



Costa Rica Tropical Adventure

August, December, April
Birding and Natural History
Limited to 8 participants

Led by Gerry Einem

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Nature World Explorations, Inc.

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description of Plot: Forest crown open, with widely-spaced Pinyon Pine, Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), and Single-leaf Ash (*Fraxinus anomala*) with a ground cover of Blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*) and cliffrose (*Cowania* spp.). Pinyon Pine averaged 1.4 m in height, 0.4 m canopy average diameter and 8% average canopy cover/ha. Juniper averaged 0.6 m in height, 0.3 m canopy average diameter and 7% average canopy cover/ha. Single-leaf Ash averaged 1 m in height, 0.4 m canopy average diameter and 16% average canopy cover/ha. Density/ha was Single-leaf Ash 160, Utah Juniper 120, and Pinyon Pine 100. Understory Blackbrush averaged 17.2 cm in height with a canopy average diameter of 26.7 cm and 11.2% canopy cover/100 m². Cliffrose averaged 59.3 cm in height with a canopy average diameter of 84.6 cm and 2% canopy cover/100 m². Blackbrush density was 50.7 plants/100 m² and Cliffrose 4.67 plants/100 m². **Edge:** Bounded on 3.5 sides by similar forest, and on the fourth by sandstone fins rising 80-120 ft above the ground. **Topography:** A series of small sandstone ridges running E-W through the tract with flat benches in between. **Elevation:** 5200 ft. **Weather:** Cooler than normal; 5 mornings out of 8 were windy. **Coverage:** April 25-26; May 3-4, 9, 15, 24, 30; 0630 to 1100. Total: 25 obs.-hours. **Census:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 14 (45, 18); House Finch, 11 (35, 14); White-throated Swift, 9 (29, 12); Mourning Dove, 5 (16, 6); Plain Titmouse, 5;

Mountain Bluebird, 5; Black-throated Sparrow, 5; Rock Wren, 4 (13, 5); Say's Phoebe, 4; Scrub Jay, 4; Violet-green Swallow, 3 (10, 4); Gray Vireo, 2; *Empidonax* sp., 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Turkey Vulture, +; Red-tailed Hawk, +; Am. Kestrel, +; Com. Flicker, +; N. Raven, +; Bullock's Oriole, +. **Total:** 21 species; 74 territorial males or females (237/k_m², 96/100 acres). **Remarks:** Nests located: Scrub Jay, 1; Mountain Bluebird, 1; House Finch, 1. Small flocks (4-6) of Pinyon Jays were in the plot most days. Jeff Connor helped set up the plot and furnished technical information.—MICHAEL SALAMACHA, Box 221, Moab, UT 84532.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

For a book I am writing on the history of American birding, I would very much like to have material on bird-watchers not widely known through their contributions to major journals, but whose work and, perhaps, writings, were known in their localities, who contributed to bird-club papers and who brought their knowledge and interest to the people around them. As a particular example: school teachers whose interest and enthusiasm made birders of their students.

Many kinds of material would be useful: memoirs, obituaries, biographies, diaries, journals, recollections, privately-printed books and pamphlets, birding letters. Suggestions and names I might follow up would be very helpful. I will be careful of material, return it promptly and acknowledge it.

The book will be published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Sincerely,
Joseph Kastner
199 River Road
Grandview, New York 10960

TOP



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SUMMER: Churchill; Rainy River; Nfld. & Nova Scotia
FALL: St. Lawrence River; British Columbia Coast; Churchill (Polar Bears)

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116 Oak St. E., Leamington, Ontario, N8H 2C9 (1-519-326-1050)

To the Editor:

William S. Clark's article concerning field identification of North American eagles, published in the September-October 1983 issue of AMERICAN BIRDS, contained an inadequate use of available ornithological literature. His reference to my *Guide to Eastern Hawk Watching* (Penn State University Press, 1976) was inappropriate because that out-of-print book was an earlier and considerably less comprehensive and sophisticated version of the current edition, entitled *A Guide to Hawk Watching in North America* (Penn State University Press, 1979). By failing to refer to the current edition, Clark ignored a detailed presentation of eagle age-class field marks and supporting photographs used by the hawk-watching community. I shall not repeat here what is available in the *Guide*, but would caution that at least one age class for both the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle was missing in Clark's article. Clark also ignored major articles by other authors despite their direct and important relationship to his topic. Years ago in *Hawks Aloft*, Maurice Broun discussed the relative sizes of the heads of Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles. Nevertheless, during my 30 years of active hawk watching, I never found the comparative lengths of the heads or tails of the two eagle species to be the best or most important field marks for these eagles. It is much more important to consider a combination of field marks, especially patterns of plumage.

Sincerely,
Donald S. Heintzelman
629 Green Street
Allentown, PA 18102

To the Editor:

Regarding the above remarks by Donald Heintzelman, after many years of field and teaching experience with raptor identification, I will stand by what is published in the article and let the reader go out and verify the statements in it for himself.

Sincerely,
William S. Clark
P. O. Box 1161
Annandale, VA 22003

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLAPP, R.B., R.C. BANKS, and D. MORGAN-JACOBS. 1983. "Marine Birds of the Southeastern United States and Gulf of Mexico. Part III: Charadriiformes" is available from the Information Transfer Specialist, National Coastal Ecosystems Team, 1010 Gause Boulevard, Slidell, LA 70458. A small number of copies of Parts I (Gaviiformes through Pelecaniformes) and II (Anseriformes) have been reprinted and also are available. A list of other NCET publications can be obtained upon request.

CAN YOU HEAR birds? An audiologist has expressed an interest in developing a small "black box" that would dramatically improve the hearing ability of

birders, if there is an expression of sufficient interest to warrant the effort. If you are interested please express this by letter or postal card to Charles T. Clark, Star Route #1, Box 442-D, Rockport, TX 78382. Writing to Dr. Clark does not place the writer under any obligation whatsoever.

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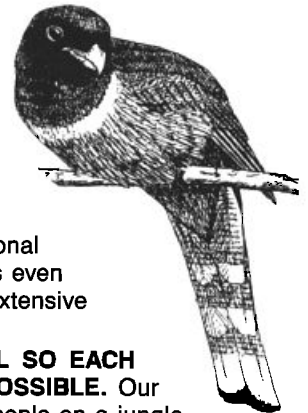
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1984	1985
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July ARIZONA	March WEST AFRICA (Cameroon)
August CALIFORNIA	MEXICO (El Triunfo)
September INDONESIA (Sumatra, Java, Borneo & Bali)	April GUATEMALA (Tikal)
October MEXICO (Cozumel, Yucatan & Palenque)	YEMEN
November CHILE	June KENYA
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	PHILIPPINES
	Dates not finalized SEABIRDS (with Peter Harrison)
	URUGUAY

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