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The facility is modest — a small control room in the upper elevations of the Santa Catalina Mountains — but the research being done by the Catalina Sky Survey is out of this world. Literally. Its mission is to discover asteroids and comets that pass within 30 million miles of Earth's orbit. And since its start nearly 20 years ago, the NASA-funded lab has identified almost half of the 15,000 known near-Earth objects. By Matt Jaffe

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Cape Royal Road: Cape Royal offers one of the best overlooks in Grand Canyon National Park. It's impressive, and so is the narrow, winding road that takes you there. By Noah Austin Photograph by Adam Schallau

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Baldy Crossover Trail: Although it's overshadowed by its celebrated neighbors, the Mount Baldy Crossover Trail is the epitome of a gorgeous walk in the woods. By Robert Stieve

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A Calleta silkmoth (*Eupackardia calleta*) caterpillar climbs an ocotillo branch in Oracle, north of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Bruce D. Taubert CANON EOS 5D MARK III, 1/20 SEC, F/5.6, ISO 200, 100 MM LENS, 10 IMAGES STACKED

FRONT COVER: Santa Catalina Mountains illustration by Chris Gall

BACK COVER: The water of Bear Creek cascades over Seven Falls in the Santa Catalina Mountains' Bear Canyon. Jeff Maltzman CANON EOS 5D MARK III, 1/4 SEC, F/16, ISO 50, 28 MM LENS

OINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSU

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