

# North American Birds

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION



the nesting season

VOLUME 53: NO. 4, 1999  
JUNE THROUGH JULY 1999



# E L c l a s s

*The Ultimate Birding Glass...*  
No Compromises



**New** "E L Class" birding binoculars represent a radical breakthrough in premium optical technology from Swarovski Optik. In optical performance...wide field of view with great depth of focus, weight—27.5oz, close focus—6ft, and a narrow tube "Grip-ability" for hand comfort, perfection was achieved. No compromises were allowed in the E L Class design\* or manufacture.

Available in 8.5 X 42 and 10 X 42 specifications,

the new E L's have rugged, light weight magnesium alloy housings, and an entirely new optical system delivering extreme image sharpness and brilliant, neutral color transmission.

There are no other birding binoculars on the planet as good as the new E L's from Swarovski. See what no compromising means for your birding. Call 800-426-3089 or visit [www.swarovskioptik.com](http://www.swarovskioptik.com) for more information.



**SWAROVSKI**  
O P T I K

Swarovski Optik North America, Ltd., 2 Slater Road, Cranston, RI 02920

\*patent applied for



# contents

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 53: NUMBER 4 • 1999

## the nesting season: JUNE THROUGH JULY 1999

### THE REGIONAL REPORTS

#### 359 Atlantic Provinces

BRUCE MACTAVISH

#### 361 Québec

NORMAND DAVID,  
YVES AUBRY,  
and PIERRE BANNON

#### 363 New England

WAYNE R. PETERSEN

#### 367 Hudson-Delaware

ROBERT O. PAXTON,  
JOSEPH C. BURGIEL,  
and DAVID A. CUTLER

#### 371 Middle Atlantic Coast

MARSHALL J. ILIFF

#### 375 Southern Atlantic Coast

RICKY DAVIS

#### 377 Florida

RICHARD T. PAUL  
and ANN F. SCHNAPP

#### 380 Ontario

CLIVE E. GOODWIN  
DAVID H. ELDER  
Two seasons are covered in this issue:  
Winter and the Nesting Season

#### 385 Appalachian

ROBERT C. LEBERMAN

#### 388 Western Great Lakes

DARYL D. TESSEN

#### 391 Middlewestern Prairie

KENNETH J. BROCK

#### 395 Central Southern

ROBERT D. PURRINGTON

#### 347 Editor's Notebook

#### 348 Eurasian Collared-Dove in North America and the Caribbean

CHRISTINA M. ROMAGOSA  
and TERRY MCENEANEY

#### 354 Changing Seasons: Understanding Appearances

TOM WILL

#### 437 1999 Index *North American Birds*

#### 441 First North American Photographic Record: Intermediate Egret at Midway Atoll

SCOTT RICHARDSON

#### 444 Market Place

#### 445 Pictorial Highlights

#### 399 Prairie Provinces

RUDOLF F. KOES  
and PETER TAYLOR

#### 401 Northern Great Plains

RON E. MARTIN

#### 403 Southern Great Plains

JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI  
Two seasons are covered in this issue:  
Spring Migration and the Nesting Season

#### 408 Texas

GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON,  
WILLIE SEKULA, MARK LOCKWOOD,  
and CLIFF SHACKELFORD

#### 412 Idaho-Western Montana

DAVID TROCHLELL

#### 413 Mountain West

VAN A. TRUAN  
and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

#### 415 Arizona

GARY H. ROSENBERG  
and ROY JONES

#### 418 New Mexico

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

#### 420 Alaska

THEDE G. TOBISH JR.

#### 423 British Columbia-Yukon

MICHAEL G. SHEPARD

#### 425 Oregon-Washington

BILL TWEIT, STEVE MLODINOW,  
and BILL TICE

#### 428 Middle Pacific Coast

DON ROBERSON,  
STEPHEN C. ROTTENBORN,  
SCOTT B. TERRILL,  
and DANIEL S. SINGER

#### 432 Southern Pacific Coast

GUY McCASKIE

#### 435 Hawaiian Islands

ROBERT L. PYLE

#### 436 West Indies

ROBERT L. NORTON

### ON THE COVER

Considered noteworthy in a full third of the season's regional reports, Black-necked Stilts made a strong showing continent-wide and repeated last year's new nestings in Alberta and North Dakota. The adult female (note the brownish mantle coloration) was photographed in June at Horicon N.W.R. She established a first Wisconsin nesting record when she shared duties—perhaps with the male that graced last issue's Pictorial Highlights—and produced five juveniles, three of which posed for the camera in July (see Changing Seasons). Photograph/Jack Bartholmai





