



THE CARL ZEISS AWARD



The purpose of this annual award, presented by *Carl Zeiss Ltd*, is to encourage the submission of photographs (transparencies or prints) to assist the British Birds Rarities Committee in its assessment of records. The winner receives his or her choice of *Zeiss* binoculars, which are presented at the British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland Water. *Carl Zeiss Ltd* also presents the runners-up, and all those whose photographs or documentary drawings of rarities are published in *British Birds*, with a voucher for a six-month subscription to the journal.

This year's short list was as follows:

- F. Golding for Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* in flight in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, on 5th March 1994.
- A. Greensmith for a portrait shot of Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* at Beddington Sewage-farm, Greater London, on 24th August 1993.
- C. Sharp for Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* in flight, showing underwing, at Seaton Snook, Cleveland, on 6th November 1994.
- J. Szczur for in-the-hand photographs of Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* at Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, in December/January 1994/95.

After considerable discussion of the relative merits of the individual photographs in respect of record assessment and the depiction of identification features, and of in-the-field compared with in-the-hand photographs, the judges agreed that the Spotted Sandpiper photographs (a set of seven, of which two are shown here, plates 121 & 122 on page 428) fully merited first prize, so the winner of The Carl Zeiss Award 1995 is John Szczur.

The photographs of the Spotted Sandpiper were obtained in great haste, so as to cause the bird no discomfort, but John Szczur had trapped Common Sandpipers *A. hypoleucos* at the same site earlier in the year, so was able to concentrate on photographing the salient identification points with seven quick shots.

R. A. Hume and J. T. R. Sharrock

Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

Carl Zeiss supports County Bird Recording network

For the past seven years, each of the 81 County Bird Recorders in the United Kingdom has received a free annual subscription to *British Birds* in appreciation for the hard work which they contribute to British ornithology in their 'free time'.

In 1994, *Carl Zeiss Ltd*, sponsor of the British Birds Rarities Committee, joined *British Birds* in a partnership to make this annual gesture of appreciation.

Carl Zeiss and *British Birds* both wish to demonstrate publicly their support for the county bird-recording network, run by the county and regional bird clubs and societies, which leads to the collation and publication of carefully assessed, reliable records in the county and regional bird reports. These reports are the essential backbone to British ornithology, and the envy of ornithologists in other countries. Their close links and long-standing co-operation with the BBRC make this *British Birds-Carl Zeiss* joint annual gift especially appropriate.



Plates 121 & 122. WINNER OF 'THE CARL ZEISS AWARD' 1995: Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*, Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, 28th December 1994 (J. Szczur)

