

Appalachia

Volume 63
Number 2 Summer/Fall 2012: *The Lure of
Alaska*

Article 21

2012

Observation Tower #1, Pico Bonito, Honduras

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Recommended Citation

Del Clements, Marcyn (2012) "Observation Tower #1, Pico Bonito, Honduras," *Appalachia*: Vol. 63: No. 2, Article 21.

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Observation Tower #1
Pico Bonito, Honduras

12 January 2010

A cold neblina drips down through
the canopy, falls on our lookout tower,
on the ginger flowers below us
that shine like red eyes in the gloom.

A dark, furry animal flows downslope,
followed by another, a third, then
a young one, now several larger adults.
All glide soundlessly under

the glistening rainforest leaves, long
snouts, with tails trailing straight behind.
These are coati, a small foraging group,
moving mirages. I forget to breathe.

Down the hill, through the trees they shuffle,
disturb a pair of white-breasted wood wrens,
that call once, then lapse into silence
and the deep perfume of afternoon rain.

Marcyn Del Clements

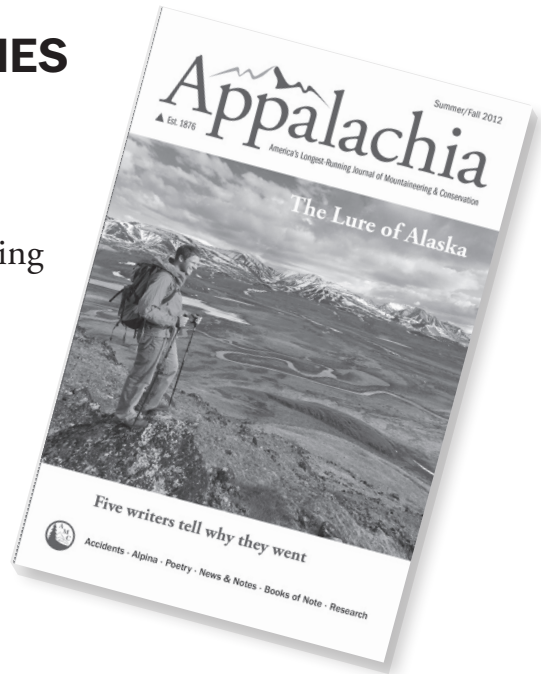
MARCYN DEL CLEMENTS visited northern Honduras to snorkel on Utila Island, and watch birds at Pico Bonito. She lives in Claremont, California and is a frequent contributor to *Appalachia*.

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