

# THE FUTURE OF BIRDING IN AMERICA

*Binoculars, field guide, notebook, maybe a camera and a spotting scope—the stuff of birding really hasn't changed much in the last half-century. Hey, "if it's not broke...."*

*Still, in the last decade we have witnessed an explosion of new consumer technology that has affected almost every other area of our lives. Computers, new kinds of cameras, microwaves, VCRs, camcorders, faxes, cellular phones....*

*More remarkable is that in the space of a mere two or three years, the world's face has changed in the most profound ways. Barriers have toppled, nations have been reborn, and old enemies are at least talking.*

*All of these changes can affect birding: how we enjoy watching and listening, the way we study and learn, where we travel and the birds we see, the knowledge available to us, what we pass on to others.*

*This isn't to say that all change is necessarily good or that there's anything wrong with traditional ways. But simply, that we should understand the new in order to make wise decisions.*

*In this spirit, American Birds presents this special section on the future of birding. We hope you find it enlightening.*

—THE EDITORS