

Announcements

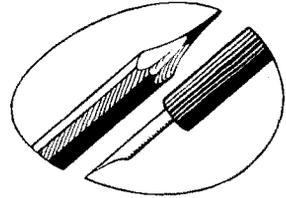
New feature: 'Points of view' We intend to start a new regular feature in *British Birds* in which readers can express their opinions on topical or general matters about which they feel strongly. The regularity of this feature will depend upon the number of suitable contributions which are submitted. We do not guarantee publication; indeed, we hope to receive several submissions each month, from which we shall select only the best, the most interesting or the most stimulating for inclusion in *BB*.

Do you feel strongly about some ornithological matter? If so, write out your views now. Published texts will be subject to the usual subediting, but authors need not avoid controversial matters: this feature will carry the disclaimer that 'Opinions expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily those of *British Birds*'.

Texts (preferably typewritten) should be double-spaced, with wide margins, and be on one side of the paper only.

The popular feature 'Viewpoint' called for long texts by well-known people, many of whom, it transpired, were too busy to write long texts! 'Points of view', therefore, will consist of much more succinct comment: *texts should keep strictly within the required length of 150 to 400 words.*

Bird Illustrator of the Year Amateur and professional artists are invited to submit four line-drawings suitable for reproduction in *British Birds* (pen-and-ink or scraperboard, but not pencil or wash). The subjects should be birds recorded in the west Palearctic (Europe, North Africa and the Middle East). Exact size is important: drawings will be published at the following sizes: (width \times depth in cm) 12.2 \times 13.7, 10.9 \times 4.6 and 5.3 \times 4.0, but those submitted should be 'half-up' (1½ times) or double these dimensions. Each set of four drawings should include at least one of each of the three sizes. Entries will be judged as sets. The announcements of the 1979 and 1980 winners (*Brit. Birds* 72: 403-409; 73: 380-384) included suggestions intended to help future entrants.



The judging panel will consist of Robert Gillmor, Norman Arlott and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock.

The winner will receive £75 and an inscribed salver, and the two runners-up will receive £40 and £25. All three artists will also be invited to attend the award presentation at a Press Reception at The Mall Galleries in London, where a selection of the drawings will be on display. Artists whose work is displayed will also be welcome to attend the reception, which in previous years has provided a very happy occasion for meeting many of our top bird artists. The winners' entries will also be displayed subsequently in the annual exhibition of the Society of Wildlife Artists at The Mall Gallery.

Entries will remain the copyright of the artists, but are accepted on the understanding that they may be reproduced free in, on the cover of, or for

the promotion of *British Birds*. If accompanied by a suitable stamped and addressed envelope, all drawings will be returned to the artists, but any selected for possible use in *British Birds* may be retained for up to 12 months after the award presentation.

Each drawing must be marked clearly on the back with the artist's name and address (and date of birth if aged under 21, see 'The Richard Richardson Award', below), the identity of the species and any other relevant information about the illustration. The closing date will be 31st March 1982; the set of four drawings should be sent to 'Bird Illustrator of the Year', Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

The Richard Richardson Award To encourage young, up-and-coming bird artists, a special award (a cheque and a book to the total value of £50) will be presented for the best work submitted for the 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' competition (see above) by an artist aged under 21 years on 31st March 1982. The winner's entries will be displayed in the annual exhibition of the Society of Wildlife Artists at the Mall Gallery. This award is in memory of the famous Norfolk ornithologist and bird-artist, the late R. A. Richardson. The rules for entry are exactly the same as for 'Bird Illustrator of the Year' and entries by persons under 21 will automatically be considered for both awards.

British BirdShop Subscribers' support of our special book offers and the Peterson Sound Guide offer has significantly increased the journal's income and enabled us to have extra pages of papers and notes. We hope that we have also provided a useful service to our readers.

These offers will continue; indeed, we intend to increase the number and variety of items available through *British Birds*. New items will be announced within the main text under the heading of 'British BirdShop', but the continuing offers will be listed monthly in an order form on the first of the advertising pages at the back of the issue (page v in this issue).

Please support *BB* by using this service whenever we offer an item that you want. By doing so, you will be helping us to provide a bigger *British Birds* each month.

'Birds of the Western Palearctic' By special arrangement with Oxford University Press, subscribers can now order *BWP* volumes 1 and 2 from British BirdShop (see page v).

'Frontiers of Bird Identification' Macmillan London Ltd has just informed us that this title, which has been temporarily out of print, is expected to be available again during January 1982; the new price will be £8.95.

Bird Photograph of the Year The closing date for entries is Saturday 30th January 1982. For details of the rules, see page 342 in the December 1981 issue of *British Birds*.

Best recent black-and-white bird-photographs The closing date for submission of prints for the twenty-third annual selection is 31st March 1982. Photographers may submit as many black-and-white prints as they wish. The following details should be written on the back of each print: photographer's name and address, species, county (or country, if taken abroad), month, year, and technical details, such as make and size of camera, make and focal length of lens, type of film material, exposure and approximate distance from the subject. Prints will be retained in the editorial office as part of the reference collection and for possible future use in the journal unless a request for return is noted on the back of each print and a suitable stamped and addressed envelope is supplied. Entries should be addressed to 'Best recent work', Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Front cover designs for sale The original unframed drawings of the pictures on the front cover of *BB* are for sale each month in a postal auction. The pictures are usually 1½ or two times the published size. These sales help not only the artists, but also *BB*, since the artists donate 20% to the journal. It is also a way for *BB* readers to acquire—for themselves or as a present for a friend—top-class bird art at very reasonable prices. During the past year, successful postal bids have ranged from £11.50 to £91.00; the average has been £39. Why not send in your bid each month? Send your name, address and telephone number and your bid (no money at this stage), to arrive before the last day of the month, to Cover Bid, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ.

Young Ornithologists of the Year The judging for this annual competition, run by the YOC and sponsored by *BB*, was carried out by Dr J. T. R. Sharrock and Peter Holden in late October. Entrants had to answer a series of questions posed in the YOC magazine *Bird Life* and submit their notes on three months' birdwatching in a defined area. The winners, in the usual three age-groups, were as follows:

- Up to 9 years* 1st Miranda Wade (Studley, Warwickshire)
 2nd Alan Hudson (Whitchurch, Shropshire)
 3rd Matthew Jefferson (Totnes, Devon)
- 10 to 12 years* 1st Matthew Tostevin (Swindon, Wiltshire)
 2nd Rowena Wade (Studley, Warwickshire)
 3rd=David Blackledge (Wigan, Lancashire)
 3rd=Roy Taylor (Warrington, Cheshire)
- 13 years or more* 1st Janet Bower (Sheffield, South Yorkshire)
 2nd Sean O'Donnell (Maidstone, Kent)
 3rd Julie Cresswell (Whiston, Merseyside)



Never before have two members of the same family appeared among the winners and runners-up, so special congratulations should go to Miranda and Rowena Wade, junior winner and intermediate 2nd respectively. Matthew Tostevin also created history by being awarded first place in two age-groups (he was junior winner in 1978, *Brit. Birds* 72: 240-241, plate 113). Janet Bower achieved the distinction of winning the senior section at the age of only 14.