

EDITORS' NOTEBOOK

Conservation corners

The summer issue is often light in content, as it covers just two months rather than three or four, and so, in an effort to provide something innovative, the team of editors decided to offer a page of space (or so) to Regional Editors who might like to countenance their Regions' conservation challenges, especially at the level of habitat or ecoregion, for our readers who might know a great deal about rare or endangered birds in their areas but perhaps less about what threats these birds, as well as more common species, face in the present and in years to come. As is true of the Regional Reports, these conservation summaries—labeled “The State of the Region”—are heterogeneous in style and emphasis, some more essayistic, others brimming with referenced statistics. Most summaries make mention of the Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) conceived in 2001 by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). If, like so many of us who help edit the journal, you have trouble keeping up with the alphabet soup of acronyms and abbreviations in the bird conservation arena, the “Changing Seasons” essay provides a partial primer on recent continental and ecoregional efforts, including a map of the BCRs. Although we do not have plans to offer a regular “State of the Region,” we hope to see at least a half-page Conservation Corner as an occasional feature offered in the Regional Reports, to keep readers abreast of their Regions'

news in the race to preserve habitats and birds.

For their help in reviewing much of the conservation-oriented material in this issue, the editors thank Bruce Peterjohn, Paul Baicich, and Ken Rosenberg.

—Edward S. Brinkley

Seen a SORA lately?

Free access to literature online, called “Open-access,” is currently a hot topic among librarians and publishers. Free is definitely good, but free access to one of the richest sources of knowledge on birds is better. This year, SORA—the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive (<<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora>>—has come on line. For readers interested searching topics in, and browsing articles on, virtually any ornithological subject, the contents of *Auk*, *Condor*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *Pacific Coast Avifauna*, and *Studies in Avian Biology* are archived; *Journal of Field Ornithology* can be searched but not browsed. Other journals will be added in the future. This is a gold mine: you can download copies of articles in Portable Document Format that stretch back to the first issues of these journals! Articles after 1999 are not yet included, so as not to disrupt subscribership to the journals; recent issues are available electronically only through paid access (e.g., BioOne), which may be available at a nearby academic library for those not inclined or able to subscribe to all of these journals. Some

of the available publications are substantial tomes. For example, in the now-concluded *Pacific Coast Avifauna* series, one can download entire books, such as Grinnell and Miller's classic *The Distribution of the Birds of California* that includes a color plate of Song Sparrows by Allan Brooks.

Searching SORA can be by any or all journals, by keyword, by subject, by author, or by an article's title, and include constraining the search to any or all years. The search mechanism has some quirks, and users should be mindful that not everything published in these journals may be found by this method. Some ancillary material is there but can be hard to find. For example, many of the beautiful plates tucked into early issues are not readily found unless one browses an issue. Once an article is found, it's worthwhile to browse the issue containing the article to see what else was published at the time. One may need to look at the “Cover to Cover” feature (at the bottom of the contents for each issue) to find unreferenced material such as artwork. For example, the only way we could locate Roger Tory Peterson's plate of Bermuda Petrel in *Auk* was to browse “Cover to Cover” in the first issue for 1952 where we knew it should be. An article on the species by Robert Cushman Murphy and Louis S. Mowbray had been published two issues preceding this in July 1951, the frontispiece for which issue is a beautiful plate of juvenile Sprague's and American Pipits by Terence M. Shortt. These should not

be missed. SORA is a joint venture of the University of New Mexico's libraries and Information Technology Department, the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. In short: it is a dream come true.

As mentioned above, Open-access is an evolving movement in the information age, and those interested may wish to read Peter Suber's overview at <www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>. There, one will find a directory of open-access journals (<www.doaj.org>). These include, for example, *Marine Ornithology*. Also worth checking for some bird literature is the Public Library of Science (<www.plos.org>). While ZooRecord has long been the best available link to the literature for ornithologists, subscriptions are now affordable only to a diminishing number of institutions. Nevertheless, supplements long published with *Auk* and *Ibis*, known as "Recent Ornithological Literature," recently have been incorporated into OWL, Ornithological Worldwide Literature (<egizooosrv.zoo.ox.ac.uk/OWL>). While many ornithological journals not abstracted by ZooRecord are included, the database is as yet incomplete and not very deep. The web site asks for volunteers to help with data entry; so, if you can help, please do!

Lastly, many important classic references have been digitized and are available free online. The digital archive known as *Gallica* (<gallica.bnf.fr>) at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France offers readers an unbelievable cornucopia of old literature. Perhaps the single most impressive work on North American birds, Robert Ridgway's volumes *The Birds of North and Middle America*, can be accessed by anyone. This is but one of many other sources. We welcome readers to alert us about their finds.

In Volume 56, No. 2, we mentioned that the ABA was investigating methods of making issues of this journal searchable electronically; that process has restarted under ABA's President and CEO Steve Runnels, and we hope to find a venue for this material in the near future. This journal's run began in 1947, with *Audubon Field Notes*

(Volume 1), but its precursor journal, *Bird Lore*, appeared first in 1898. We hope to forge partnerships that allow readers the convenience of deep, accurate searches and browsing of past issues' contents, back as far as is feasible.

—Louis R. Bevier
—Edward S. Brinkley

Corrigenda

We're starting to enjoy receiving corrections from contributors and readers: not only do we learn something, we see that someone is reading the fine print! Mark Robbins points out that the Fort Worth, Texas Glaucous-winged Gull (*N.A.B.* 58: 458) was not the "most extralimital" North American record: by about 90 km, depending on how one draws vectors from wintering range, it is bested in this category by a first-winter Glaucous-winged at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles County, Missouri from 6 February through 23 March 1997—certainly a bird much farther east! Vic Fazio likewise found that the caption for the winter-season Swainson's Thrush (*N.A.B.* 58: 309) was poorly worded: there is an 11 December 1991 specimen from Trumbull County, Ohio. In Terry McEaney's article on Whooper Swans in North America, the penultimate reference in Table 1, left column (*N.A.B.* 58: 303) should read 1999 instead of 1993; Terry welcomes other corrections and data on the species.

On the other hand, we wince mightily on receiving word of miscaptioned photographs. Our apologies to Geoff Malosh, whose photograph of the Pink-footed Goose in Pennsylvania (*N.A.B.* 58: 223) was miscredited. And we apologize to Mark Lockwood and John Arvin for the odd typographical gaffe that leads the caption for Broad-winged Hawk at Bentsen (*N.A.B.* 58: 251); we are still trying to find out how such an error—termed a "gremlin" by publishers—was introduced after the production and proofing phases.

—Edward S. Brinkley
—Matthew F. Sharp

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond