


occasionally packing it in backpacks. I groan in anticipation of the latter, but this is just too useful a book to leave at home.

This guide was six years in execution, but many, many years before that in preparation. In my radio interview with David Sibley, he talked about wanting to produce a state-of-the art guide to the birds that the experienced and novice birder would find useful, a book to grow with no matter what your skills. Mission accomplished. 

*Mark Lynch is the Book Review Editor of Bird Observer and a teacher and field trip leader for Massachusetts Audubon at Broad Meadow Brook. He is also a teacher and docent at the Worcester Art Museum. The February issue of Bird Observer will contain an informative and entertaining overview of the history of the field guide genre.*

## A Million Raptors

From Charles Duncan (cduncan@tnc.org) of the Wings of the Americas program of The Nature Conservancy:

Benson Venegas, executive director of ANAI in Costa Rica, has just reported that the hawkwatchers in Talamanca (Jenfer McNicoll & Pablo Porras-Peñaranda) have counted their one-millionth migrating raptor this season!

In the long history of hawkwatching worldwide, there are only two hawk counts that have ever achieved this level. (These are the famous sites at the Veracruz, Mexico [River of Raptors] and at Eilat, Israel.)

This location is in the SE corner of Costa Rica, near the Panama border on the Caribbean coast. Its geographic makeup is similar to that of the now-famous Cardel region of Veracruz — a narrow coastal plain and nearby mountains which squeeze migrating raptors into a tight corridor.

The Talamanca team's accomplishment is all the more stunning for several reasons: this is the first year of counts at Talamanca, they have a tiny and overworked staff, and the season isn't even over yet. Their effort and success are truly Herculean.

---

Jennifer, Pablo, and their volunteers can be reached at <anaital@sol.racsa.co.cr> or <anaicr@sol.racsa.co.cr>.