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## Observation Tower #1, Pico Bonito, Honduras

Marcyn Del Clements

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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*

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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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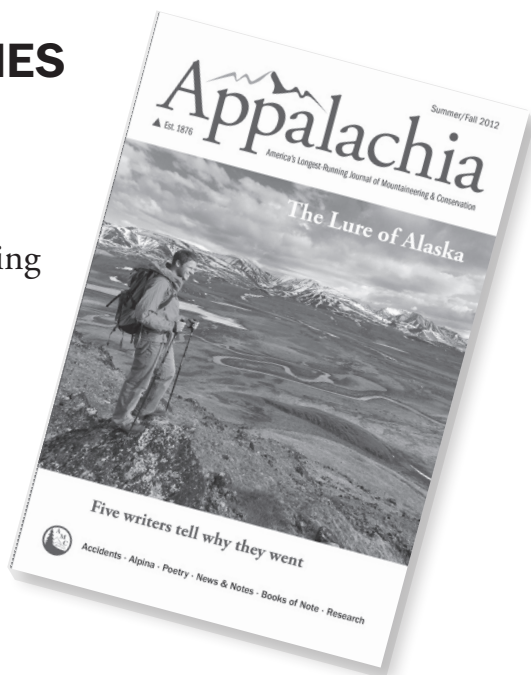
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