

American Birds

Spring 1986



Common Loon
Gavia immer

SPECIAL CANADIAN ISSUE

- The art of T.M. Shortt
- IOC/ICBP Meetings
- Canadian Directory
- Site Guides

Spring 1986
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...from the editor's desk

Traditionally in Spring, many birders and other naturalists fantasize escaping to the wilderness expanses of Canada in the upcoming summer. They contemplate exploring alpine or prairie meadows north of the border, photographing phalaropes, longspurs or rare gulls on the shores of James or Hudson Bays, searching out rare boreal-breeding birds in remote glaciated valleys or in dense spruce or balsam fir forests. For those who have already visited this second-largest country in the world, the desire to revisit is unquenchable. From the tiny fishing villages on the coasts of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, all across the country to the snow-capped peaks and rocky headlands of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, the glories of Canada are there waiting to be explored. The aurora borealis can be best seen in Canada; Ross' Gulls nest in Manitoba; Whooping Cranes nest in Alberta; Northern Gannets breed in Quebec; Leach's Storm-Petrels nest in sometimes quite dense colonies on the coastal islands off southern Labrador, Quebec, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia; King Eiders nest all across arctic Canada as well as along the western shores of James Bay in Ontario and Hudson Bay in Manitoba; Ferruginous Hawks breed in the southern Prairie Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba; Gyrfalcons nest across the vast treeless expanses of arctic Canada as do Rock Ptarmigan, Red Knots, Purple Sandpipers, and Pomarine, Parasitic and Long-tailed jaegers. The numbers and densities of passerines nesting in all of Canada's provinces are too numerous to even highlight. The boreal, sub-alpine, and montane forests vibrate with the songs of their nesters. There is enough teeming avifauna spanning this country's six time zones to please any birder of any level of expertise and experience.

The theme of our first issue of Volume 40, is Canada—birds, authors records, projects, and birding sites. We start off featuring one of Canada's foremost artists, and end with a Canadian directory of publications, libraries, collections, rare bird alerts, and maps and materials for the birder traveling in Canada. If anyone doubts the value of the site guides in this issue, refer back to the specific regional reports covering those areas to see how bird-rich each of them is.

Additionally, there are two major meetings of professional and amateur bird and conservation people in Kingston and Ottawa, Ontario, in June 1986, announced in these pages.

In this first issue of Volume 40, AMERICAN BIRDS introduces a new feature column which it intends to run in each of the four seasonal issues within each volume. This is the article authored by officers or delegates to the International Council for Bird Preservation. Through these articles, we hope to keep the readership informed on crucial bird conservation issues in the United States and internationally. If you would like to read about specific conservation problems or programs, write to us and we will try to fulfill those requests.

In our next issue we plan to resume publishing The Blue List. Conceptually this list serves as an early-warning inventory of bird species that, in the best opinion of people who spend the most time in the field—our reader-observers—appear to be declining in numbers, either throughout their North American ranges, or regionally. Species or races eligible for The Blue List are those apparently suffering non-cyclical population declines, but which have not reached the Endangered status. In that same Summer 1986 issue, we will once more publish a Cooperator's Questionnaire so that our readers can contribute their observations and experience for the next annual Blue List.

We would like to express our congratulations to Roger Tory Peterson, who received the Eugene Eisenmann Medal of the Linnaean Society of New York, March 10, 1986, at the Society's 108th Annual Meeting.

Have you read our AMERICAN BIRDS BIRDATHON advertisement on the inside back cover of this issue? How about sponsoring us and helping your favorite journal at the same time?

Stay tuned!

—S.R.D

MEETINGS

XIX INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS will be held in Ottawa, Canada, June 22-28, 1986, under the auspices of the National Museum of Natural Sciences (National Museums of Canada) with the assistance of the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, and with the participation of the Canadian ornithological community at large.

All of the scientific events and presentations will take place at the Ottawa Congress Centre.

Participation is open to anyone seriously interested in all aspects of current ornithology.

