



Roundtable

... with Louis C. Fink

Birding on the Road

Marion Jones's article in the Spring 1980 CBC NEWSLETTER brought back memories of my trip to Europe in 1967—and what seemed to be the startling differences I found in three countries. In London, my banker-friend knew exactly what I wanted. He put me on the bus to Hampstead Heath for a marvelous day of bird-watching. Once there, I met a young Irishman who was more than willing to help me find birds. In Paris, I made contact with an ornithological society, but the language barrier proved too much for me and them—and I was left to explore Versailles and the Bois de Boulogne on my own. Rome was the climax! The Italians could not believe that I wanted to *see* birds and not shoot them. The Romans were uniformly polite and assured me that if I wanted to see birds, I should go to the zoo and not wander about the countryside!

There is a trick I have used with great success in this country. In visits to 25 cities, I have always written in advance to the compiler of the Christmas Count and asked him to suggest a good place for birding. About 50% of the locals can't resist the temptation to show off their good birds to a stranger. Denver was the best in terms of species: two volunteers added 49 birds to my life list in one day. But Tucson was even more rewarding! I went birding with Edward Chalif (just after he had finished his Mexican book with Roger Peterson) and was graciously entertained for dinner.

In all fairness, let me say that I have returned the favor many times by showing visitors my favorite spots. I'll never forget the man from Scotland with a life list of over 2,000. All he wanted was to see a Brown-headed Nuthatch, and we found one.—
LCF

CBC Members in Print

"William Brewster's Exploration of the Southern Appalachian Mountains: The Journal of 1885" edited by MARCUS B. SIMPSON JR. appears in the January 1980 issue of *The North Carolina Historical Review* (57:43-77). Dr. Simpson's commentary relates the journal entries to statements in Brewster's published account of the journey (Auk 3:94-112 and 173-179) as well as to the presently known status of the species mentioned. Brewster's journal provides important documentation of conditions in the southern Appalachians when much of the land was untouched by the logging industry. The paper is generously illustrated with appropriate photographs and drawings from the period.

"The Boy Who Wanted to Paint Birds" by JAY SHULER (Birding 11:280-283) is a brief but intimate biographical sketch of William Zimmerman, whose Bachman's Warbler painting was reproduced on the cover of the Spring 1977 *Chat*. Reprinted in the same issue of *Birding* are two articles from *Chat* pertaining to the Bachman's

Warbler. The American Birding Association is offering a limited edition of 1000 signed and numbered copies of Zimmerman's Bachman's Warbler painting as the first in its art print series (\$40 members, \$50 to nonmembers). Among the artists for future editions is H. DOUGLAS PRATT, whose work appears in *Chat* from time to time.

"Notes on Nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoos" by ELOISE F. POTTER (*Journal of Field Ornithology*, Winter 1980, 51:17-29) is a detailed accounting of the Yellow-billed Cuckoos that nested in the author's yard in 1973. As the nest was only 12 m from a convenient window and at eye-level, nesting could be observed intimately without any human disturbance. The result is far more information than A.C. Bent included in his famed *Life Histories*. The article is a genuine contribution to our store of knowledge and a solid demonstration of what a competent observer can accomplish without extensive travel.

One Approach to Woodpecker Damage

During the fall of 1979 several large holes were made by woodpeckers, completely through the redwood siding of a house in Paducah, Kentucky. I suggested the hanging of net bags of suet around the yard where the woodpeckers would find them. The owners of the house have since reported that the woodpeckers are on the suet constantly and have not drilled on the house since the suet was made available.—MRS. L. WOOLFENDEN, 250 Pecan Drive, Paducah, Kentucky 42001 (Reprinted from *Kentucky Warbler* 56:23)

Note: Woodpeckers have caused complaints by tapping on metal gutters, staking territorial claims rather than seeking food. At my home in New Jersey, a Downy Woodpecker drilled into a freshly painted wall, was held by the fresh paint, and died.—LCF

Finding an Olive-sided Flycatcher

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is classified as rare in North Carolina, usually restricted to the mountains in summer. Here are directions to the spot where I heard the bird in June 1979:

From Blowing Rock, take US 221 south to Linville Falls (some miles south of Linville). At the town of Linville Falls, go left on NC 183. After a mile or less on this road, find a sign on the right by a narrow dirt road reading "Wiseman's View." This road is best suited for a Jeep, but we made it in a conventional car. Continue on this road until a sign on the left denotes a turn-off for Wiseman's View. Do not turn but continue past the sign for about a mile. I heard the bird on the south slope of a mountain on the right-hand side of the road, with a clearing for camping. On the slope was cluster of pines; most of the trees were hardwoods. I could not see the river but could hear it on the left.—GAIL T. WHITEHURST, 1505 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

Help for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

"The Red-cockaded Woodpecker: Notes on Life History and Management," by Robert G. Hooper, Andrew F. Robinson Jr., and Jerome A. Jackson, is an 8-page report that provides landowners and foresters with advice on forestry practices that will aid in creating a favorable habitat for this endangered species. Illustrated with a range map and 18 color photographs, the report describes the bird, its life history, and how to distinguish it from other birds. To obtain a free copy of General Report SA-GR 9, write to USDA Forest, Information Center, Suite 816, 1720 Peachtree Road N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367.