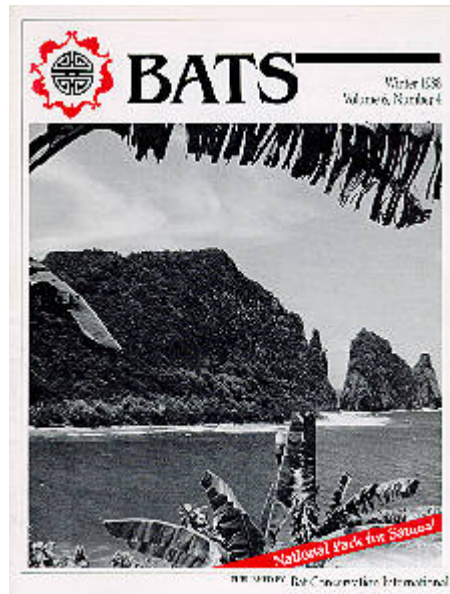


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On the Cover

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Polauta Ridge and Pola Island in American Samoa are part of the 8,500 acres being set aside for a national park. This area provides nesting sites for many seabirds. Throughout the park, visitors can observe a wide variety of sea, marsh, and land birds, sometimes seen in flight with Samoa's only native mammals, Samoan and Tongan flying foxes. Surrounding coral reefs shelter myriads of colorful fish, sea turtles and other marine life, while dolphins abound and occasional whales can be spotted. Pristine beaches border lush lowland and montane rain forests that extend to cloud forests in the mountains above. Photo by Merlin D. Tuttle

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