The official languages of the Congress are English and French.

The official opening of the Congress will be on Sunday, June 22, 1986. That evening, the presidential address will be given, followed by a reception for all members of the Congress.

Scientific events, including plenary lectures, symposia, posters, contributed papers, round table discussions, and

films, will be featured on Monday, June 23 through Saturday, June 28. The Congress will close on the evening of June 28, 1986.

Pre-Congress excursions and workshops will start on June 9, and post-congress excursions and workshops on June 30. These excursions include birding and natural history trips throughout the length and breadth of Canada, bird banding activities, trips to biological field stations within Canada, raptor research topics and techniques, and scenic coach and cruise trips.

For further information and registration forms contact:

XIX IOC Secretariat Office
342 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada, K2P 0M6
Telephone: 613-234-4398

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION XIX WORLD CONFERENCE, JUNE 15-21, 1986

THE 19TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP), will be held at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, immediately prior to the 19th International Ornithological Congress. Kingston is approximately 120 kilometers southwest of Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

The scientific program of the ICBP Conference is fully coordinated with that of the IOC. The ICBP comes together every four years at a world conference in order to view and evaluate the greatly expanded activities of the previous four years. In addition to reflecting critically on its achievements, the member organizations deliberate carefully on future priorities. During this conference there will be daily sympo-

sia dealing with birds as bio-indicators and economic resources, conservation of birds in steppes and steppe-like habitats, conservation of altiplano avifauna, conservation of seabirds, tropical forests, and management of threatened bird populations. All of these topics are of worldwide importance for the work of the ICBP.

For further information contact:

International Council for Bird Preservation
XIX World Conference
219c, Huntingdon Road
Cambridge, United Kingdom
CB3 0DL

ICBP Technical Publications

- No. 1. *Conservation of New World Parrots*. Proceedings of ICBP Parrot Working Group meeting, St. Lucia, 1980. Ed. R. Pasquier. 485 pp. Available from the Smithsonian Institution Press for \$14.
- No. 2. *Status and Conservation of the World's Seabirds*. Proceedings of ICBP Seabird Symposium, Cambridge, 1982. Ed. J.P. Croxall, P.G.H. Evans and R.W. Schreiber. 790 pp. Available from ICBP. £26.90.
- No. 3. *Conservation of Island Birds*. Proceedings of symposium held at ICBP World Conference, Cambridge, 1982. Ed. P.J. Moors. 288 pp. Available from ICBP. £16.50.

- No. 4. *Conservation of Tropical Forest Birds*. Proceedings of symposium and workshop held at ICBP World Conference, Cambridge, 1982. Ed. A.W. Diamond and T.E. Lovejoy. 332 pp. Available from ICBP. £18.50.
- No. 5. *Conservation Studies on Raptors*. Proceedings of the ICBP World Conference on Birds of Prey, Thessaloniki, 1982. Ed. I. Newton and R.D. Chancellor. 494 pp. Available from ICBP. £25.50.

Volumes on the following subjects are in preparation:

- Conservation of Cranes
- Single Island Endemic Species

(Information on pre-publication discount offers is available from ICBP)

