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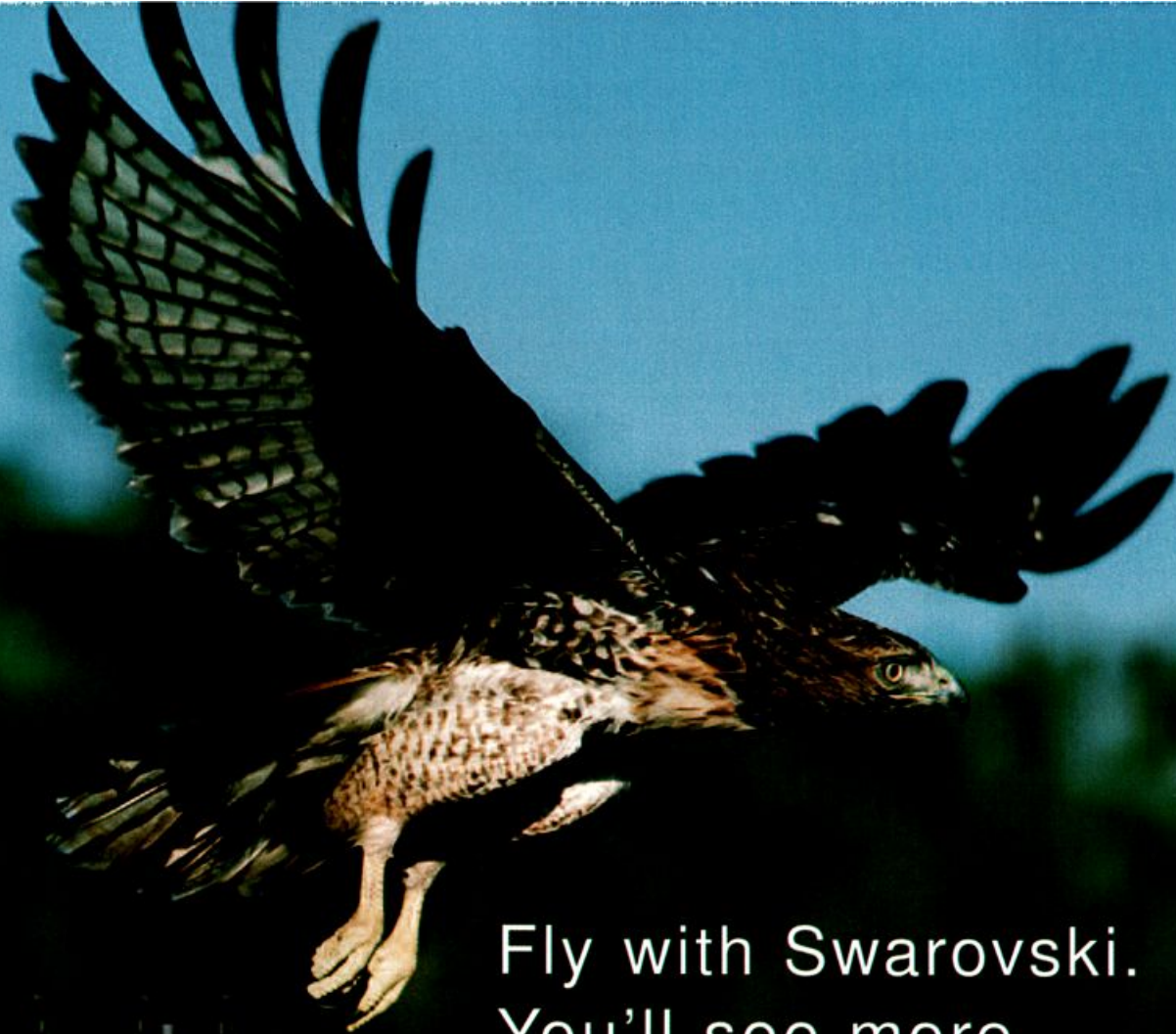
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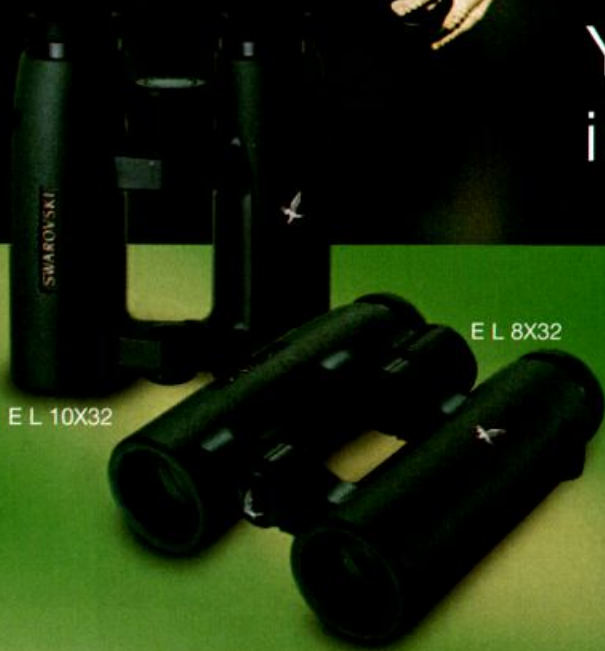
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ON THE COVER: With each passing season, "global warming" moves more and more from the margins of scientific theory to the status of observable fact. As the spring 2005 "Changing Seasons" essay notes, the tempo of ever-earlier spring arrivals and nestings appears to be quickening around the world. As southerly species are found farther and farther north, some Arctic species, such as Ivory Gull, appear to be declining rapidly in number, apparently response to radical changes in their environment: it is estimated that Canadian populations of this species have declined by 80% in the past twenty years. This image of an adult Ivory Gull was taken 13 May 2005 on the west beach of Gambell, Alaska. Photograph by Brad Benter/U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



