location:** California; Marin Co., 3.5 mi NW of Bolinas and 0.16 mi inside the S boundary of Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore; 37°55'N, 122°45'W, Bolinas Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1971; 12 intermittent years. **Size:** 8.1 ha = 20 acres. **Description of Plot:** See AB 25:1002-1003 (1971). **Weather:** See Census 204 (Coastal Scrub). **Coverage:** Apr. 1, 3-12, 14-15, 17-18, 21-22, 25-26, 28-29; May 1-3, 5-9, 12-14, 18-20, 22-24, 26, 30-31; June 2-3, 5-25, 27-28; 0630-1230. Total obs.-hours: 244. **Census:** Song Sparrow, 15 (185, 75); White-crowned Sparrow, 8.5 (105, 43); Wren, 4.5 (56, 23); Am. Goldfinch, 3.5 (43, 17); Allen's Hummingbird, 2.5; Rufous-sided Towhee, 2;

Bewick's Wren, 1.5; California Quail, 0.5; Scrub Jay, 0.5; Am. Robin, 0.5; Orange-crowned Warbler, 0.5; Red-tailed Hawk, +; Mourning Dove, +; Com. Flicker, +; Bush-tit, +; W. Bluebird, +; Brown Towhee, +; Brown-headed Cowbird, +; Purple Finch, +; House Finch, +. **Total:** 20 species; 39.5 territorial males (488/km<sup>2</sup>, 197/100 acres). **Remarks:** The breeding bird density of this successional stage coastal scrub plot (488/km<sup>2</sup>) showed a 65% recovery from last year's low (451/km<sup>2</sup>) toward the previous (1979-81) 3 years' mean (508/km<sup>2</sup>). This partial recovery contrasts with the complete recovery found in the mature coastal scrub plot (Census 204) and implies that disturbed successional stage coastal scrub provides less optimal breeding habitat than undisturbed mature coastal scrub (see also Census 205). Among permanent resident species, California Quail, Bewick's Wren, and Song Sparrow showed increased densities while Scrub Jay, Rufous-sided Towhee, and White-crowned Sparrow showed slight decreases. Song Sparrows showed a remarkable increase and reached the highest density ever recorded on this plot. This is not only a result of the recovery from last year's low, but also a result of the increased vegetational density on this plot. Migratory species were present in similar densities to last year although Allen's Hummingbird decreased and Am. Goldfinch increased slightly. Breeding success was generally poor, but not as proportionally poor as on the other 2 coastal scrub plots (Censuses 204 and 205). The decrease in Scrub Jays, a major nest predator, may have partially offset the effects of inclement early spring weather. Nests found (35): Wren (7), Rufous-sided Towhee (1), White-crowned Sparrow (11), Song Sparrow (16). Contribution No. 266, PRBO.—**DAVID F. DESANTE, JENNIFER HOLMES, and JILL OPPENHEIMER, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970.**

#### 207. SHADED RANCH HOUSE ON HIGH PLAINS.

— **Location:** New Mexico; Mora Co., 9 mi N of Watrous; 35°52'30"N, 105°07'30"W, Fort Union Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** New. **Size:** 0.81 ha = 2 acres. **Description of Plot:** Grounds and coral around ranch house, with old trees, lawn, and some fence-line shrubbery, near base of wooded escarpment, set in vast short grass prairie. Half of grounds consists of watered, mowed lawn shaded by 20 large trees (av. dbh 30 in.) and 14 adjacent small trees (av. dbh 8 in.). Trees grouped as follows: 13 Black Locust as a shelter belt along 2 sides; 12 Narrow-leaf Cottonwood encircle a 50m<sup>2</sup> pond; 5 Pacific Willow and 4 Black Cottonwoods grouped W of house. Ranch house, 2 barns, and 2 small outbuildings occupy 15% of site. Two-thirds of fence line bare, one third lined with sparse shrubs: lilac, rose, and juniper. Four sapling fruit trees, apple and plum, an 8 m<sup>2</sup> covered strawberry bed, and 8 m<sup>2</sup> flower bed occupy part of the lawn W of the house. Outside the lawn area, the ground is bare or covered with longer grass and weeds dominat-

