

NEW BIRDERS

We have designed a series of Introductory Birding Tours to enable new birders to increase their birding skills. While almost all VENT tours are appropriate for birders at any level, beginners will find these trips especially helpful.

The focus will be on the basics: use of your field guide, putting a bird in a family, bird identification, and bird habitats. Typically, these tours will stay in one birdy location.

All of our leaders have an enormous fund of knowledge about birds. They are patient, skilled, enthusiastic teachers who love to share their knowledge with beginner and seasoned birder alike.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours was founded twenty-four years ago, and today takes birders to more than 120 destinations worldwide. Our Cruises for Birders is a marvelous program: aboard first-class ships, filled entirely with birders, with our own excellent leaders, we travel to some of the most beautiful locations on the globe.

— Introductory Birding Tours in 2000 —

South Texas *March 8-12*
with Kim Eckert & Victor Emanuel

High Island, Texas *April 26-30*
with Bob Sundstrom & Victor Emanuel

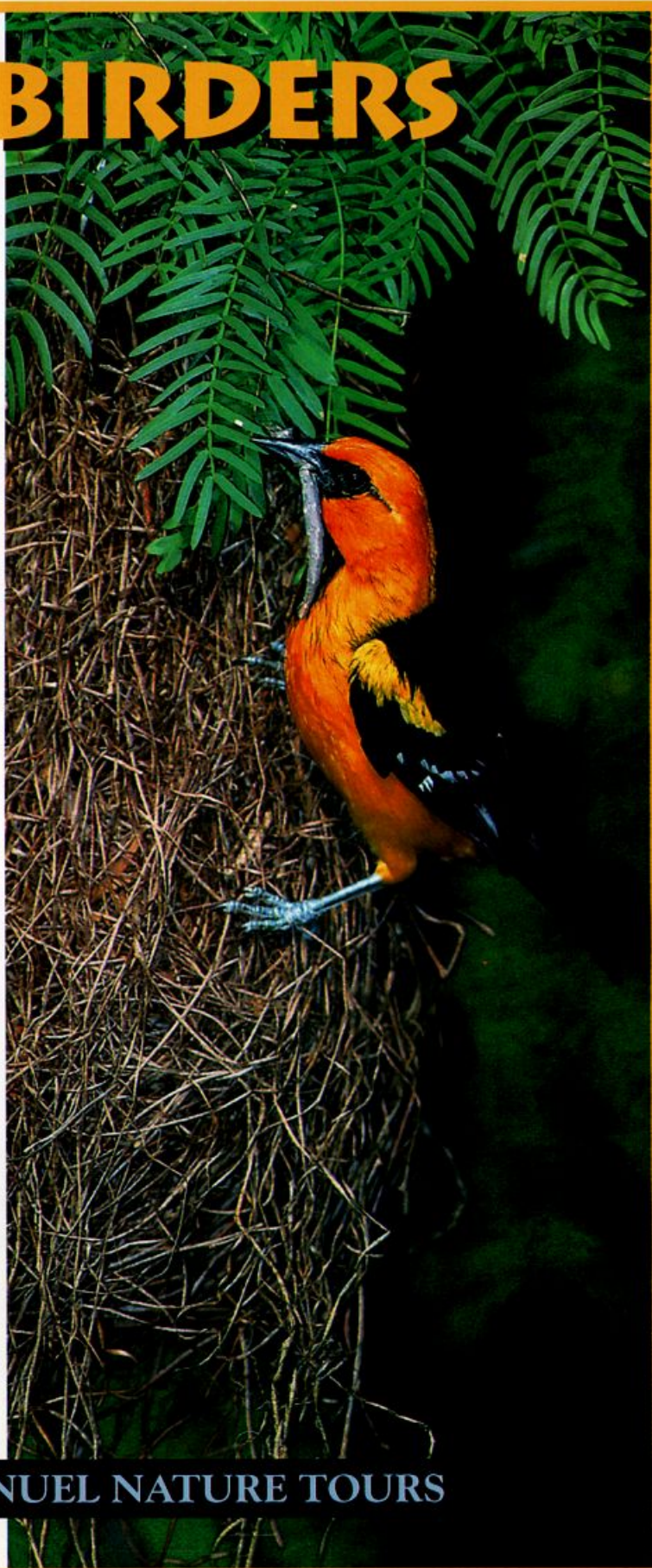
Texas Hill Country *April 29-May 3*
with Kim Eckert & Chris Durden

Pacific Northwest *July 12-15*
with Bob Sundstrom

Morro Bay, California *November 3-7*
with Brad Schram



For more information & a free catalog:
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CST#2014998-50 Photo: ©Steve Bentsen



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS



Serious birders are getting behind Bausch & Lomb® binoculars.

It's 21 degrees.

At an elevation of 11,669 feet, you're standing in a snowdrift, binoculars in hand at 8:00 a.m. on Colorado's Guanella Pass Summit. You're keenly aware that most people in the U.S. would consider you nuts – or at least odd – because the reason you're here is to see a bird.

Yes, a bird.

But not just any bird – a White-tailed Ptarmigan. *Lagopus leucurus*. And the little thing is all white, because it's winter and that's its winter color. Which of course, makes it nearly impossible to see it in the snow.

Because you're a slightly fanatical birder, you desperately want to see this bird.

Out of the 900 species in North America, he's one of the



Elite® binoculars are known as the world's finest binoculars. These well-balanced, rugged binoculars offer long eye relief, and superior resolution. PC-3® phase-coated optics give the Elite series exceptional brightness during low light conditions. All Elite models are fogproof and waterproof.



The **Custom®** models are ideal for nature enthusiasts and birders with fully multi-coated BAK-4 prisms for optimum resolution and light transmission. They also deliver long eye relief and close near focusing.



Award-winning **PremierHDR® 60mm Spotting Scopes** are a favorite in the field. Their multi-coated optics offer exceptional resolution, brightness and clarity.

few that's eluded your "life list." But today you'll catch the shadowy movement – practically a ghost image in the snow – that finally reveals the Ptarmigan.

And once again, you congratulate yourself for choosing a Bausch & Lomb® binocular.

It's one of the finest quality optics in the world.

Bausch & Lomb binoculars and spotting scopes. Serious birders are getting behind them.

For more information or the location of the dealer nearest you, call (800) 423-3537.

The plumage of the White-tailed Ptarmigan changes constantly with the seasons of the year. From its pure white appearance in November through February, it molts into breeding plumage around March. The colors are generally black and grey with many white-tipped feathers. Another molt in August brings autumn plumage of grey, brown and white, which helps the Ptarmigan blend in with the gray, lichen-stained rocks.



BAUSCH & LOMB®

BINOCULARS

www.bushnell.com/birding/home.html