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Hawk Owl and Gyrfalcon Tour: These and several other difficult northern specialties including Great Gray Owl and Spruce Grouse. From Duluth, MN. Mike Hendrickson leads. 28 December 2005-1 January 2006.

Dovekie, Alcids, and Boreal Species: This trip focuses on finding Dovekies in harbor or other sheltered site where they can be well seen. On some winters we have had many other Atlantic alcids; we may find boreal passerines, too, if snow conditions permit observation in the forests. From Halifax, Nova Scotia. Blake Maybank leads. 7-11 January 2006.

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. 11-15 January 2006.

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. 16-22 January 2006.

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 rosefinches at feeders. Blue Grouse is usually seen, as well. From Denver, with Nick Komar leading. 8-14 April and 16-22 April 2006.

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 2006.

Canada, North America, ABA Area

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, May 2006; Gambell and Nome, May-June 2006.

Caribbean

Cuba 1 - Zapata Peninsula, and the Mountains and Forests of Western Cuba
This trip covers locations in the western, central, and southern endemic habitats, and visits the southern (Caribbean) coast, offering excellent opportunities to see most of Cuba's endemics and an excellent variety of other species. Led by Brett Walker and Dr. William Suarez. 5-14 January 2006.

Cuba 2 - Zapata Peninsula, Northern Archipelago & Eastern Endemic Birding Regions of Cuba

This trip covers locations in the western, central, and eastern endemic habitats, and visits both the northern and southern coasts, offering the best opportunities to see the greatest number of endemics and other species. Led by Brett Walker and Dr. William Suarez. 17-28 January 2006.

Natural Wonders of the U.S. & British Virgin Islands
Embark on the yachtlike Nantucket Clipper in St. Thomas into some of the world's most beautiful waters with stops at Great Tobago, Tortola, the bird-laden cliffs of tiny Cooper Island and the Greater Fringing Shoals of Anegada. Snorkeling opportunities abound. 7-16 January 2006.

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 Ecclesdown. All are usually seen on this trip, along with 60 other species. The trip is led by Ann Sutton and/or Brandon Hay. 20-26 February 2006.

Contact: OBSERV TOURS, Inc., 3901 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN

37215; (615) 292-2739; observtours@bellsouth.net
<observtours@bellsouth.net>; www.observtours.com
<http://www.observtours.com>.

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. 25-29 March 2006.

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 Bahoruco 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 2006.

Mexico

Complete Yucatán
The trip begins in Cozumel with several insular endemics, goes south through the "Maya Riviera" to the famed Sian Ka'an refuge, then heads west across the peninsula to the new Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, which is on a high plateau that extends into Guatemala. Finally we bird near the west coast on the Gulf of Campeche. More than 25 endemics may be encountered, and about 150 other species. Leader is David Bacab. 2-12 February 2006.

Baja & Sea of Cortez - Bird & Whale Watching Expedition
Join Mexican ornithologist Juan Martinez to the famous Gray Whale calving grounds aboard the yachtlike Yorktown Clipper where whale-watching and snorkeling will be combined with birding for Baja specialties. While looking for whales will be the emphasis with chances for humpback, fin-back, and blue whales likely, birds too will be studied. 25 February-4 March 2006.