ed by W Ragweed, Annual Sunflower sagebrush, and Gumweed. **Edge:** Short grass prairie dominated by Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and Side-oats Grama (*B. curtipendula*) stretches to the horizon on 3 sides, interrupted by occasional escarpments and mesas covered by juniper, Havard Oak, Wavyleaf Oak, Pinyon, and scattered Ponderosa Pine. One such escarpment lies W of the plot, 50m distant at its closest point. **Topography:** Gentle slope from W-E. **Elevation:** 6847 ft. **Weather:** Clear with afternoon thunder showers on 6 of last 10 days; temp. 55-80°F. **Coverage:** Daily, July 2-20. Total obs.-hours: 50. **Census:** Barn Swallow, 7 (865, 350); Am Robin, 3 (371, 150); Cassin's Kingbird, 2; W Kingbird, 2; Black-chinned Hummingbird, 1; W. Wood-Pewee, 1; Say's Phoebe, 1; Black-billed Magpie, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Eur. Starling, 1; Solitary Vireo, 1; N. Oriole, 1; Lesser Goldfinch, 1; House Sparrow, 1; Mourning Dove, +; Lewis' Woodpecker, +; Lark Sparrow, +; Brown-headed Cowbird, +; House Finch, +. **Total:** 19 species; 24 territories (2965/km<sup>2</sup>, 1200/100 acres). **Visitors:** Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Killdeer, Com. Nighthawk, Rufous Hummingbird, Rough-winged Swallow, Com. Raven. **Remarks:** Nests found (15): Barn Swallow (7), Am. Robin (3), W. Kingbird (2), W. Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, magpie, starling. Newly fledged young being fed: Cassin's Kingbird, N. Oriole, House Sparrow. Densities recorded here are probably biased upward by the fact that although at least 18 pairs nested in the plot, their territories were not fully contained by it. Flycatchers, swallows, and robins foraged on the prairie, while other species visited the escarpment to the west. In effect, the plot is all "edge." The principal predator observed was at least 3 Gopher Snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), which were observed to take young from nests of W. Kingbird and starling, and to climb toward a robin's nest. No dogs or cats on the ranch. We thank John Hubbard for advice, and Edward A. Ames and Jane E. S. Sokolow for assistance with identifying plants.—**ROBERT O. PAXTON and SARAH PLIMPTON, 560 Riverside Dr., Apt 12K, New York, NY 10027.**

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BBC 207, Mora Co., N.M. Shaded Ranch on High Plains. Photo/S. Plimpton.

**208. BOTTOMLAND RED MAPLE-WHITE ASH-PIN OAK FOREST.** — **Location:** Pennsylvania; Chester Co., 5 mi SE of Elverson; 40°07'N, 75°46'W, Wagontown Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1980; 4 consecutive years (not reported 1981 and 1982). **Size:** 4.02 ha = 9.93 acres (35% increase from 2.97 ha in previous years; irregular, approximately rectangular, 281 × 143 m). **Description of Plot:** See AB 35:51-52 (1981). **Weather:** Average temp.: May, 0.61°C below normal; June, 0.22°C above

normal. Precipitation: May, 9.73 cm above normal; June, 2.97 cm below normal. Data from NOAA at Philadelphia Int'l Airport, 50 km SE. **Food supply:** normal, with no appreciable defoliation by gypsy moths or other forest insects. **Coverage:** May 4, 7, 12, 24, 28, 30; June 2, 9-10, 15, 22, 26; July 2, 8; varying times, 0500-1700 EST. Total obs.-hours: 72. Additional hours bird banding: 192. Total net-hours: 635. **Census:** Gray Catbird, 4 (100, 40); Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 4; Veery, 3 (75, 30); Com. Yellowthroat, 3; Wood Thrush, 2;

Downy Woodpecker, 1.5; Great Crested Flycatcher, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; House Wren, 1; Am. Robin, 1; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; N. Oriole, 1; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 0.5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 0.5; E. Wood-Pewee, 0.5; Blue Jay, 0.5; Tufted Titmouse, 0.5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 0.5; Red-eyed Vireo, 0.5; Ovenbird, 0.5; N. Cardinal, 0.5; Indigo Bunting, 0.5; Song Sparrow, +; Am. Goldfinch, +. **Total:** 24 species; 28.5 territorial males (709/km<sup>2</sup>, 287/100 acres). **Visitors:** Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Am. Crow, White-breasted Nuthatch, N. Mockingbird, Eur. Starling, Golden-winged Warbler, N. Parula Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Am. Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird. **Remarks:** Difficulties have been encountered in determining territorial densities

