OBSERVATIONS OF THE POST-FLEDGING BEHAVIOR AND PREY OF THE SOLITARY EAGLE
(HARPYHALIAETUS SOLITARIUS)

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The Solitary Eagle (Harpyhaliaetus solitarius) is a rare and local resident with a small population size within its broad distributional range from northern Mexico to northwest Argentina (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001, Clark et al. 2006, BirdLife International 2008). Due to a combination of a small population, low density, low fecundity, deforestation, habitat degradation, poaching, and restricted habitat, the Solitary Eagle is listed as Near Threatened, but may be listed as Vulnerable based on further evidence of decreasing population size and trends (BirdLife International 2008).

Most aspects of the natural history, breeding biology, and population demographics are virtually unknown for this species, making any new information valuable for understanding the ecology of this rare eagle (Bierregaard 1998). Only two nests have been discovered for this species (Harrison and Kiff 1977). Both of them were in steep terrain within the vicinity of the transition zone between pine forest and broadleaf forest in Mexico, and in both cases, either the adults or eggs were collected.