In this issue: Bird conservation in the early twenty-first century is more reliant than ever on a strategy of diverse approaches and interdisciplinary initiatives. Significant achievements on the conservation front are being made by creative partnerships involving scientific, legislative, grassroots, and other interests. Cover photograph: Kirtland’s Warbler, Hiawatha National Forest, Michigan; May 2004. © Robert Royse.

Correspondence

10  Your Letters
   • Encouraging Young Birders
   • Rarities in Britain
   • McCown’s Longspurs in Kansas
   • McKay’s Buntings at Cold Bay
   • Dickcissels in Mexico
   • Hawai’i’s ‘Alala’s ‘Okina

18  Editorial
    TED FLOYD

20  Flight Path
    Inside the ABA Checklist Committee
    BILL PRANTY

24  Traditions
    Hawk Mountain Luminaries
    PAUL J. BAICICH

26  News and Notes
    PAUL HESS
   • Forest Birds Face Risk of Mercury
   • Chandler S. Robbins: Sixty Visionary Years
   • Relationships in the Paridae
   • Bill Adaptations in Marsh Sparrows

Feature Articles

30  Monitoring Needs of North America’s Landbirds
    TERRY RICH

36  Long-distance Conservation: Saving the Micronesian Kingfisher
    JOHN GIBBONS

40  Birding in U. S. Wilderness Areas
    KEVIN MACK

46  Decline of Grassland Birds in the Midwest
    ERIC L. KERSHNER

54  Virginia’s Conservation Cadre
    JERRY UHLMAN

Departments

60  Sources
   Cold Case
   REX ROWAN

66  May/June Photo Quiz Answers
   Species Limits?
   NICHOLAS BLOCK

70  Dimensions
    Watching Birds and Stars
    MICHAEL COHEN

74  Tools of the Trade
    Mid-price Binoculars: Part II
    DEREK LOVITCH

80  Book Reviews
   • Identifying Raptors
     PAUL KERLINGER, reviewer
   • The BNA Series
     CHRIS ELPHICK, reviewer

96  New Photo Quiz