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in this small (4 ha) study area, particularly for species present in large numbers. A banding program was initiated this year to improve the accuracy of territorial density and population data. Sounds from territorial males, some sighting records, and capture/recapture data were integrated to determine territorial densities. The following comparative data are instructive; the first number presents our judgment of territorial densities (see above) while the second number shows the total number of individuals banded in and near (within 50m) the study area May 13-June 17: Gray Catbird (4, 36); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (4, 16); Com. Yellowthroat (3, 17); Wood Thrush (2, 22); and Veery (2, 18). Although non-territo-

rial individuals may consist largely of migrants during portions of the year, our data analysis suggests that sizable numbers of presumably local individuals fly briefly into this study area. However, relatively few hostile territorial interactions were observed. Since our banded birds were not color-coded and we infrequently observed bands on non-recaptured individuals, we have relied primarily upon singing males and recapture information in judging territorial densities. We feel, however, that our estimates may be conservative for some species. Common Yellowthroat territories have apparently remained nearly constant for 4 years. During recent years woodpecker populations have declined. Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse territories have declined by over 50%. However, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak territorial densities have dramatically increased from about 2 during the past 3 years to 4 this year. It is possible that increased human activity (bird banding) in an area previously infrequently visited affected avian populations. Grateful acknowledgment is extended to many members and friends of Valley Forge (Pennsylvania) Audubon Society for contributing to this study. Special thanks are due C. D. Gerow for directing the bird banding program, and Scouts from Devon, Pa. Troop 50 for trail preparation.—*T. DOMAN ROBERTS* (compiler), 430 Cassatt Road, Berwyn, PA 19312.

75°44'W, Pottstown Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1980; 4 consecutive years (not reported 1981 and 1982). **Size:** 3.16 ha = 7.81 acres. **Description of Plot:** See AB 35:52 (1981). **Weather:** See Census 208. **Coverage:** May 12, 19, 28; June 2, 6, 10, 25; July 8; varying times between 0535 and 1420 EST. Total obs.-hours: 23. **Census:** Ovenbird, 2 (63, 26); E. Wood-Pewee, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Veery, 1; Wood Thrush, 1; Blue-winged Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 0.5; Downy Woodpecker, 0.5; N. Flicker, 0.5; Carolina Chickadee, 0.5; Gray Catbird, 0.5; Am. Robin, 0.5; Red-eyed Vireo, 0.5; Tennessee Warbler, 0.5; Black-and-white Warbler, 0.5; N. Cardinal, 0.5; Indigo Bunting, 0.5; Com. Grackle, 0.5; Pileated Woodpecker, +; White-breasted Nuthatch, +; Solitary Vireo, +; Worm-eating Warbler, +. **Total:** 26 species; 17 territorial males (538/km<sup>2</sup>, 218/100 acres). **Visitors:** Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, E. Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Am. Crow, Swainson's Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, N. Oriole. **Remarks:** Grateful appreciation is expressed to members and friends of Valley Forge Audubon Society and Scouts from Devon Troop 50 for trail rejuvenation.—*T. DOMAN ROBERTS* (compiler), 430 Cassatt Road, Berwyn, PA 19312.

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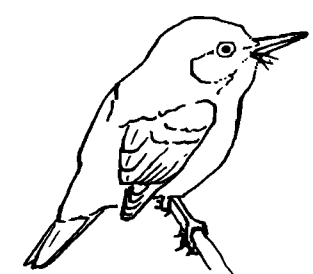
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**209. UPLAND OAK-TULIP-TREE FOREST.** — **Location:** Pennsylvania; Chester Co., 6 mi SE of Elverson; 40°08'N,

**210. OAK-HICKORY FOREST-SECOND GROWTH.** — **Location:** Missouri; St. Louis Co., Washington Univ. Tyson Research Center, on I-44, 8 mi SW of I-270; 38°31'N, 90°34'W, Manchester Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** Established 1980; 4 years. **Size:** 7.85 ha = 19.4 acres. **Description of Plot:** See AB 35:25 (1981). Tyson Research Center, a fenced 810 ha (= 2000 a) tract of second-growth oak-hickory forest, was established in 1963; the former owner, the




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*Mourning Dove. Drawing by J. David Renwald.*

U.S. Army, held the site in protective custody from 1941. Census plot is along either side of a fire trail through uniform woodlands. An old field is located 400 ft S of the S edge of the plot; two small ponds are located 600 ft NE of the E end of the strip. **Weather:** Temp. 63-80°F, no significant winds, high humidity and some rainfall during the period. **Coverage:** June 12-14, 16-18, 20, 29; July 3, 4: between 0610-1000 hrs. Total obs.-hours: 22 1/2. **Census:** Indigo Bunting, 4 (51, 21); Tufted Titmouse, 3.5 (45, 18); unidentified (probably Carolina) chickadee, 3 (38, 15); Blue Jay, 2.5 (32, 13); White-breasted Nuthatch, 2.5; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 (25, 10); E. Wood-Pewee, 2; Wood Thrush, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Worm-eating Warbler, 2; Summer Tanager, 2; N. Cardinal, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1.5 (19, 8); Great Crested Flycatcher, 1.5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 (6, 3); Kentucky Warbler, 1; Wild Turkey, 0.5; Hairy Woodpecker, 0.5; N. Flicker, 0.5; Am. Robin, 0.5; Louisiana Waterthrush, 0.5; Scarlet Tanager, 0.5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 0.5; Am. Goldfinch, 0.5; Black-billed Cuckoo, +; Pileated Woodpecker, +; Acadian Flycatcher, +; Bewick's Wren, +; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, +; N. Parula, +; Field Sparrow, +. **Total:** 31 species, 38 territorial males (484/km<sup>2</sup>, 196/100 acres). **Visitors:** Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk (seen on 6 trips), Chimney Swift, Com. Grackle. **Remarks:** Diversity of species and numbers of individuals are increasing. First appearance of E. Wood-Pewee, Kentucky Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush as breeding species.—*ROSE ANN BODMAN, JEAN COOK, VI HALLETT, EUGENIA LARSON*, (co-compiler), *CARMEN PATTERSON, CLAUDIA SPENER, RICHARD W. COLES* (compiler), *Tyson Research Center, P.O. Box 258, Eureka, MO 63025*.

**211. DOUGLAS-FIR-WESTERN HEMLOCK FOREST: MOUNT ST. HELENS MUDFLOW.** — **Location:** Washington; Skamania Co., Cougar, near Gifford Pinchot Nat'l F. S. Rd. 2588, 7 1/2 mi NW of its junction with Rd. 25; 46°09'N, 122°05'W, Mount St. Helens Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:**

Established 1982; 2 consecutive years. **Size:** 9.18 ha = 22.7 acres (roughly square, measured). **Description of Plot:** See AB 37(1):88, 1983. **Edge:** Bordered by mudflow debris (principally boulders and ash) on all sides. A Forest Service road has been bulldozed along the SE side of the plot. **Topography:** Gently sloping downward from NW to SE. **Elevation:** 850-900 m. **Weather:** Predominantly cloudy with mist, fog, or rain. Two days had warm sunny weather. Temp. 10-20°C. **Coverage:** May 28-29; June 11-12, 26; July 9-10. All trips 0530-0900 hours. Total obs.-hours: 18. **Census:** Dark-eyed Junco, 4 (44, 19); N. Flicker, 1 (11, 5); Am. Robin, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 1. **Total:** 4 species; 7 territorial males (76/km<sup>2</sup>, 30/100 acres). **Visitors:** Blue Grouse, Rufous Hummingbird, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Com. Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee. **Remarks:** One nest located: Dark-eyed Junco. As was the case in 1982, there was little or no ground cover outside of the three islands of vegetation at the start of the census. In addition to the same plant species noted growing up last year, scattered conifer seedlings were seen in the mudflow debris. Common Nighthawk and Vaux's Swift were seen near or flying over the census area. In addition, a Mountain Bluebird nest tree was found about 200 ft S of the plot. A minor ash and steam eruption occurred on July 10, 1983 but has no effect on the study area. Corrections to BBS 134, AB 37(1):88, 1983: **Size of Plot:** 9.18 ha = 22.96 acres. **Census:**

White-crowned Sparrow, 3 (33, 13); Dark-eyed Junco, 2 (22, 9). **Total:** 2 species; 5 territorial males (54/km<sup>2</sup>, 22/100 acres).—*PATRICK J. MULLER, 2408 S. E. Taylor St., Portland, OR 97214*.

