

In this issue: Waterfowl—swans, geese, and ducks—are easily recognized by their characteristic shape, by their distinctive behaviors, and by the colorful plumages of the males of many species. But what of the other details?—molt, migration, vocalizations, genetics, and the like? For example, our cover photo clearly depicts an adult male Long-tailed Duck; but which one of its multiple plumages is depicted here? We pose similar questions throughout this issue of *Birding*. Cover image by © Greg Downing. *Barneget Light, New Jersey; February 2003.*

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All-white plumage with jet-black bare parts? Not so fast!—Trumpeter Swans in North America exhibit greater variation than has been previously recognized. See article beginning on p. 148. Photographed at Monticello, Minnesota, 1 November 2003 by © Stan Tekiela.