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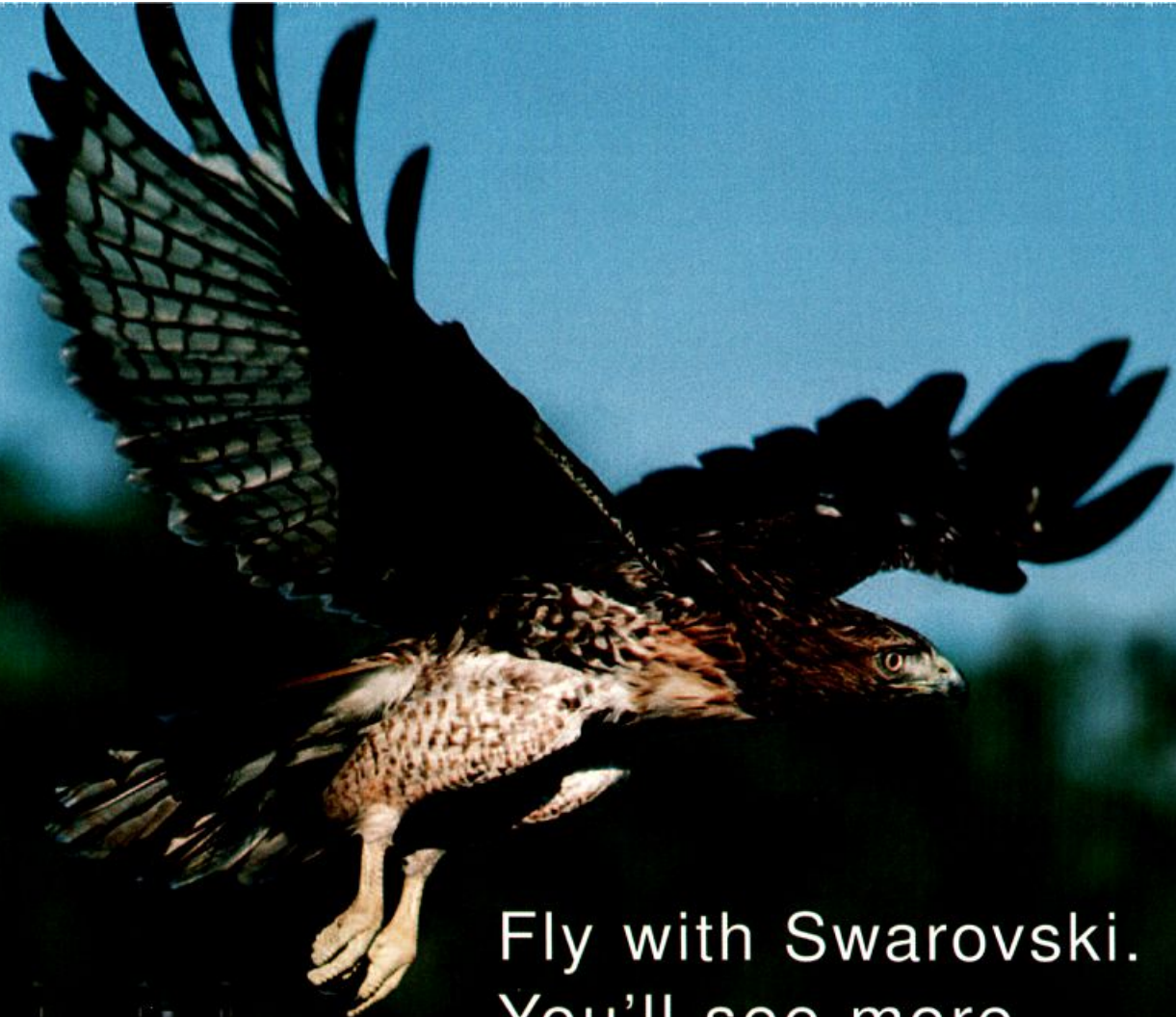
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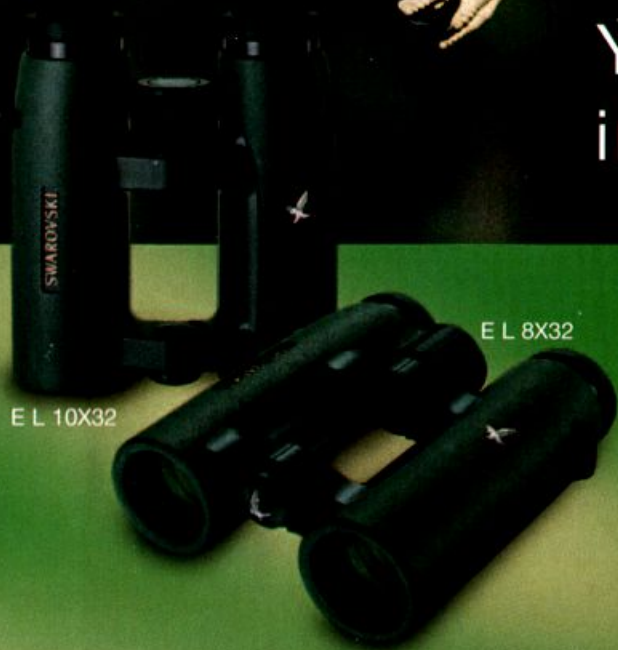
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ON THE COVER: The bird of the season in Texas was this male Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush that set up shop in Pharr beginning 27 May 2004 (here 31 May). This individual is the first to be documented in the United States, but the species is an abundant summer resident as far north as central Tamaulipas in Mexico, just 240 km to the south. Photograph by Ruth Hoyt.





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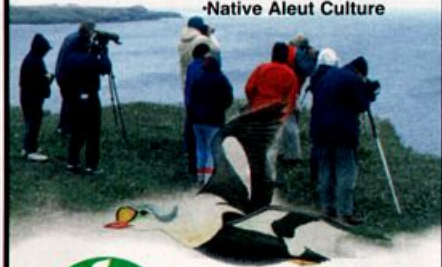
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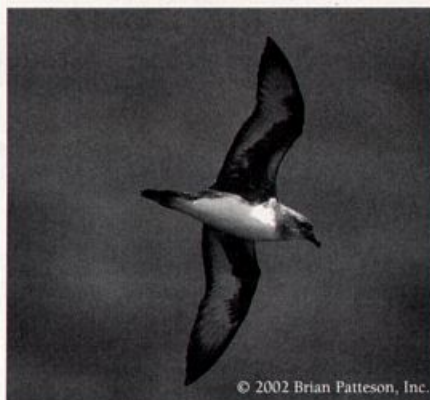
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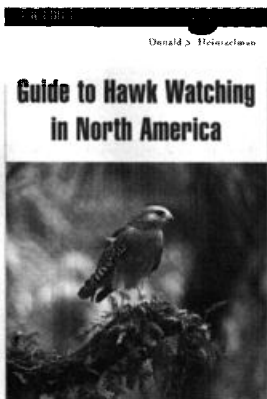
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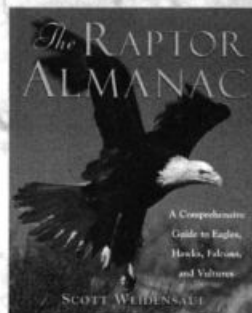


A Guide to Hawk Watching in North America

Donald S. Heintzelman
FalconGuide; published 2004;
426 pages; paper
Each year tens of thousands of raptors migrate — this guide provides detailed information on 460 sites throughout North America and profiles forty-

one species of diurnal raptors and vultures.

Item #787, ABA Sales Price \$16.95



The Raptor Almanac

Scott Weidensaul
Lyons Press; published 2004;
382 pages; paper
This comprehensive reference to the 310 species of diurnal birds of prey worldwide, including hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures, covers evolution, taxonomy, behavior, courtship and breeding, nesting, migration, and conservation efforts.

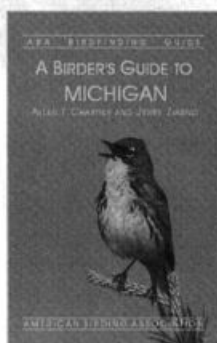
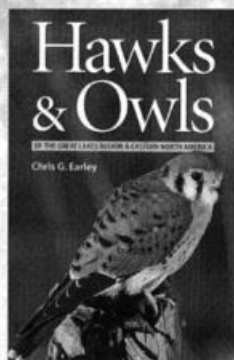
Item #788, ABA Sales Price \$24.95

Hawks and Owls of the Great Lakes & Eastern North America

Chris G. Early
Firefly Books; published 2004; 128 pages; paper

A great introduction to raptor ID, this title features more than 180 photos and comparison pages group similar-looking birds on a single page for quick reference. It includes male/female differences, seasonal and immature plumages, morphs, distinctive markings, and range maps.

Item #783, ABA Sales Price \$16.95



A Birder's Guide to Michigan

(ABA Birdfinding Guide Series)
Allen Chartier and Jerry Ziarno
Published fall 2004; 650 pages; paper
The latest addition to the ABA's birdfinding guide series covers more than 200 of Michigan's best birding sites and provides information on how to find boreal

specialties, such as Gyrfalcon, Snowy Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, and White-winged Crossbill. Includes maps, bar-graphs, an annotated list of specialty species, and lists of other animals.

Item #288, ABA Sales Price \$26.95 (List Price \$28.95)



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Yellow Rail, Whooping Crane, and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl: The trip works the Texas coastal plain from Houston. We wade the brackish marshes for the rail, take a boat ride for the cranes, and visit a ranch where the owls reside. P.D. Hulce is the leader. **12–16 January 2005.**

Buff-bellied Hummingbird, White-collared Seedeater, and "LRGV" Specialties: we cover the lower Rio Grande Valley from the Gulf to San Ygnacio in the Chihuahuan Desert country of Texas. The trip usually gets all of the Valley specialties and a vagrant species or two from Mexico, as well. From McAllen, Texas, led by P.D. Hulce. **17–23 January 2005.**

Colorado Chickens: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Greater Sage Grouse, Gunnison Sage Grouse, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Greater Prairie-Chicken. Most are seen on leks at good range. Three rosy-finches at feeders. Blue Grouse is usually seen, as well. From Denver, with Nick Komar leading. **8–14 April and 16–22 April 2005.**

Black-capped Vireo, Golden-cheeked Warbler: Travel into the Texas Hill Country for the two target birds at the time of year when they are vocalizing and the fields are ablaze with wildflowers. We usually get some "Valley" species such as Cave Swallow. From San Antonio. P.D. Hulce leads. **17–20 April 2005.**

Collina Warbler, Gray Vireo, Montezuma Quail, Common Black-Hawk: travel through Big Bend National Park and on to the Davis Mountains for the target species plus Lucifer Hummingbird and Varied Bunting. From Midland-Odessa, Texas, led by P.D. Hulce. **20–25 April 2005.**

Black Rail, Swainson's Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Red-capped Woodpecker, and other southern specialties: New Bern, North Carolina, led by John Fussell. **28 April–1 May and 5–8 May 2005.**

Bicknell's Thrush, Boreal Chickadee, and both Sharp-tailed Sparrows: We quickly see the sparrows in seaside marshes and proceed to the Mt. Washington area in New Hampshire. In addition to Bicknell's Thrush, we usually find some boreal species at the southern limit of their range, including Black-backed Woodpecker. From Portland, Maine. Bill Drummond leads. **June 11–14, 2005.**

Contact: Bob Odear at OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observ@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

North Dakota Prairie Birds: Le Conte's, Baird's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows; Sprague's Pipit, six species of grebes, and woodland songbirds such as Mourning Warbler and grosbeaks; Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, and much more. Schedule your personalized tour now.

Contact: Buffalo Commons Birding Safaris, 2704 10th Avenue NW, Mandan, ND 58554; (701) 228-5271 or (701) 663-4980; tgibson@ndak.net; barnhart@btinet.net.

Eastern Oregon Malheur Weekends. Spring trip features Trumpeter Swan, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Gray Flycatcher, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Sage Sparrow, Bobolink. **28 April–1 May 1 or 19–22 May 2005.** Fall trip includes visit to Steens Mountain for Black Rosy-Finch, Chukar, Greater Sage-Grouse, Red-naped Sapsucker, plus many migrant raptors and songbirds at Malheur NWR. **September 15–18 or October 13–16 2005.**

Canada, North America, ABA Area

South Florida and the Dry Tortugas

We visit at the height of spring migration for Florida specialties, exotics, seabird colonies and possible Caribbean strays, including a three-day trip to the Dry Tortugas. Led by Adrian Binns. **17–26 April 2005.** Contact: Jaeger Tours, (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net; www.jaegertours.net.

Gambell, Nome, and Pribilofs

Bird spring migration at the Pribilofs (St. Paul Island), Gambell, and Nome with a small group of hearty birders. Peak time for vagrants and Alaskan specialties. Stay in Siberian Yupik Eskimo home in Gambell; search for Bristle-thighed Curlew outside Nome; seabird colonies and fur seals rookeries on St. Paul. Small group, reasonable price. Pribilofs, 23–25 May 2005; Gambell and Nome, 27 May–4 June 2005. Contact: Wilderness Birding Adventures, 5515 Wild Mountain Road, Eagle River, AK 99577; (907) 694-7442; wildbird@alaska.net.

Alberta's Boreal Forest

Grand tour of Alberta's magnificent northern forests. As many as 20 warbler species, with males singing on territory in finest breeding colors, including Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Mourning, and Connecticut. Eighteen sparrow species possible, such as Baird's, Le Conte's, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed. Sprague's Pipit, Three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Boreal Chickadee are also likely. Rockies extension may include White-tailed Ptarmigan, Black Swift, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Harlequin Duck, and "Timberline" Brewer's Sparrow. 24 May–2 June 2005; Northern Rockies extension, 3–5 June 2005. Contact: Steve Shunk, Paradise Birding, 541-408-1753; steve@paradisebirding.com; www.paradisebirding.com.

Adak, Alaska

This tour offers a great chance to see spring migrants at this western Aleutian island, with Whiskered Auklet, Laysan Albatross, and Asian strays possible. Maximum 14 participants, with longtime Alaska resident Dan Wetzel and another leader. **22–29 May, 2005.** Contact: Dan L. Wetzel, NatureAlaska Tours, (907) 488-3746; dwetzel@alaska.net.

Caribbean

Jamaica Endemics: The interior of Jamaica is ruggedly beautiful, and the birds are fabulous. There are 28 endemics from Mandeville to Cockpit Country to Hardwar Gap to Eccles-down. All are usually seen on this trip, along with 60 other species. The trip is led by Ann Sutton and/or Brandon Hay. **14–20 February 2005.**

Puerto Rico Endemics: Puerto Rico has widely varying ecological zones, from xeric thorn forest to salt marshes to moist forests to high mountains. Of course that results in a wide variety of birds. There are 17 Puerto Rico endemics, and we usually see nearly 100 species. Led by José Colon. **30 March–3 April 2005.**

Dominican Republic Endemics: Our oldest West Indies tour takes you to the southwest portion of the country, where dry thorn forest covers the lowlands and moist forest clothes the great Baharucu Mountain range. There is even a huge salt lake below sea level. As always, diversity of habitat leads to diversity of bird species. There are 25 Dominican endemics, and we usually find a total of approximately 100 species. Led by Kate Wallace. **7–13 April 2005.** Contact: OBServ Tours, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN 37215; (615) 292-2739; observ@bellsouth.net; www.observtours.com.

Cuban Endemics

Our fourth winter with the ABA in Cuba will feature two birding programs: A 12-day itinerary led by Brett Walker and Arturo Kirkconnell covering Cuba's western highlands, northern archipelago, eastern reserves, and Zapata Peninsula, and a 10-day itinerary led by Dr. William Suarez and Nancy Norman to the western mountains and parks and the Zapata Peninsula. Legal travel programs approved by the U.S. Treasury Department. **17 February–1 March 2005 and 3–12 March 2005.** Contact: Gary Markowski; (860) 350-6752; Cubbirds@aol.com; CBSP, P.O. Box 355, New Milford, CT 06776.

Trinidad and Tobago

Join Richard Iffrench, author of the Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, to explore the rich avifauna of this beautiful island nation. From the new Cuffie River Lodge in the forests of Tobago and the famed Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad's Northern Range, we will enjoy the best tropical birding in the West Indies. **9–19 January 2005.** Contact: Caligo Ventures, (800) 426-7781; abatrip@caligo.com.

Mexico

Oaxaca

Join Michael Malone birding in Mexico's Oaxaca state. Visit the Valley of Oaxaca, Monte Albán, and the Pacific coast at Puerto Escondido seeking Mexican endemics. **29 January–6 February 2005.** Contact: Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery St. Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111; (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000; fax (415) 788-4133; travel@siemerhand.com.

Central and South America

Galápagos Islands

Join this short cruise among the Enchanted Isles aboard the Santa Cruz, built for exploration of these islands. Many of the islands remain the same as when Darwin himself saw them. Come see Darwin's finches and other island endemics. **June 2005;** dates to be announced. Contact: Clipper Cruise Line, (800)814-9393 x6813 or (800) 456-0020; csperry@intrav.com or groupes@intrav.com.

Europe

North Wales and Norfolk

Highlands, islands, and wetlands: the contrast of the mountains, oak woods, and moorlands of North Wales and the coastal plain of North Norfolk may offer the most diverse range of habitats currently available on a United Kingdom tour. All of the highlights from of spring in these remarkable regions can be found, with the potential for turning up some some unexpected rarities, as well. Breeding species include Black Grouse, Hawfinch, Ring Ouzel, Red Kite, Red-billed Chough, Stone Curlew, Golden Oriole, Bearded Tit, Pied Avocet, Wood Lark, European Nightjar, and Corn Bunting. With ample time to enjoy the beauty of these unspoiled regions, this tour offers a first class introduction to birding in the UK. Led by Neil Donaghy and Steve Cale. **7–20 May 2005.** Contact: Neil Donaghy, Celtic Bird Tours, 84 Coity Road, Bridgend CF31 1LT, Wales, UK; telephone (+44) 01656 645709; cell (+44) 07971 983227; Birds@celtictours.org.uk; www.celticbirdtours.com.

Pacific Ocean

Easter Island, Polynesia

Cruise aboard the beautiful, 106-guest Orion from Valparaiso, Chile. Island stops include islands of the San Fernandez Archipelago, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), the Pitcairn Archipelago, and the Tuamotus part of French Polynesia, before ending at Papeete, Tahiti. Pelagic birding and island specialties. With Robert Kiste and Robert Woollacott. **19 February–15 March 2005.** Contact: Travel Dynamics International, 132 East 70th St. New York, NY 10021; (800) 257-5767; www.travel-dynamicsinternational.com; sales@traveldynamicsinternational.com.

Asia

China

This expedition explores China's geographical diversity. Join us as we visit many of the best birding locales in China. Led by some of China's foremost ornithologists. **April/May 2005.** Contact: Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery St. Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000; fax (415) 788-4133; travel@siemerhand.com.

Africa

Morocco

Morocco boasts the richest bird life in North Africa, and along with its endemic, rare, and specialty birds, its Moorish and Berber culture and stunning scenery make this trip truly memorable. Led by Adrian Binns. **3–19 March 2005.** Contact: Jaeger Tours, (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net; www.jaegertours.net.