

BIRD TREKS

HAWK MIGRATION in the RIO GRANDE VALLEY of SOUTH TEXAS

March 27 - April 3, 2012: 8 days and 7 nights

We will visit the well-known, highly productive hawk watches at **Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park** and **Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge**, both in the Rio Grande Valley.

Birding We'll plan on four days at each location. We can spend part or all of each day hawk watching at these prime spots. Or, if the hawks are a bit slow or you want a change of pace, we are at some of the best birding spots in the country. There may be some nearby rarities to look for, plus we can consider an evening or two to search for owls and nightjars.

Flights We will fly into and out of **McAllen Miller International Airport**.

Accommodations All seven nights will be in the same motel in McAllen. There will be very little driving to our raptor watching destinations.



BOB SCHUTSKY

- - *Mary Brenner, tour participant*

Leader Your **Hawk Watching Expedition** will be led by **Bob Schutsky** who is intimately familiar with this great birding region and will enjoy sharing it with you.

Price \$1875 per person, based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$345. A \$400 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable on 27 January 2012. The tour fee includes the following:

Expert guide service, lodging for seven nights, **ALL meals** and entrance fees, and ground transportation within Texas. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader.

Price does not include the cost of airfare to and from McAllen, Texas. BIRD TREKS will, upon request, gladly help you obtain the best possible airfare. Also not included are the cost of alcoholic beverages and items of a personal nature.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive BIRD TREKS travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Lori can be reached through Bailey Travel at **1-800-224-5399** or **717-854-5511**, or you can e-mail her at lori@baileytravel.com. By dealing with Lori you have

the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. Please discuss any service fees directly with Lori.

We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** (formerly Access America) and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at www.allianztravelinsurance.com or by phone at **1-800-284-8300**.

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Probable and Possible Raptors in late March - early April

Black Vulture	Gray Hawk
Turkey Vulture	Swainson's Hawk
Osprey	White-tailed Hawk
Hook-billed Kite	Zone-tailed Hawk
Swallow-tailed Kite	Red-tailed Hawk
White-tailed Kite	Ferruginous Hawk
Mississippi Kite	Golden Eagle
Northern Harrier	Crested Caracara
Sharp-shinned Hawk	American Kestrel
Cooper's Hawk	Merlin
Harris's Hawk	Peregrine Falcon
Red-shouldered Hawk	Prairie Falcon
Broad-winged Hawk	



Extreme Rarities seen at about that time

Crane Hawk	Collared Forest-Falcon
Short-tailed Hawk	Roadside Hawk

White-tailed Hawk -- *Mary Brenner, tour participant*

Some non-raptor species that we hope to see. We will see some of these and many more.

Least Grebe	Buff-bellied Hummingbird
American White Pelican	Ringed Kingfisher
Neotropic Cormorant	Green Kingfisher
Anhinga	Ladder-backed Woodpecker
White-faced Ibis	Couch's Kingbird
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Vermilion Flycatcher
Plain Chachalaca	Great Kiskadee
Sandhill Crane	Cave Swallow
White-winged Dove	Green Jay
Inca Dove	Curve-billed Thrasher
Common Ground-Dove	Orange-crowned Warbler
White-tipped Dove	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Red-crowned Parrot	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Green Parakeet	Brewer's Blackbird
Pauraque	Bronzed Cowbird



Green Kingfisher (male)
-- *Mark Hubinger*

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