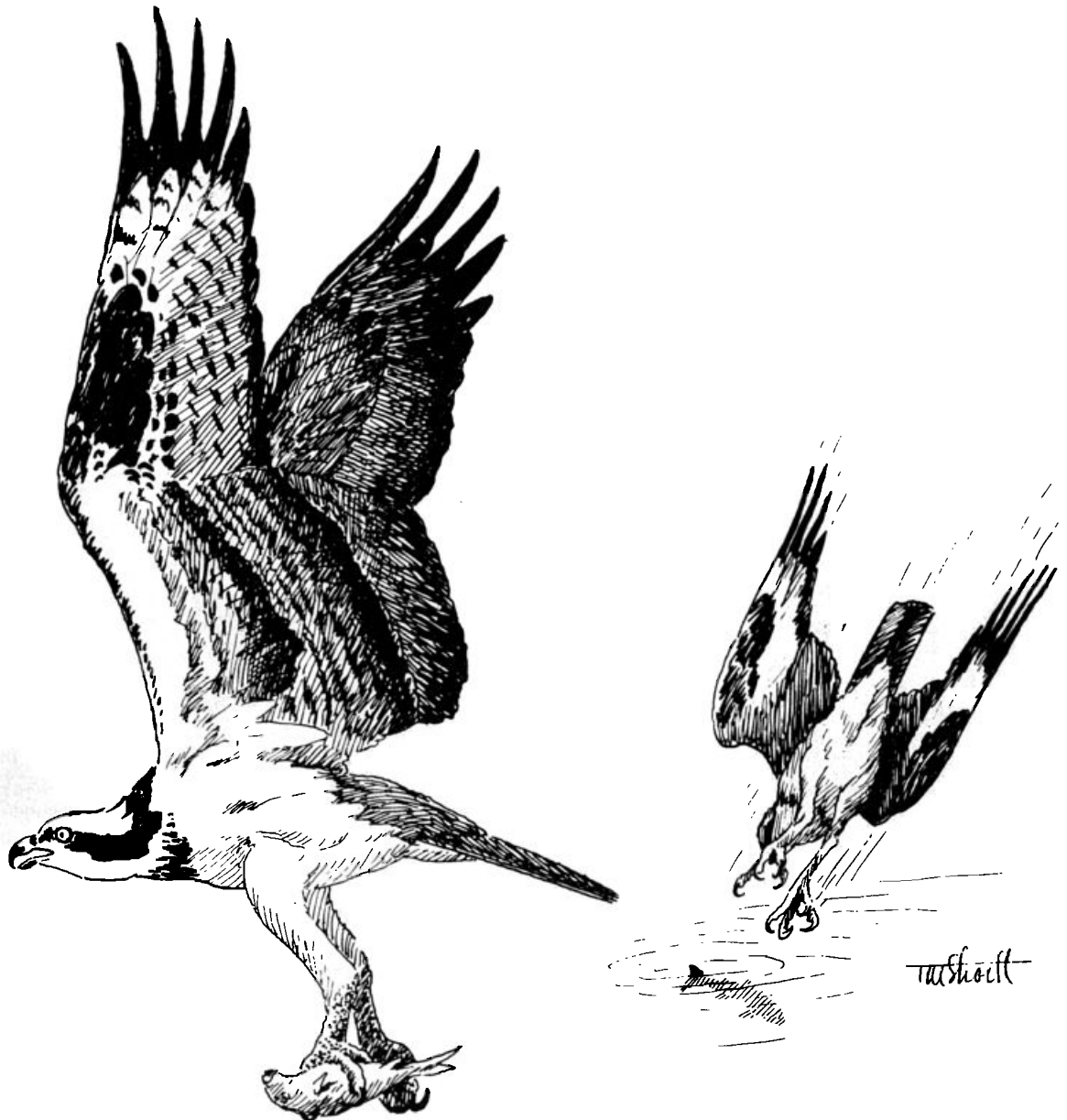
Where to order:

ICBP, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, England (prices are inclusive of postage and handling)

Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC 20560

University of Wisconsin Press, 114 N. Murray Street, Madison, WI 53715

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Market Place

Market Place Rates: \$1.00/word for one insertion; 75¢/word for 2-3 insertions; 50¢/word for 4 or more insertions. Send payment with copy. Copy deadlines: Summer — May 20; Autumn — Sept. 1; Christmas Bird Count — Sept. 15; Winter — November 15. Send to: AMERICAN BIRDS, Market Place, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

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PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED: One hundred photographers are needed to become involved in a unique photo project from June 16-30, 1986, in Africa. Open primarily for photographers wishing to become published, this project involves shooting a hardcover 150 page, full color book which will photographically capture the people, land, wildlife, and beauty of Kenya. The cost will be \$2650 all inclusive. For complete details and selection procedures, please contact PROJECT KENYA, P.O. Box 3494, Champaign, Ill. 61821 or call 217-352-3667.

