



## THE CARL ZEISS AWARD



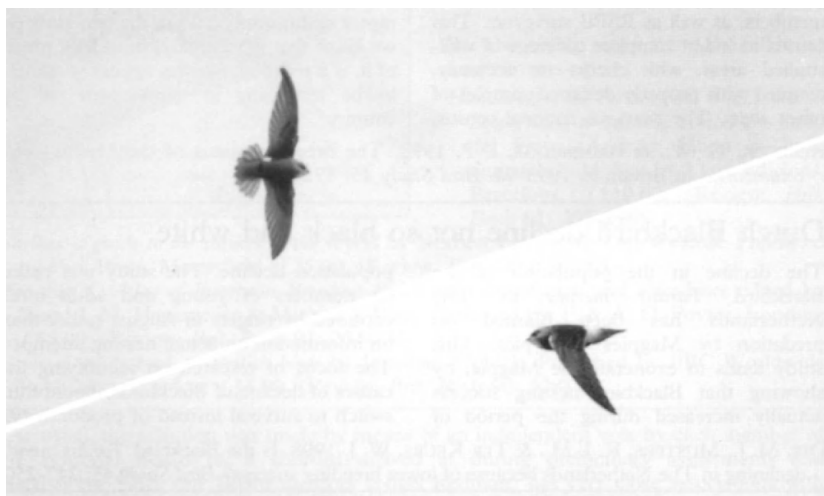
Every year, *Carl Zeiss Ltd*, the sponsors of the British Birds Rarities Committee, presents The Carl Zeiss Award to the photographer who has provided the most instructive or useful print or transparency as part of the documentation of a record of a rare bird in Britain during the previous year. The aim is to encourage the submission of documentary photographs, to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

A total of 557 photographs of 1997 rarities had been submitted, many (indeed, most) of very high quality photographically. Three sets of photographs stood out, however, as particularly interesting: (1) a series of photographs of the Dawlish Warren Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, by Dr Iain H. Leach, (2) two of an Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, taken by (then) 12-year-old Iain Landsman, one of which showed the underwing pattern, and (3) two of the Isle of Wight Little Swift *Apus affinis*, taken by Martin Hunnybun, a species not easy to capture on film in flight, yet showing precisely the extent of white on the rump and the wing-shape and tail-shape. The Little Swift photographs (plates 102 & 103) were selected by the judges for The Carl Zeiss Award, with Iain Landsman's Ivory Gull (plates 104 & 105) a very close second, and Dr Iain Leach's Semipalmated Plover photographs (plates 106-109) in third place.

As his prize, Martin Hunnybun can choose between *Zeiss* 10 × 40 and *Zeiss* 7 × 42 binoculars. In this special instance, to encourage younger bird-photographers, *Carl Zeiss Ltd* has generously made an extra award, of *Zeiss* 8 × 30 BMC binoculars, to Iain Landsman.

R. A. HUME and J. T. R. SHARROCK

c/o Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ



▲ 102 & 103. Winner of THE CARL ZEISS AWARD: Little Swift *Apus affinis*, Foreland, Isle of Wight, 5th May 1997 (Martin Hunnybun)



▲▼ 104 & 105. Second in THE CARL ZEISS AWARD: first-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, Kinnairds Head, Northeast Scotland, 24th/25th October 1997 (*Jain Landsman*)





▲◀▼ 106-109. Third in THE CARL ZEISS AWARD: first-summer Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (top, with Great Ringed Plover *C. hiaticula*), Devon, June 1997 (Iain H. Leach)

