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*Winter 1988*



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## ... from the editor's desk

This was the year that Mother Nature decided to step out of the shadows and take revenge.

Hot weather and smog alerts were consuming topics of conversation. Drought across America caused the landscape to take on the appearance of a piece of unglazed brown pottery. Chlorofluorocarbon pollution continued to blast the now-famous gaping hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. There is still no relief in sight from floods that put Bangladesh under 10 feet of water. Hurricane Gilbert tore through Jamaica with winds of up to 200 mph. Locusts plagued African agriculture. Wind-driven forest fires transformed millions of acres of trees into charred, smoldering stumps.

An earthquake entombed thousands of people high in the Caucasus Mountains of Armenia. Landfills overflowed. The "throwaway" culture caused old Mom Nature to vomit up excess medical refuse on beaches along the eastern seaboard. Acid rain pollution from the Midwest continued to compound problems in eastern forests and lakes.

Staggering amounts of man-made pollution continued to cause the formation of a dangerous global hothouse, the infamous "greenhouse effect."

For the eighth consecutive year, Congress failed to pass new clean air legislation. Global climatic conditions are destined to worsen in the coming years. Many now recognize that global warming is the overarching environmental problem. The dreadful consequences from rising tides threatening coastal communities to baked, parched farmlands will steadily worsen as long as government refuses to act. "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Politicians recognize the dangers of the disease, but quake at the cure. Reversing the "greenhouse effect" calls for a profound reordering of industrial society. This is a problem too big, too complex, and too deep to simply blame political cowardice and corporate greed. Before the political system can be expected to respond seriously and responsibly to the global warming crisis, consumers must become fully aware of the dangers and be committed to attacking the problem with intelligence and resolve.

Make 1989 the year you learn every side of the global warming problem. Make it a year in which you write your congresspeople expressing your views and offering solutions. Urge them to vote for legislation that will promote clean air.

The birding community is filled with bright go-getters. Go get 'em on this issue. The future of birds and birders depends on its happy resolution.

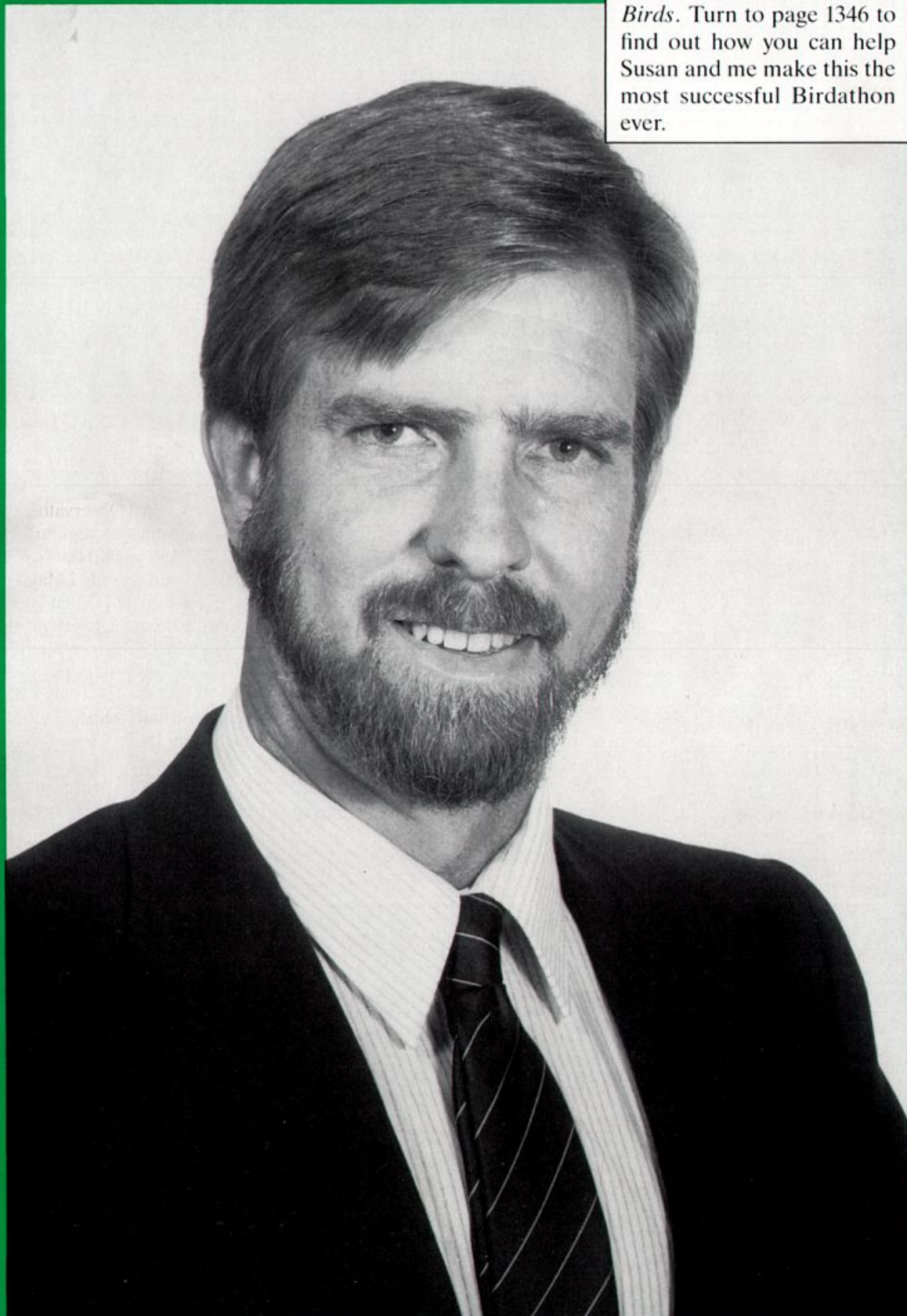
A wish for a successful New Year to all of our loyal readers.

