

Imagine one million hawks passing in one week...

**Hawk Mountain and Pronatura-Veracruz
Invite You to Join the
*2021 River of Raptors
Hawk-Watching Excursion***

September 28th to October 7th

10 days including 2 nights in southern forest of Veracruz

***Cost: \$3600 plus airfare for ten-day trip, double occupancy
(option to shorten trip to 7 days)***

***Leaders: Laurie Goodrich, HMS Senior Biologist
and Eduardo Martinez Levya, Biologist- Bird Guide***



***Join us for the hawk-watching experience of a lifetime! We plan to visit at the
peak of the migration, when daily counts may number 200,000 raptors
including Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks.***

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**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, PA, and Pronatura-Veracruz, MX,
Invite You to Join them for the 2021 *River of Raptors*
Hawk-Watching and Birding Trip of a lifetime, September 28th to
October 7th**

*(Six days in hawk-watching area then three days exploring southern Veracruz
in northernmost rain forest in the Americas, October 4 to 7th)*

Each fall season an average of *four and a half million hawks* of 30 species are recorded from two count sites in central Veracruz, Mexico, including greater than two million Broad-winged Hawks. They squeeze into a 15-mile-wide bottleneck between the mountains and the Gulf of Mexico – along with mind-boggling numbers of other migrants: Wood Storks, Anhingas, White Pelicans, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, etc. Counts in recent years have confirmed that Veracruz is host to the most concentrated raptor migration in the world and receives over 90% of the population of Swainson's and Broad-winged hawks, and Mississippi Kites.

From Hawk Mountain's Senior Biologist Laurie Goodrich's journal:

The hawks swirl off of the hills in the mid-morning heat rising into small streams then merging into rivers, spiraling overhead. On every horizon kettles are forming, merging together into rivers of raptors. There are birds everywhere with layers of kettles swirling in different directions overhead--Turkey Vultures and Swainson's below and Broadwings above--an incredible sight! Everyone is in awe. Excitement is tangible."

Hawk Mountain helped initiate the *Veracruz River of Raptors* Project in 1991 in collaboration with HawkWatch International and Mexican conservationists.

Through their efforts, the site has grown into a world-renown monitoring, education, and conservation initiative. The work has been led by Pronatura-Veracruz for more than 20 years and in 2006 they opened the first-ever bird observatory-nature center in eastern Mexico. Hawk-watching takes place from chairs atop roof of observatory and hotel, with cooler of drinks nearby.

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Participant numbers are limited to 12 to ensure a quality experience for everyone. Participants will observe the world-renowned raptor and wading bird migration, view Mexican specialties and wintering birds, and have special introductions to Pronatura's on-the ground conservation efforts in central Veracruz.



In addition to hawk-watching, the Hawk Mountain tour group will explore local habitats for some of the many species of birds to be found in central Veracruz. Several raptor species such as Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Laughing and Aplomado Falcons (see left), and Snail Kite will be seen as well as other spectacular birds, such as Double-striped Thick-Knee, Vermillion Flycatcher, Blue-crowned Motmot, Squirrel Cuckoo, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, and possibly Blue Mockingbird. The

butterflies in Veracruz are as exciting as the birds. Leaders will have bird and butterfly guides along for all the forays.

An optional extension will visit the Catemaco area in southern Veracruz, including the northernmost rain forest in the Americas. Birds to be found there include White Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Grey-headed Kite, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Red-lored and White-fronted Parrot, Black-and-White Owl, Long-tailed Hermit, Violet Sabrewing, Violaceous and Collared Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, and other forest birds. Another 45 new species will be expected in this extension.

