

## WESTERN BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

Most birders tend to shy away from that aspect of bird study involving photography. Taking fine photographs of wild birds in their natural habitats requires skill, patience, and technical equipment of high caliber and most amateur ornithologists are not prepared to invest the necessary time and money in that phase of the hobby. Those who attempt it are frequently discouraged by the difficulty of the task and abandon their efforts after they realize the frustrations involved. Happily, however, more and more birders are carrying 35 millimeter cameras and short telephoto lenses with them in the field and when rare birds are sighted, identifiable (albeit not portrait) photos can be obtained without the necessity of shooting the bird in question.

However, all of us enjoy the fruits of the labors of such photographers as Herb Clarke of Glendale, California. He has been photographing birds for almost 20 years and the skill of his efforts is seen in the accompanying photographs. By profession, Herb Clarke is a salesman, but he devotes most of his free time to this completely unrelated endeavor. He has written numerous articles about birds, has co-authored the soon-to-be published *Birds of the West*, has a U.S. life list of well over 600 species, has traveled far overseas with his wife Olga in search of birds, and personally has been watching birds for more than 30 years.

This is the first in a series of pictorial essays by some of the West's (and the Nation's) finest bird photographers. Our policy will be to include others such as this from time to time, as well as photographs of rare and unusual birds in the West. *Arnold Small, 608 N. Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210.*