



FRONT COVER . . .

The three charismatic duos on our cover illustrate differing degrees of association between species within a habitat. The elephant, impala, and tortoise are herbivores whose presence, directly or indirectly, helps neighboring birds find food. As it forages, the African elephant, *Loxodonta africana*, disturbs arthropods and other prey, which are caught by the cattle egret, *Bubulcus ibis*. Cattle egrets have greatly expanded their range in recent years because they are equally at home feeding near domesticated animals. The red-billed oxpecker, *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*, also occurs with wild and domesticated grazers, but it is restricted to sub-Saharan Africa. The descriptively named oxpecker feeds on engorged ticks pulled from the skin of mammals such as the impala, *Aepyceros melampus*. It also enlarges the wounds made by ticks to drink blood from the host animal and even uses hairs plucked from the host to line its nest. The relative benefits and costs of this behavior for the impala remain to be assessed. However, a far more benign relationship occurs between the Galápagos hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*) and a local tortoise (*Geochelone elephantopus vandenburghi*). The hawk simply uses the tortoise's shell as a vantage point from which to spot prey.

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