## American Birding Association

### PRESIDENT

Richard H. Payne

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Wayne R. Petersen

### SECRETARY

Ann Stone

### TREASURER

Dennis H. Lacoss

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenneth P. Able

Margaret Bain

P. A. Buckley

Jon Dunn

Thomas J. Gilmore

Bettie R. Harriman

John C. Kricher

Greg W. Lasley

Blake Maybank

Michael Ord

Richard H. Payne

Harry Tow

Henry Turner

Gerald J. Ziarno

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul Green

### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Lynn Yeager

### DEVELOPMENT

Lee Kellogg

### CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Lina DiGregorio

### CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

Ken Hollinga

### ADVERTISING

Ken Barron

### GENERAL COUNSEL

Daniel T. Williams Jr.

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Allan R. Keith (1997–1999)

Daniel T. Williams Jr. (1993–1997)

Allan R. Keith (1989–1993)

Lawrence G. Balch (1983–1989)

Joseph W. Taylor (1979–1983)

Arnold Small (1976–1979)

G. Stuart Keith (1973–1976)

G. Stuart Keith (1970 *pro tem*)

# North American Birds

is published by the American Birding Association

The mission of the journal is to provide a complete overview  
of the changing panorama of our continent's birdlife,  
including outstanding records, range extensions and contractions,  
population dynamics, and changes in migration patterns  
or seasonal occurrence.

### PUBLISHER

ABA / Henry Turner

### GUEST EDITOR

Tom Will

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Carol S. Lawson

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Victoria Irwin

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jon Dunn and Kenn Kaufman

### EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Susan Roney Drennan

### REGIONAL EDITORS

Bruce H. Anderson, Yves Aubry, Margaret Bain, Pierre Bannon, Kenneth J. Brock,  
Joseph C. Burgiel, Steven W. Cardiff, Hugh Currier, David A. Cutler, Normand David,  
Ricky Davis, David H. Elder, Walter G. Ellison, Jeff Gilligan, Steve Glover,  
Clive E. Goodwin, Jim Granlund, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Theo Hofmann, Pam Hunt,  
Marshall J. Iliff, Greg D. Jackson, Roy Jones, Rudolf E. Koes, Greg W. Lasley,  
Robert C. Leberman, Gerard Lillie, Bruce Mactavish, Nancy L. Martin, Ron E. Martin,  
Blake Maybank, Guy McCaskie, Ian A. McLaren, Steven G. Mlodinow, Robert L. Norton,  
Richard T. Paul, Robert O. Paxton, Brandon K. Percival, Simon Perkins,  
Wayne R. Petersen, Bill Pranty, Robert D. Purrington, Robert L. Pyle, Don Roberson,  
Gary H. Rosenberg, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Ann F. Schnapf, Chuck Sexton,  
Michael G. Shepard, Daniel S. Singer, Stephen J. Stedman, Peter Taylor, Scott B. Terrill,  
Daryl D. Tessen, Bill Tice, Thede G. Tobish Jr., David Trochlell, Van A. Truan, Bill Tweit,  
Richard L. West, Sartor O. Williams III

### PRODUCTION EDITOR

Susanna v.R. Lawson

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Constance J. Eldridge and Kim LeSueur

### CIRCULATION

Jill Fife, Therese Ford, and Anna Grimmett

*North American Birds* (ISSN 1525-3708) (USPS 872-200) is published quarterly by the American Birding Association, Inc., 720 West Monument Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3624. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: return postage guaranteed; send address changes and POD forms 3579 to *North American Birds*, PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80934-6599. Subscription prices: \$30/year (US) and US\$35/year (Canada). Copyright © 1999 by the American Birding Association, Inc., all rights reserved. Printed by Publishers Printing, Shepherdsville, Kentucky. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the American Birding Association or its management. ABA is not responsible for the quality of products or services advertised in *North American Birds*, unless the products or services are being offered directly by the Association. GST Registration No. R135943454.



