

half feet. The female harrier circled above and swooped down on him several times, in an attempt to drive him away. The next day the blind was raised to three feet with diminishing opposition from the bird. Assured of the bird's acceptance a day later, they raised the blind again, this time to the full height of 1.7 meters (6 feet).

Both harrier parents hunt for food, but the female was never far from the nest, and did all the feeding. The male seldom made an appearance at the nest, but could be seen in the air during food transfer between the adult birds, which was accomplished in mid-air. The male arrived with the food and circled above the nest until the female began flying below. When the male dropped the food, usually a skinned nestling, the female caught it in mid-air with her talons, then brought it down to the nest.

Isidor soon realized that the 250 mm lens he was using was fine when the birds were on the ground, but it could not catch the mother in flight, as the wings overfilled the frame. This was a good opportunity for him to use two cameras. He fitted the second with a 150 mm lens, with cross-coupled synchronization with the other camera, so that the same flash equipment could be used for both. Isidor followed the bird's movements through the viewfinder. It was a complicated procedure that worked well, resulting in full-frame dramatic shots of the adult both landing and feeding her young.

Photographing these high-strung, difficult to locate raptors is undoubtedly one of the most time consuming projects a bird photographer can undertake. But almost any nesting situation requires uncounted hours of work, and the nature photographer must be prepared to pay a high price for his achievements. He will soon discover that a particular situation has a specific time allotment, and that if the moment is missed, it is gone forever. In many instances, the opportunity for a second chance at a species never comes the photographer's way again. The photographer must be prepared to sacrifice time, comfort and social activities in order to grasp that opportunity when it presents itself.

It takes a mere fraction of a second to record a picture on film, yet this fraction represents untold hours of labour. The finished photograph ideally captures those qualities which first captivated the photographer, transmitting in a lasting form the beauty of birds in their forest environment. If this can be appreciated and understood by others, then the photographer is well rewarded.



1 CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* 1983/IJ



2 MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* 1972/IJ



3 GREAT EGRET *Casmerodius albus* 1974/IJ



4 ROSEATE SPOONBILL *Ajaia ajaja* 1974/IJ



5 TRICOLORED HERON *Egretta tricolor* 1974/IJ



6 SNOWY EGRET *Egretta thula* 1974/IJ



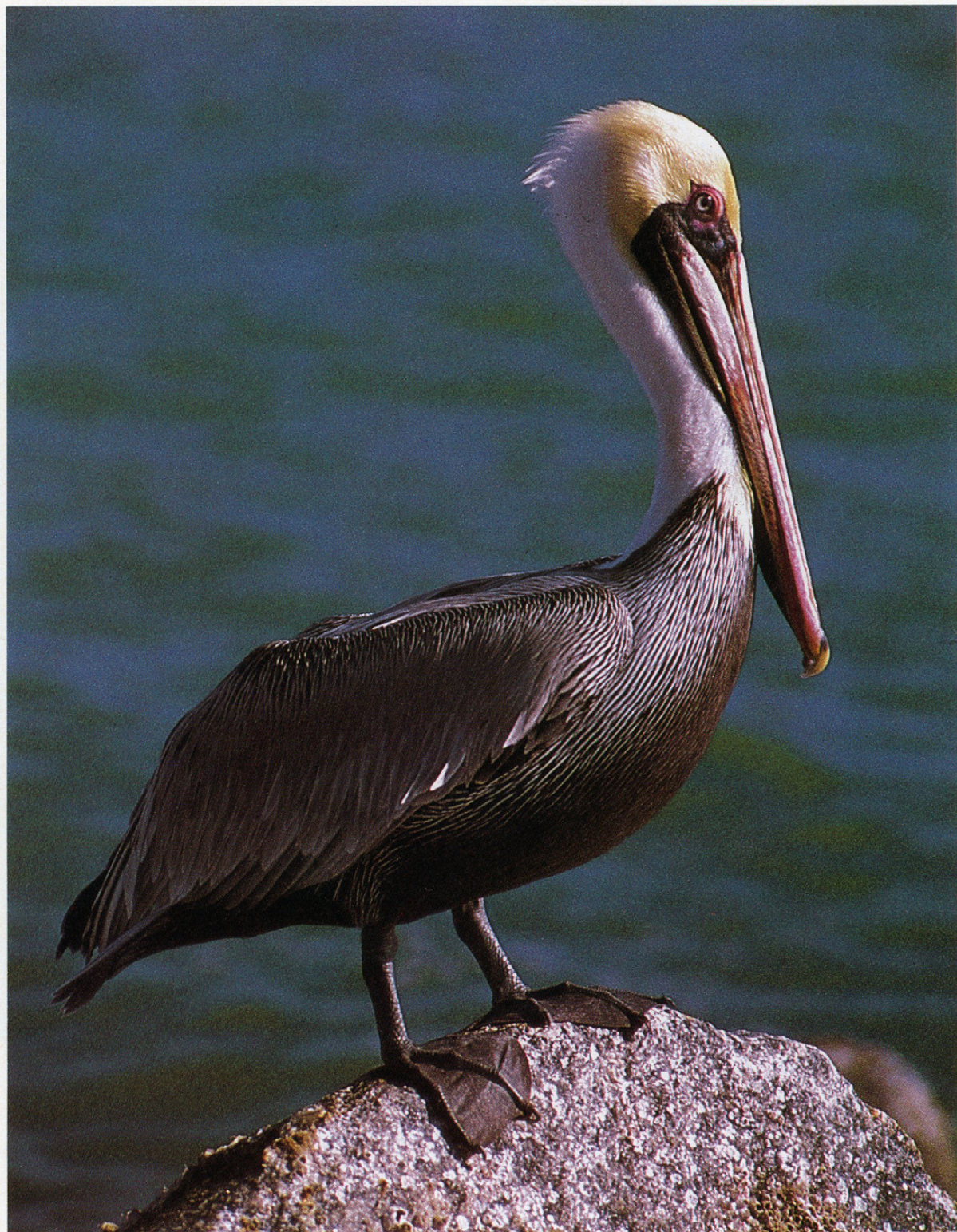
7 AMERICAN BITTERN *Botaurus lentiginosus* 1976/IJ



8 LEAST BITTERN *Ixobrychus exilis* 1972/IJ



9 GREEN-BACKED HERON *Butorides striatus* 1972/IJ



10 BROWN PELICAN *Pelecanus occidentalis* 1974/IJ



11 NORTHERN GANNET *Sula bassanus* 1972/IJ



12 MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* 1972/IJ



13 GADWALL *Anas strepera* 1982/IJ



14 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica* 1978/IJ



15 HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus* 1974/IJ



16 VIRGINIA RAIL *Rallus limicola* 1983/DEW



17 SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia* 1977/IJ



18 AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Scolopax minor* 1974/IJ



19 KILLDEER *Charadrius vociferus* 1976/IJ



20 COMMON MURRE *Uria aalge* 1981/DEW  
Anne Vallée Ecological Reserve,  
Triangle Island, British Columbia



21 TUFTED PUFFIN *Fratercula cirrhata* 1982/MJAV



22 COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* 1976/IJ



23 NORTHERN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* 1978/IJ



24 NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* 1983/IJ



25 OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* 1976/IJ



26 RING-NECKED PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* 1978/IJ



27 RUFFED GROUSE *Bonasa umbellus* 1982/DEW



28 AMERICAN KESTREL *Falco sparverius* 1976/IJ



29 ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* 1977/IJ



30 MOURNING DOVE *Zenaida macroura* 1977/IJ