Central Veracruz Sierra
Beginning in coastal Veracruz, we head immediately to Xalapa, Capital of the state. Birding from there, we explore various elevations and rainfall zones. There are 18 endemics in this area, a place of great civility and beauty. Rob Odear and Bob Straub lead. 9-24 May 2006.

Southern Veracruz and the Tuxtias
And the Tuxtias. At one time this area produced the highest Christmas count in the world. The parts of the area have been converted to agricultural uses, but this remains one of the most productive birding areas in Mexico. We cover the coastal plain as well as the Tuxtla volcanic complex. There are 26 species of special interest. Bob Odear and Bob Straub lead. 15-21 May 2006.

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Central and South America

Costa Rica and Panama
Cruise on the Yorktown Clipper from Costa Rica to Panama, including this region's great engineering spectacle, the Panama Canal. This is an excellent introduction to tropical birding, with multiple daily stops in both countries for birding along rich lowland rainforest trails. Expert onboard naturalists. Very birdy pre- and post-cruise extensions available. 8-18 February 2006.

Europe

Scottish Isles to Iceland
Embark Edinburgh Scotland for an expedition on board the Clipper Adventurer. The legendary Orkney Islands of Scotland will be explored on the way to Fair Isle and Mousa of the Shetland Islands, Denmark's Faroe Islands, and finally to Westmann and Hately Islands in Iceland. Exceptionally good for seabirds. 21 June-4 July 2006.

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Pacific Ocean

Hawaii
We visit three islands—Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island—each markedly different, including the geologically oldest and youngest. We visit rainforests and deserts and explore the incredible variety of habitats at elevations ranging from sea level to more than 12,000 feet, to see the greatest number of bird species, both endemic and introduced. Rob Pacheco and other professional birders will lead this group. 8-18 March 2006.

Eastern Australia
Australia, the island continent, has an incredible number (338) of endemic bird species and endemic bird families. Our tour starts in Tasmania with beautiful forest birding and a pelagic trip. We then visit the mainland with arid bushland, wet sclerophyll hill forest, coastal heathlands and beaches, before ending with tropical and highland rainforests, and the savanna grasslands of northern Australia. 28 August-14 September 2006.

Asia

Spring Birding in Japan
Join Englishman Chris Cook on a spring tour that includes the islands of Honshu, Kyushu, Tohoshima, Hachijo, Kagoshima on Kyushu and the famous Lake Biwako. The endemic Izu Islands Thrush, Ijima's Leaf Warbler, and the Fairy Pitta are some of the target species. 20-30 May 2006.

Islands of the Russian Far East
Join John Sylvester on board the Clipper Odyssey cruising from Tokyo, Japan to Petropavlovsk on the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula. With stops in the Kuril Islands many Asian species the "might" get to the U.S. outer islands may be encountered. White-tailed and Steller's Sea-Eagles, Blackiston's Fish Owl, Spectacled Guillemot, Vega Gull, and lots of cliffs with nesting seabirds. 11-23 June 2006.

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Africa

Exploring the Rivers of West Africa
Explore the extraordinary birds and wildlife of the Casamance, Kian West National Park, and Abuako Nature Reserve—so different from Kenya and Tanzania—aboard the 34-guest luxury yacht Callisto. View Carmine Bee-eaters, Yellow-billed Storks, and Paradise Flycatchers alongside baboons, warthogs, marsh mongoose, and roan antelopes. Cruise will also include stops at Mopti and a flight to Timbuktu and exploration of the Dogon region. 29 December 2005-13 January 2006 and 3-18 February 2006.

Birding on the Nile

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Zambia—the Real Africa!

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Antarctica

Antarctica and the Falkland Islands
Join the crew of the Clipper Adventurer in the icy waters of the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula. Scenery and abundant wildlife, including penguins, seabirds, and marine mammals, along with some endemic birds of the Falkland Islands, will be the highlights. 17-27 February 2006.

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

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Since its inception, the fund has allowed for many improvements to the journal's look and feel. The journal is now mailed in a protective wrapper to insure its delivery in one piece. The content has benefited from an increase in page count which has allowed for additional articles with even more detailed analysis. The amount of color pages has increased which has allowed for expanded Pictorial Highlights and an occasional Photo Salon.

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There are more plans in the works for future issues but the fund does need your continued support. To become a "Friend of NAB", simply donate \$50 or more. Each "Friend of NAB" will be recognized annually in the first issue of each volume of *North American Birds*.

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