Cheers,

**S.R.D.**



Hello! I'm Kenn Kaufman,  
associate editor of *American  
Birds*. Turn to page 1346 to  
find out how you can help  
Susan and me make this the  
most successful Birdathon  
ever.

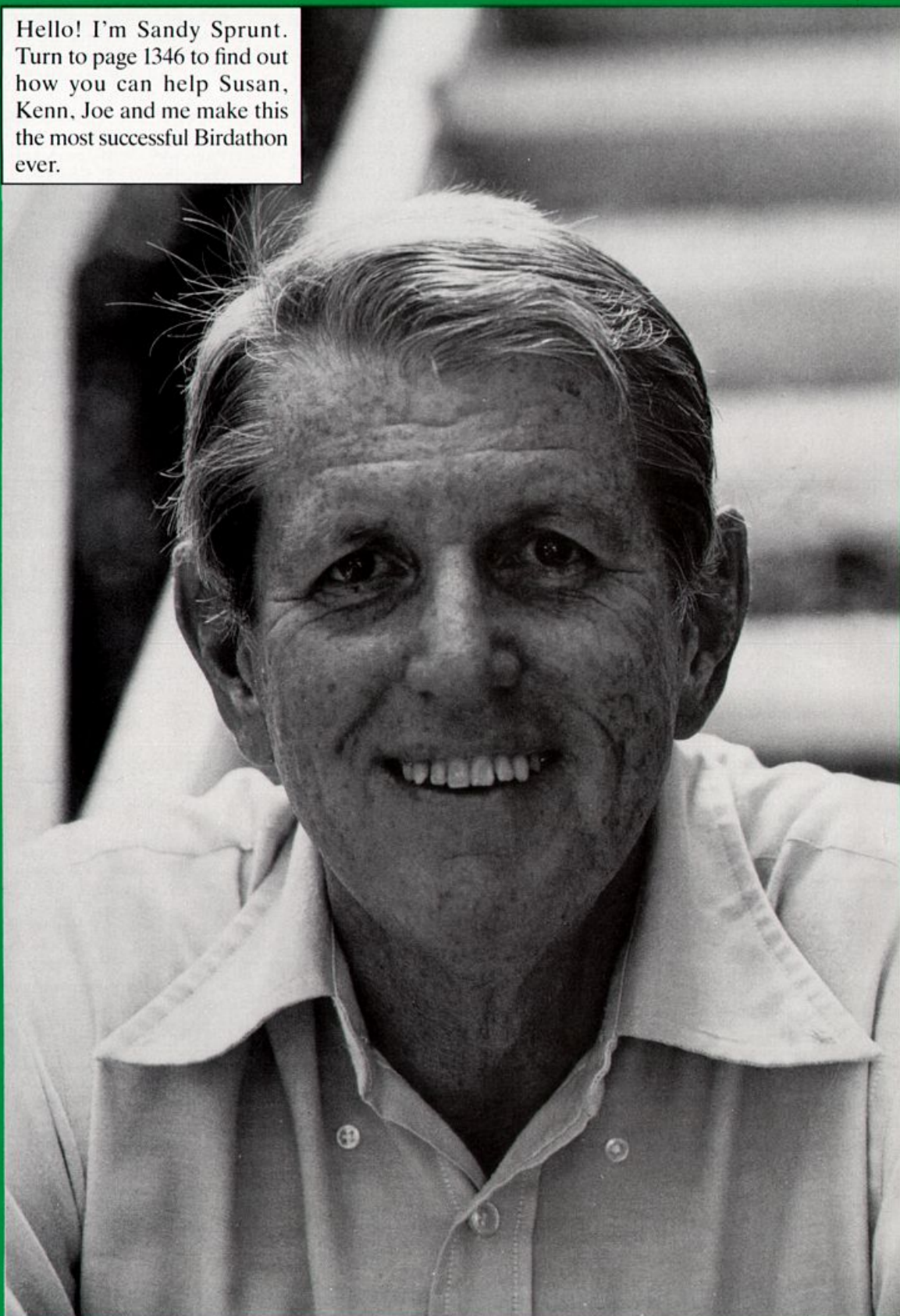


Hello! I'm Joe Siphron. Turn to page 1346 to find out how you can help Susan, Kenn and me make this the most successful Birdathon ever.





Hello! I'm Sandy Sprunt.  
Turn to page 1346 to find out  
how you can help Susan,  
Kenn, Joe and me make this  
the most successful Birdathon  
ever.



# Be an Advocate for Avocets



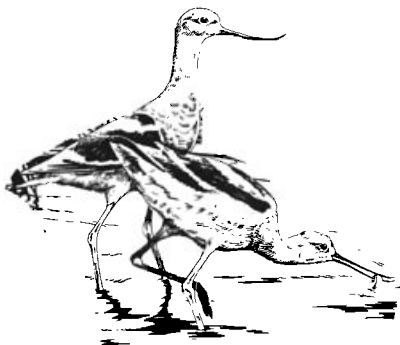
Photo: Ken W. Gardiner.

Avocets, like most shorebirds, need wetlands. And wetlands are disappearing fast. We're losing 450,000 acres of wetland habitat each year to development and agriculture. But Audubon Activists in every flyway are fighting to save wetlands—and winning!

Stand up for shorebirds! Join the Audubon Activist Network.

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Drawing: Charles W. Schwartz.

☐ **Yes**, I want to have a say in conservation issues that affect me.  
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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# *American Birds* **BIRDATHON / 89**

**AMERICAN BIRDS' only annual fund-raising event**

**needs your support!**





On May 2, our super-birding team will take to the field in Arizona. They'll scour the area around Tucson to find as many bird species as possible in 24 hours.

Pledge as much as you can per species in support of *American Birds*. Your pledge will be multiplied times the number of species seen to determine your donation.

### Your Team

This year's group of intrepid birders includes: editor of *American Birds* Susan Roney Drennan, associate editor of *American Birds* Kenn Kaufman, National Audubon Society Vice President and Director of Research Sandy Sprunt, NAS board members Joe Siphron and Bart Rea, and special friends of *American Birds* Steve Russell and Liz Rea.

### Bonus Prize

Last year, our team found 118 species; two years ago they found 153. How many will they find this year? Guess the correct number of species and win an *American Birds* thermos.

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## *American Birds* **BIRDATHON/89**

**Yes!** I want to help support **AMERICAN BIRDS**. Here's my pledge per species:

- |                                 |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$3.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 75¢    | <input type="checkbox"/> 50¢    | <input type="checkbox"/> 25¢    |
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I guess that the AMERICAN BIRDS team will find \_\_\_\_\_ species.  
If I'm right, you'll send me an AMERICAN BIRDS thermos, FREE.

Send no money, invoices will be sent out immediately after Birdathon/89.  
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