

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

New Day

Thanks to the efforts of longtime regional editors Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler, a new initiative has been launched that has already given *North American Birds* a new lease on life. Known as *Friends of North American Birds*, this initiative offers those who value the journal a chance to go beyond their (much appreciated) support as subscribers by making contributions to a fund that is used solely in support of the journal's production costs—paper, ink, printing, and postage. As we continue to search for permanent corporate supporters, we hope that this fund can produce positive changes in the journal in the very near future by taking us well beyond the financial break-even point, where we currently find ourselves with revenue from subscriptions and advertising.

Our goals are ambitious in the long run, but in the near term, we hope to make the following improvements through the fund: 1) raise the size of the font in the journal; 2) increase the number of pages per issue; 3) increase the amount of color material in each issue; 4) include more articles in each issue; 5) mail each issue in a protective wrapper, to guard against damage; and 6) improve the quality of the paper on which the journal is printed. All of these suggestions have been tendered by contributors, by libraries, and by regional editors, and we hope to see all of them made in the next volume, if all goes well.

We'll recognize support from those who send \$50 or more in each fall issue of the journal. We thank contributors who have already come forward, particularly Bob Paxton, who donated \$1,000 to the fund, and David Cutler, who contributed \$4,000. We hope that there are more like-minded Friends out there.

To make a contribution to the fund, write a check to The Friends of NAB and send it to:

The Friends of NAB
American Birding Association
P.O. Box 6599
Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599

All contributions are fully tax-deductible: the ABA enjoys 501c(3) not-for-profit status, and its Federal Tax ID number is 74-2347314. The Friends fund will be managed by the Director of Publications, in consultation with the journal's Editor and production team.

Already in this issue, we have the first fruit of the fund: an extra black-and-white signature (sixteen pages) for the regional reports, to accommodate the ample fall-season reports, the many pho-

Delaware and Mountain West regions! Steven Dinsmore has been instrumental in coordinating the new regions and editors.

We're certain that you've noticed the sharp new layout of the issue, brought to you by the ABA's new in-house graphic designer Ed Rother, whose experience in journal and magazine graphics is very broad; we're most fortunate to have him on the team. And we thank Virginia Maynard for the new regional maps, a vast improvement for most areas over the previous set of maps.

ISLAND CONNECTIONS

One of the most difficult regions in which to track bird records, surely, is the West Indies region, now known as the West Indies & Bermuda region. The many islands' naturalists have not consistently been well-connected members of our reporting network, and so regional editor Tony White, one of the ABA's Board Members (and part-time Bahamian), set about identifying the most important organizations of naturalists/birders on each major island and located ABA funding to have each group receive a complementary subscription to *North American Birds*. We hope that this outreach program strengthens our ties to the many countries of the Caribbean and that the West Indies & Bermuda regional report will become ever more comprehensive in future issues. Thanks to Tony for making the effort to bring this idea to life.

CORRIGENDA

Thankfully, this portion of the Notebook has become smaller in recent issues. Our apologies to the Editor and collaborators of the on-line journal *Huitzil* in Mexico—in our mention of their website, we provided the wrong URL. They are found on the Web at <<http://www.huitzil.net>>.

—Edward S. Brinkley, Editor
—Matthew F. Sharp, Photo Editor
and
—Allan Burns, Director of Publications

The Friends of *North American Birds* ~ 2003 ~

Ken Able
Paul Baicich
George F. Bing
Edward S. Brinkley
Kenneth Brock
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Allan Burns
David A. Cutler
Jon Dunn
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Peter J. Metropulos
Steven Mlodinow
Darren O'Brien
Benjamin D. Parmeter
Bob Paxton
Peggy Powell
Ross Silcock
Chris Wood
C. Fred Zeillemaker

tographs we received from contributors, the brand-new maps for many regions, and the new regional reports from Iowa & Missouri, Tennessee & Kentucky, and the Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley. Welcome to the new editors in the Midwest, as well as in the Hudson-