**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS  
USED IN THE REGIONAL  
REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used  
in place names**

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

**Abbreviations used  
in the names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations  
and symbols referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenile or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

# ABA SALES

reference books • regional guides •  
videos • CDs • videos • software  
optics and birding gear

**800/634-7736**

**abasales@abasales.com**

<http://www.americanbirding.org/abasales/>

## AviSys 4.55 for Windows

**As Simple As You Wish ~ As Powerful As You Need**

**The Leader ~ A Giant Step Ahead Of All The Rest**

AviSys is a full-featured worldwide database and reporting system for serious birders. It can be enhanced by adding the Official Shawneen Finnegan Worldwide Nation Checklist Add-On (as provided in BirdArea by Santa Barbara Software Products), providing the most authoritative, highest quality, and most up-to-date checklists of the 254 nations of the world. The checklists are tightly and seamlessly integrated with AviSys, providing beautiful screen and printed output with seen, seen-in-nation, and endemic markers, and instant worldwide nation-by-nation range query for any species. AviSys produces seen reports, checklists and hit lists of any nation or state, any group of any number of nations or states, and all ABA Regions and Areas.

Now, you can instantly reduce the on-screen list from a world or NA list to the checklist of any nation, state, county, wildlife refuge, etc., whether provided by AviSys or created by you. Deal with only the birds you need.

One AviSys user wrote: "OUTSTANDING! I have been a computer professional for over 30 years and must congratulate you on generating state-of-the-art, convenient to use, efficient and reliable software." Another says: "AVISYS IS A BLAST!" Precisely our objective.

- \* **Unlimited Number of Lists:** all major geographic lists **automatically updated**. Example: assigning a sighting to your yard also updates your City, County, State, Nation, Continent, worldwide ABA Area, worldwide ABA Region, and Life lists.
- \* **Full ABA N.A. Checklist, Clements World Checklist, and Official Tony White State/Province Checklists, all fully integrated** with screen and report facilities.
- \* **The Fastest, Easiest and Most Flexible** sighting entry—just click on the birds. AviSys has absolutely unmatched search facilities, including **World Band Codes!**
- \* **Unlimited Reporting and Listing** by date range, season, geography, species, habitat, behavior, sex, nesting status, heard-only, photographed, key-words, etc.
- \* **Census Spreadsheets** for population, sighting, CBC, and ornithology studies.
- \* **Supports Thayer's Birds of NA CD-ROM while working on your data.**
- \* **Free! NABA Butterfly, Dragonfly, Reptile/Amphib. data sets on our web site!**
- \* **BirdBase users** — ask for our free comprehensive data conversion facility.

**Visit our web site at: [www.avisys.net](http://www.avisys.net)**

**Orders or info, call 1-800-354-7755 ~ 24 hours ~ MC/VISA**

**AviSys 4.55 for Windows 95/98/3.1 ~ \$99.95 ~ S&H \$4.00**

**Nation Checklist Add-On (BirdArea) ~ \$59.95 ~ (S&H \$4.00 if ordered separately)**

**60 day money back ~ Perceptive Systems, PO Box 3530, Silverdale, WA 98383**

**Fast as a Falcon ~ Powerful as an Eagle ~ Friendly as a Chickadee**

# field guides

BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE



## ARIZONA'S SECOND SPRING

July 29-August 8, 2000  
with Chris Benesh

A great season to visit SE Arizona: summer rains refresh the desert and mountains, bird activity is high, and it's a great time for Mexican vagrants.

## BRAZIL SAMPLER

November 10-26, 2000  
with Jan Pierson & Chris Kightley

Itatiaia, Iguaçu Falls & the southern Pantanal, world-famous for their abundance of birds & wildlife in spectacular settings.

## AUSTRALIA: KAKADU, KUNUNURRA & LOTUS BIRD LODGE

July 19-August 4, 2000 with  
John Coons & Doug McRae

The best birding of the north at a great season in three famous areas, this year including the specialties of the Cape York peninsula.

## TAMBOPATA-CANDAMO RESERVE, PERU

September 30-October 15, 2000  
with Dave Stejskal

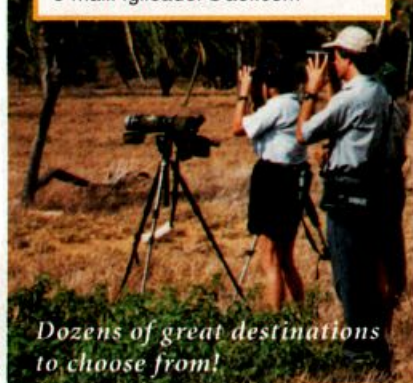
Long-famed Explorer's Inn and the Candamo Reserve joined for highly diverse rainforest birding in southeastern Peru; also a very good chance for Harpy Eagle.

Call for our free itineraries & catalog of  
100 departures worldwide.

**800-728-4953**

**field guides** INC.

9433 BEE CAVE ROAD,  
BUILDING 1, SUITE 150,  
AUSTIN, TX 78733  
FAX 512-263-0117  
<http://www.fieldguides.com>  
e-mail: [fgileader@aol.com](mailto:fgileader@aol.com)



*Dozens of great destinations  
to choose from!*

# market place

## CENTER TRAVEL

ECUADOR, COSTA RICA, BELIZE, ENGLAND, & AFRICA. We use resident bird guides to provide Expert birding! Whether you are a First-timer or an experienced lister, our Consultant can answer all your questions and customize an itinerary to your needs. Low airfares, hotels, transfers, guides. Call toll-free (800) 324-5680 or visit us at [www.birdtrips.com](http://www.birdtrips.com)

## THE LODGE ON LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND

Only 30 guests on 10,000 acres of Georgia barrier island wilderness. 200+ species include Painted Buntings, Gull-billed Terns, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Interpretive naturalists, canoeing, boating, fishing, bicycles, and horse-back riding. Elegantly rustic accommodations and gourmet regional cuisine. Visit our web page: [www.LittleStSimonsIsland.com](http://www.LittleStSimonsIsland.com) or call toll-free (888) 733-5774.

## INSTRUCTIONAL MULTIMEDIA BIRD CD-ROM

LANIUS SOFTWARE's North American Bird Reference Book presents 910 bird species accounts. Includes 771 photographs, 407 songs, and 626 range maps. Features songs of Lang Elliott and Kevin Colver, and photographs of Brian Small and Kevin Karlson. ONLY \$29.95!! Includes tutorial, quizzes, and full-featured life list utility. Call 925-932-4201 or visit us at [www.glenalpine.com/lanius](http://www.glenalpine.com/lanius)

## THE BEST OF UTAH

Let the locals show you why this is America's best "undiscovered" birding. Visit scenic Deseret Ranch, other hotspots for Sage & Blue Grouse, Chukar, Gray Partridge, Black Rosy-Finch, Flammulated Owl, many more. Call Westwings at 801/487-9453 for a schedule, or e-mail [westwings@sisna.com](mailto:westwings@sisna.com)

# Dry Tortugas

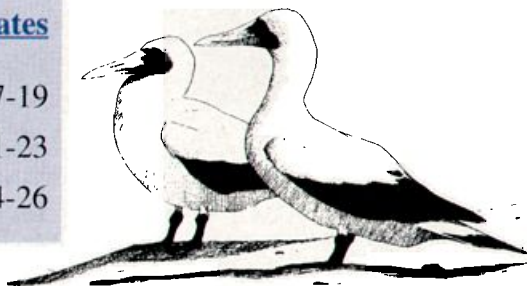
*Great seabird spectacle, migrants, sometimes in  
dazzling numbers, and frequent rarities, all in  
an appealing setting.*

## 2000 Dates

April 17-19

April 21-23

April 24-26



Cost for each 2000 shuttle is \$495 and includes meals  
and boat berths the night before departure.

Special arrangements for campers and groups.

For information, please contact:

## WINGS

1643 N. Alvernon Way, Ste. 105 • Tucson, AZ 85712

Tel: 520-320-9868 • Fax: 520-320-9373

E-mail: [wings@wingsbirds.com](mailto:wings@wingsbirds.com)