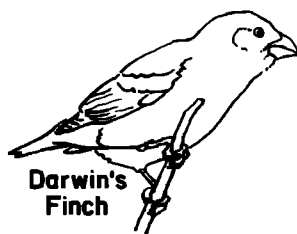
**212. PINYON-JUNIPER WOODLAND.** — **Location:** Utah; Grand Co., Arches National Park, 250 m W of the beginning of the Devils Garden Loop Road; 38°48'N, 109°35'W, Arches National Park Quadrangle, USGS. **Continuity:** New. **Size:** 31.25 ha = 77.22 acres (squared, 600 × 600m, measured but partially cut off by sandstone fins). **De-**

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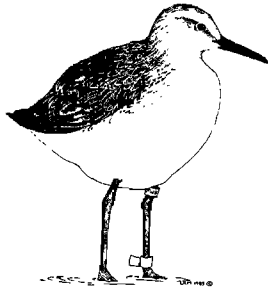
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## Pan American Shorebird Program

### SEARCH FOR RARE BANDS ON MIGRATING BIRDS. THE PAN AMERICAN SHOREBIRD PROGRAM



Millions of shorebirds migrate northward from South America each spring to breed in North America. The Pan American Shorebird Program is a project to map pathways for conservation and research purposes.

**Banding Sites:**

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Ecuador	Virginia
Brazil	New Jersey
Canada	Texas
California	Venezuela

In 1984 efforts will concentrate on:

#### SANDERLING, RED KNOT, RUDDY TURNSTONE, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER AND PIPING PLOVER

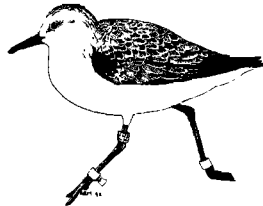
You may see marked shorebirds along North or South American coastlines, particularly on sandy beaches and sandflats. The location of leg bands and colored flags provides the key to where they were captured. Please note the color and location of each marker, and especially leg flags. Then send your observations, included date and place to:

Dr. J.P. Myers  
Pan American Shorebird Program  
Academy of Natural Sciences  
19th and The Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

#### REPORTS OF COLOR-MARKED BIRDS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND ACKNOWLEDGED.

If you would like to participate in other shorebird observer networks in your area, please contact us.

The Pan American Shorebird program is a collaborative program of World Wildlife Fund-US, The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza; Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California; Canadian Wildlife Service, Centro de Estudios de Migraciones de Aves, Brasília, Brasil, Instituto Nacional Forestal y de Fauna del Perú, International Council for Bird Preservation, Panamerican, Manomet Bird Observatory, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago, Chile, North Carolina State University; University of North Dakota, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Wader Study Group



Birders in shorebird habitat should turn their eyes toward shorebird legs this spring, summer, and fall, to advance the cause of shorebird conservation. Banders along shorebird migration corridors in North and South America have been color-marking migrants with leg flags and bands. These efforts, coordinated by the Pan American Shorebird Program, will identify sites throughout the Western Hemisphere that are important for the continued health of migratory shorebird populations. The goal is to link these sites in a network of parks, management units, and preserves—link them both through the movement of individual birds and through a common theme of shorebird conservation.

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small flange sticking out one side, identifies the country in which the bird was banded. All birds from Chile, for example, carry red flags. Color bands identify the date and site of banding within a country.

If you see a marked bird, first record the flag color. Then carefully record the color band combination by noting the position (upper or lower) and on which leg each color band is located. Even incom-

plete data are important and useful, especially with the flag color.

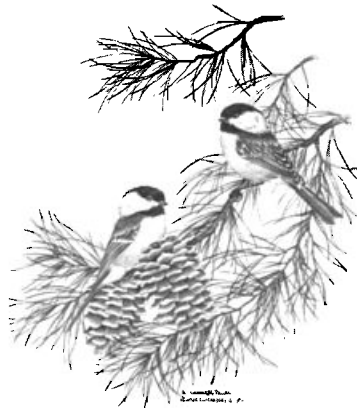
Send your information to the Pan American Shorebird Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and The Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103.

We are looking for people interested in participating in a coordinated network of marked birds. Those wishing more information should contact the Pan American Shorebird Program.



*Renwald*

*Drawing by J. David Renwald*



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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1984, VOLUME 38, NUMBER 1

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**COVER PHOTOGRAPH:** The front cover photo accompanies the first article in this issue, "Wooded islands in a sea of prairie" by Craig A. Faanes. It was taken by the author and illustrates a wooded draw complex in Williams County, North Dakota. The picture was taken with a Minolta SRT 101 with a 55 mm Rokkor lens. ASA 64 Kodachrome film was used at 1/60th second at F 5.6.

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