

Bird TREKS

HAWK MIGRATION in the RIO GRANDE VALLEY of SOUTH TEXAS

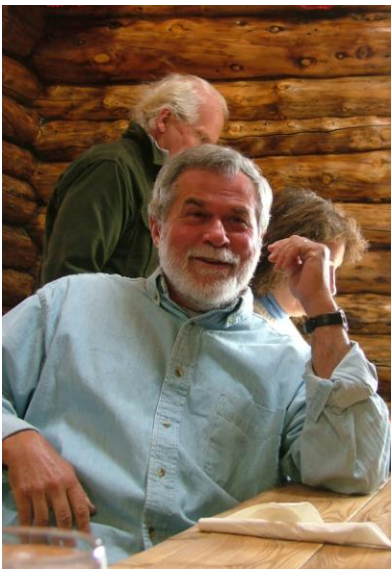
Dates Tuesday, 23 March to Tuesday 30 March 2018: 8 days and 7 nights

Destinations We will visit the well-known, highly productive hawk watches at **Bentsen - Rio Grande Valley State Park** and **Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge**, both fairly close together in the Lower 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. But if the hawks are a bit slow or we want a change of pace, we are in and near some of the best birding locations 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**. Plan to arrive by early afternoon of 23 March, and depart sometime in mid-afternoon of 30 March.

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, your leader

- - *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 \$2095 per person, based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations are available for an extra charge of \$450. A \$500 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is payable 23 January 2018. The tour fee includes the following:

Expert guide service, lodging for all 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 costs 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 33 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Lori can be reached through Bailey Travel / Travel Time 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. There is a small fee for her services.

We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can apply via the Internet at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com**, or by phone at **1-866-884-3556**.

We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants, in which case we will have a second leader and van.

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Probable and Possible Raptors in late March . . .

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 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 | |



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

Raptor Rarities previously observed at about this time include . . .

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

Some non-raptor species that we hope to find. We will see most of these and many others!

Least Grebe
American White Pelican
Neotropic Cormorant
Anhinga
White-faced Ibis
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Plain Chachalaca
Sandhill Crane
White-winged Dove
Inca Dove
Common Ground-Dove
White-tipped Dove
Red-crowned Parrot
Green Parakeet
Common Pauraque

Buff-bellied Hummingbird
Ringed Kingfisher
Green Kingfisher
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Couch's Kingbird
Vermilion Flycatcher
Great Kiskadee
Cave Swallow
Green Jay
Curve-billed Thrasher
Orange-crowned Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Bronzed Cowbird



Green Kingfisher (male)

- - *Mark Hubinger*

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