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Our November **NEW ZEALAND** tour emphasizes kiwis and other endemic bird families and species, but we won't neglect the splendid scenery of the southern Alps and the fjords. The tour will be led by Stuart Chambers, an experienced New Zealand birder. Cost \$1695.

In November-December we'll operate an **AUSTRALIA- NEW GUINEA** tour guided by Chris Doughty, one of Australia's best birders. You'll see beautiful scenery, marsupial mammals and many species of birds. Participants of previous tours described Chris as "energetic, good-natured, enthusiastic and persevering," "a superb leader, he is enthusiastic, energetic, has quick eyes, fast and accurate identifications and the maturity to handle any problems that came up," "a great leader: he had all of us on 99.9% of the species eventually." Cost Australia - \$1995, New Guinea - \$2995, both - \$4750.

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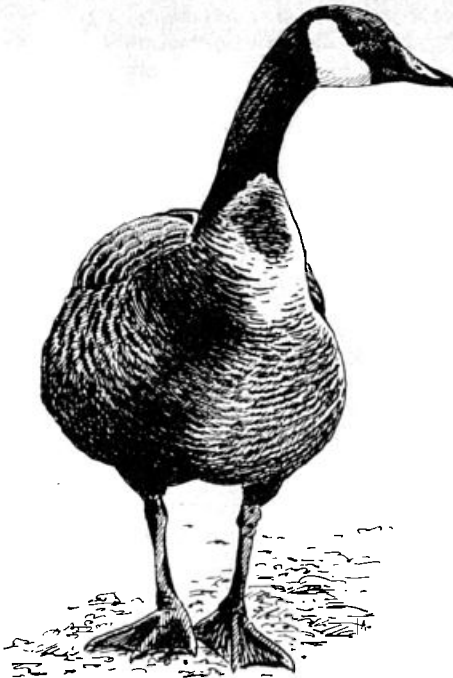
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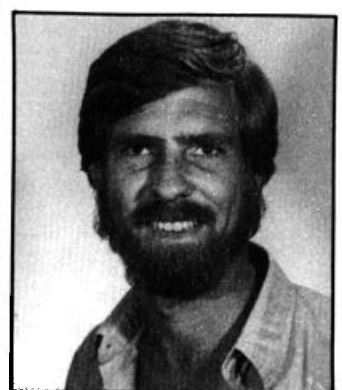
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The *American Birds* birding team includes (from left to right), Sandy Sprunt, Vice President and Director of the National Audubon Society's Science and Sanctuaries Division and member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *American Birds*; Joseph Siphron, member of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society and an avid birder who has traveled throughout several continents looking for birds; Susan Drennan and Kenn Kaufman, Editor and Regional Reports Editor, respectively, of *American Birds*. Each of them devotes quite a bit of time to pursuing birds.

On April 29, 1986, these four birders will be covering all of the hot-spots in southern Florida in hopes of running up a big species list for their one-day birdathon. With diligent work, a carefully planned strategy, and a large helping of luck they should work up a team list of anywhere from 135 to 150 species. They will be covering south Florida, south of the Tamiami Trail, including Everglades National

Park, Florida Bay, and the upper Keys. Part of the Birdathon will be covered by boat.

The *American Birds* team is looking for sponsors, each of whom will be willing to pledge a certain amount of money for each species the team sees or hears. Then it is the team's responsibility to find as many as possible on April 29.

The purpose of this Birdathon is to raise funds to defray some of the costs of producing *American Birds*. Right now the magazine is operating at a sizeable deficit and every penny earned in the Birdathon will be of direct benefit.

If you feel that you can sponsor the team, please complete one of the coupons on the facing page and submit it to *American Birds* as soon as possible. Each person who makes a pledge will receive a running account of the trip, together with the species total that will determine the amount of his contribution. Every contribution is tax deductible.

We need your help!! Please support this Birdathon with your generous pledge.

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