

In this issue: California is a land of contrasts and extremes, of austere beauty, of massive environmental challenges. And few California landscapes better exemplify these contrasts and challenges than beleaguered Mono Lake at the eastern foot of the Sierra Nevada. *Our cover image of a California Gull colony was photographed at Mono Lake in May 1997 by © B. "Moose" Peterson.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Birding

VOL.37 • NO.1 • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

Correspondence

- 10** **Editorial** TED FLOYD
Lessons from California
- 12** **Letters to the Editor**
Cats • Cowbirds • The Shrimpy Effect • Rethinking Exotics
- 28** **News and Notes** PAUL HESS
• Checklist Changes Include New Species
• Can We Save the Salton Sea?
• New Partnership for Raptor Studies
• Black-capped Vireo Genetic Variation
- 34** **Flight Path**
Birding Festivals
DAVID HARTLEY

Feature Articles

- 38** **Reflections on Amateur Ornithology in California**
W. DAVID SHUFORD
- 44** **Bringing Back the Condor**
JOHN MOIR
- 52** **Protecting the Salton Sea: Challenges and Opportunities**
JERRY UHLMAN
- 58** **The Dark Storm-petrels of the Eastern North Pacific**
DAVID AINLEY
- 66** **Going Out Deep in Southern California**
WALTER WEHTJE
- 74** **Baja California: The Other Mexico**
MIKE SAN MIGUEL

Departments

- 84** **December Photo Quiz Answers**
A California Focus
JOSEPH MORLAN
- 90** **Sources**
Birding with the First American Field Guides to Birds
SPENCER SCHAFFNER
- 94** **Dimensions**
Hunting Beauty: In Search of the Ultimate Life Bird
FRANCESCA ZERN
- 98** **Book and Media Reviews**
Northern India • reviewed by PETER KAESTNER
The Wild Turkey • reviewed by RICK WRIGHT
Bird Song • reviewed by ERIC SALZMAN
- 112** **New Photo Quiz**

Does this photo of birder Annie Alexander bring to mind the modern birding scene in California? See article, p. 38, to learn more about Alexander's contributions to our present-day birding culture. © Archives, University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley.