



VOLUME 52: NO. 2, 1998
THE WINTER SEASON
December 1, 1997
to February 28, 1998

field notes

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ON THE COVER

Will Russell, who was *Birding* magazine's first Field Identification Editor several years ago, has a legendary grasp of subtleties. His attention to detail may cause other birders to shake their heads on occasion—like the time, at an Asian migrant trap, when Will spent half a day just comparing supercilium patterns of two warbler species—but it pays off, too.

Case in point: December 14, 1997, at Lake Patagonia, Arizona. When an apparent Ash-throated Flycatcher popped out of the scrub, Russell noticed immediately that the edges of its secondaries looked the wrong color. This minor detail (occupying, at most, a few square millimeters) led him to examine dozens of other points, and he soon concluded that this was no Ash-throated—it must be a Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*). This Mexican and Central American species had been virtually unknown north of the border, with the only non-controversial prior record dating from 1952. Fortunately, Russell's bird turned out to be holding a winter territory. It remained in the area for some three months, to be enjoyed by hundreds of visiting birders.

One who visited was Larry Sansone, from Los Angeles, a photographer well known for his stunning bird portraits. On January 1, 1998, Sansone got the year off to a good start by taking the photograph that graces our cover. For more on the Nutting's Flycatcher, see the photos on page 148 and the information in the Arizona Region report in this issue.



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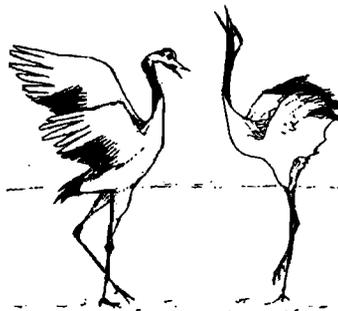
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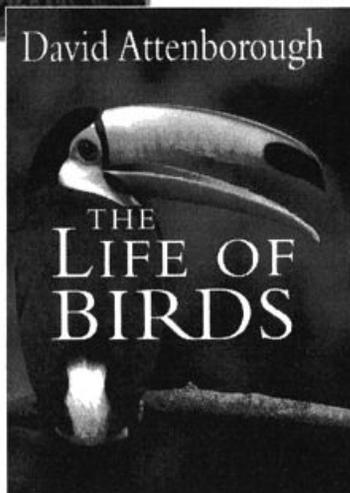


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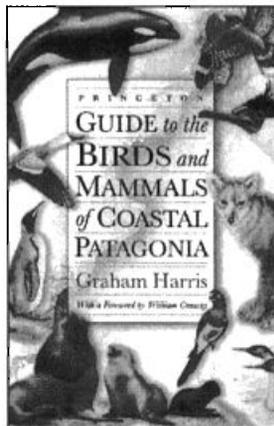
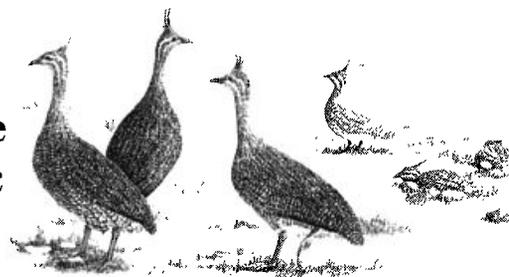
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USED IN THE REGIONAL
REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used
in place names**

In most regions, place names given in *italic type* are counties. Other abbreviations:

Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

**Abbreviations used
in the names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations
and symbols referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juv. or juvenile
sp.	species
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

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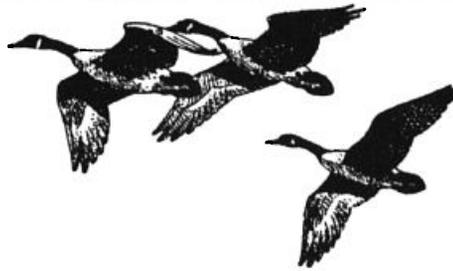
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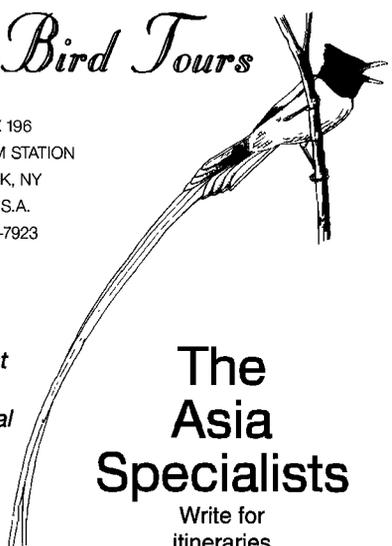
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9 - 31 January

NORTHWEST INDIA
Rajasthan/Gujarat
7 - 30 January
Gujarat Pre-tour
2 - 8 January
Punjab (Harike) Post-Tour
30 January - 4 February

SRI LANKA
30 January - 15 February

PHILIPPINES
Luzon, Mindanao, Cebu,
Palawan, Bohol, Negros
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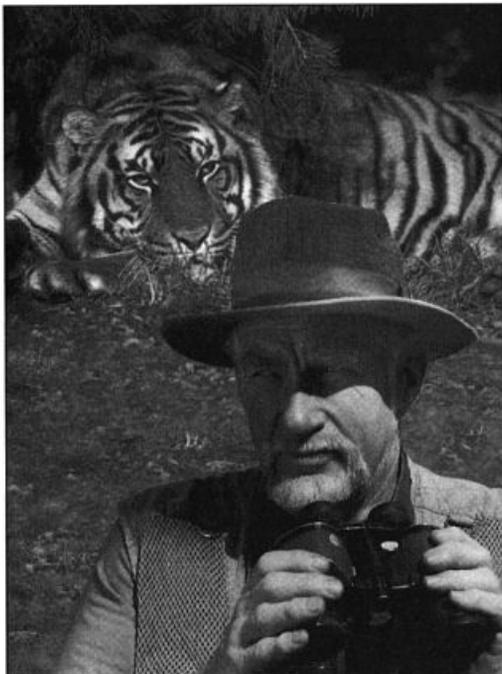
BirdArea can list in detail the range of any of Clements' birds. And it can produce check lists of the birds of any world area (i.e., U.S. state, Canadian province, country, ABA region/area, faunal zone) with endemics labeled. Printouts can have places for multiple check marks and/or for field notes. The annually-updated ranges come from many hundreds of publications and from experts who bird the areas.

If **BirdBase** is used **BirdArea** can label birds already seen on each check list, make lists of birds not already seen, and find any recorded sighting in which a bird is outside its known range. If **BirdArea** is used **BirdBase** can switch to displaying only birds whose ranges include any world area when recording sightings of a trip to that area. This makes recording easier and calls to attention out-of-range sightings.

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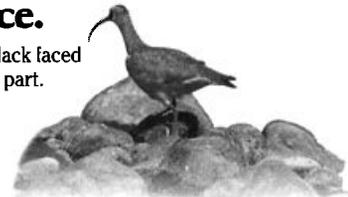


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But once again the incredible resolving power and the bright crisp image of Warren's Swift Audubons separated bird from stone. Warren's life birds now stand at 2,985 including the Lammergeier or bearded vulture, another "really nice bird". (Rumors that the ominous cough in the bushes close by was anything more than a stork-billed Kingfisher with a bad cold have been greatly exaggerated).



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If you are interested in an ABA-sponsored tour listed here, please contact the tour company directly for information AND reservations. IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS AN ABA MEMBER. ABA sponsors these tours because many factors suggest a particularly fine birding experience and because the tour operators have agreed to return to ABA a percentage of the tour's cost for participating ABA members.

United States and Canada ABA AREA

ALASKA

I. Pribilof Islands. Expect Red-legged Kittiwake, Least and Crested Auklet; Red-faced Cormorant and ten or more Asiatic species.

May 20-27, 1999. Code A*

II. Nome and the Seward Peninsula. Expect Bristle-Thighed Curlew, Bluethroat and Gyrfalcon among 90-100 species. **Four trips in 1999: May 29-June 4, June 7-13, 14-20 and July 6-12. Code R/A***

III. Barrow and High Arctic. Expect Common, King, Spectacled and Stellers Eiders, Yellow-billed Loon and Snowy Owl.

June 4-6 and June 13-15, 1999. Code R/A*

Combinations possible.

All three Alaska tours led by Forrest Davis.

Contact: Forrest Davis at High Lonesome Ecotours, 5705 Little Bear Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635; (520) 458-9446; hilone@hilonesome.com

FLORIDA-DRY TORTUGAS

Aboard the Yankee Freedom prime breeding season for terns, frigate birds and boobies; peak spring land bird migration. Five three-day trips available.

April 13-16, April 16-19, April 28-May 1, and May 8-11, 1999. Can combine with Grand Bahama and Abaco tours. (See Caribbean)

Led by Wes Biggs. **Code R***

Contact: Wes Biggs, Florida Nature Tours, P.O. Box 618572, Orlando, Florida 32861-8572; (407) 363-1360; fax (407) 363-1887.

Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America

TRINIDAD, TOBAGO, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND LOWER ORINOCO RIVER

Voyage aboard the *Yorktown Clipper*. ABA escort Dick Coles, Professor of Vertebrate Biology at Washington University, St. Louis.

December 29, 1998-January 9, 1999.

Code GB/OB**

Contact: Dana Hollenbeck, Clipper Cruise Line, 7711 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105-1096; (800) 325-0010.

ARGENTINA

Four major regions, including Tropical Lowland Rainforest, Pampas, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego. 360 species possible. Leader Michael Carmody. **January 10-23, 1999. Code A***

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508. Tollfree phone/fax 888-754-6186.

BAHAMAS

Search for endemics, near endemics, and different Caribbean species including Cuban Parrot, Bahama Woodstar, Key West Quail-Dove, Great lizard Cuckoo and more. **March 25-31, 1999.**

Led by Tony White, author of ABA's *Birdfinding Guide to the Bahamas*. **Code R/A***

Contact: Bob Odear, ObServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739.

COSTA RICA/PANAMA

Voyage aboard the *Yorktown Clipper* including Curu Wildlife Refuge, Marengo Biological Station, Darien Jungle, Panama Canal plus two days of land birding for ABA members from San José. ABA escort Dan Canterbury.

March 23-31, 1999. Code GB/OB**

Contact: Dana Hollenbeck, Clipper Cruise Line, 7711 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105-1096. (800) 325-0010.

BAHAMAS

Grand Bahama and Abaco—Goal is to find all twenty resident Caribbean birds plus Florida accidentals. Two trips: **March 30-April 3, and April 10-14, 1999.** Can combine with Dry Tortugas (See Florida). **Code R/A***

Contact: Wes Biggs, Florida Nature Tours, P.O. Box 618572, Orlando, Florida 32861-8572; (407) 363-1360; fax (407) 363-1887.

ECUADOR

Paramo, mountain passes, riparian areas, temperate and sub-tropical forests, and tropical Amazon basin. Leaders Juan Carlos Matheus (resident ornithologist) and Jim Danzenbaker. **March 6-21, 1999. Code A***

Contact: Gail Cheeseman, Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris, 20800 Kittredge Road, Saratoga, CA 95070-6322; (800) 527-5300.

MEXICO

Northwest region. Pacific coast and Sierra Madre Mountains, Mazatlan to San Blas. Search for twenty-five endemics and rarities, including Black-throated Magpie, San Blas, Tufted, and Purplish-backed Jays, and Sinaloa Crow. Leader Michael Carmody. **March 7-14, 1999. Code A***

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508. Toll free phone/fax 888-754-6186.

MEXICO

Sonora: Sea of Cortez, Sierra Madres and Colonial Alamos. Expect 250+ species including Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Purplish-backed Jays, Happy Wren, White-striped Woodcreeper, Black-throated Magpie-Jay. Led by Forrest Davis.

October 5-16, 1999. Code R/A*

MEXICO

Sonora: Sierra Madres for Lilac-crowned Parrot; Mountain Trogon, Black-throated Magpie-Jay, Purplish-backed Jay, Happy Wren.

Leader Forrest Davis. **September 18-25, 1999.**

Code R/A*

Contact: Forrest Davis at High Lonesome Ecotours, 5705 Little Bear Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635; (520) 458-9446; hilone@hilonesome.com

BELIZE/GUATEMALA

Chan Chich Lodge, Lamanai Outpost, and Tikal. Leaders Hector Gomez de Silva and Richard Knapton. **January 30-February 10, 1999.**

Code R/A*

Contact: Vic Smith, Eagle-Eye Tours, P.O. Box 5010, Pt. Roberts, WA 98281; (800) 373-5678; fax 604/948-9085; birdtours@eagle-eye.com

GALÁPAGOS; ECUADOR'S ANDES

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Code R (Extension Code A)*

Contact: Linda Rehor, Inca Floats, 1311-ABA 63rd Street, Emeryville, CA 94608; (510) 420-1550.

EUROPE

IRELAND

Countrywide, including Connemara, Dublin, Kilkenny, and Ring of Kerry. Expect 130 species including Corn Crane and Red-billed Chough. Leader Michael Carmody.

May 12-25, 1999. Code R*

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, P.O. Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508. Tollfree phone/fax 888-754-6186.

***Tour Codes and **Cruise Codes are abbreviations for the following:**

R = Relaxed

A = Advanced

I = Intensive

GB = General Birding

OB = Optimal Birding

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RAPTOR TOURS & WORKSHOPS

Most led by Bill Clark. In '98: Montana: Nov. 29-Dec. 5 (\$850). South Texas: Dec. 12-19 (\$950). In '99: Skagit Flats, WA: Feb. 6-13 (\$950); South Texas: Mar. 27-Apr. 4 (\$950). Israel: Apr. 10-24 (\$2,590). Snake River: ID May 8-15 (\$950). Southeast Arizona: July 10-17 (\$950). Vera Cruz, Mexico: Oct. 2-10 (\$1,250). Northern India: Oct. 30-Nov. 20 (\$3,690). Information from RAPTOURS, INC., P.O. Box 9021, Wilmington, DE 19809; 800/362-0869; fax 302/529-1085; or raptours@focusonnature.com; www.focusonnature.com

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Feb 6-12, 1999 with Megan Edwards. Lots of south Texas specialties, possible vagrants, and a visit to Kenedy Ranch.

COSTA RICA

Mar 6-21, 1999 with Dave Stejskal & Chris Benesh. The favored sites of Monteverde, Rancho Naturalista, La Selva, Carara, and Cerro de la Muerte for quetzals, bellbirds, fabulous hummers, and hundreds of other species.

CHAN CHICH & HIDDEN VALLEY, BELIZE

Mar 13-21, 1999 with Doug McRae & Megan Edwards. Two wonderful lodges for great rainforest and highland birding.

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Two 10-day departures (Apr 22 or May 6) for Colima Warbler, Montezuma Quail & many other specialties in spectacular Big Bend National Park. Tours include a Hill Country visit for Black-capped Vireo & Golden-cheeked Warbler.

ALASKA

Two early-June departures of our popular two-parted tour, visiting Denali and the Pribilofs on Part One and Nome, Seward, and Barrow on Part Two.

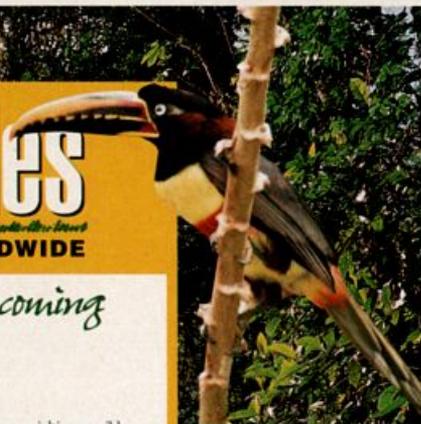
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