VRR Trip Dates: September 28 to October 7, 2021

Costs: \$3500 includes:

- ① All ground transportation airport to airport with an experienced driver

- ① Expert local, bilingual guide
- ① Expert North American guide
- ① All admission fees
- ① All meals in Mexico (wine/beer are extra)
- ① Lodging in comfortable rooms, double occupancy
- ① Instruction in hawk identification
- ① Snacks and water daily
- ① A contribution to Pronatura Veracruz's raptor conservation programs
- ① Supplement for a single room is extra (\$450)
- ① Tips to Mexican guide and driver are encouraged and are extra
- ① airfare to Veracruz airport is extra

Airfare is not included. The round-trip airfare to Veracruz will vary with city of origin but is estimated at \$600-700 per person. We encourage people route through Houston so we can meet in Houston airport. From Houston we will fly together direct into Veracruz so we can arrive together. Regardless, contact Laurie with your tentative flight arrangements before making any reservations as things can change and to find out what flight we are using. Make sure your flights are refundable or have no change fees. We strongly urge you purchase trip insurance to cover unrecoverable costs in case of illness or need to cancel.

Deposits/Payment: Trip is limited to 12 adult participants on a first-come, first serve basis. If less than six participants sign-up, we may merge our trip with another or cancel. To hold a slot on the trip register through Hawk Mountain or call/email Dr. Laurie Goodrich at 570-943-3411 x 106 (goodrich@hawkmountain.org) and submit a \$500 deposit by **June 30, 2021**. Balance of payment is due **August 15, 2021**. The refund policy is attached.



Trip Philosophy:

The *Veracruz Hawk-Watching Excursion* is designed for the hawk-watcher/conservationist/bird-watcher. We have designed the trip to provide maximum opportunities to view the spectacle of the migration, to benefit local raptor conservation efforts and to gain an appreciation for the culture of central Mexico away from the tourist destinations. We will stay in the local

community to ensure our dollars support the local people and allow the participants to experience Mexican culture first-hand. Flexibility and good humor are required to make the tour a successful adventure for each participant.

It is important to recognize that Mexican small-town hotels and restaurants may not all be on par with U.S. AAA standards. However, they hold a unique charm and atmosphere that you will find enchanting. We will ensure that tour participants are given clean, safe rooms with fans or air-conditioning and treated to excellent, healthy local fare. Facilities are informal and friendly. Previous tour groups have said they enjoyed being away from the normal tourist routine and long to return.

The trip schedule is very full, but participants are encouraged to take a morning or afternoon off from the group and rest or relax on their own to make the trip at your own pace. Cardel and Jalapa are safe and accessible for exploration.

Tour Leaders:

Laurie Goodrich, Ph.D., Director of Long-term Monitoring at Hawk Mountain, is one of the co-founders of the Veracruz River of Raptors project and a project scientific advisor. She has led trips to the region since 1994 and never tires of watching the migration. She received her Master's in Ecology from Rutgers University and Ph.D. from Penn State University. She oversees the hawk migration counts and conducts research on raptor migration.



In Veracruz, the group will be joined by a bilingual ornithologist, **Eduardo Martinez Leyva**, once the coordinator of the River of Raptors hawk count and banding stations. Eduardo has extensive birding and guiding experience and happily shares his abundant natural and cultural knowledge with our tours. Trip logistics

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will be coordinated by Pronatura Veracruz and their staff in cooperation with Laurie Goodrich, River of Raptors co-founder. Proceeds benefit Pronatura's conservation programs.

Because of Hawk Mountain's close relationship with Pronatura, other Pronatura staff may join the group periodically and special programs are possible.

VERACRUZ TRIP 2021 ITINERARY

The Itinerary may be re-arranged depending on weather and hawk-watching opportunities. However, most of the sites listed below will be visited by the group. The schedule is very full, but participants are encouraged to take a morning or afternoon off to recharge and rest as needed.

September 28th — Travel Day/Veracruz overnight

Fly to Veracruz City via Houston. Meet guides and group in Houston and arrive at Veracruz City Airport to travel by van to a hotel for an overnight along the Gulf of Mexico.



September 29th, Hotel Bienvenidos, Cardel

Early morning bird walk and visit to Gulf of Mexico beach followed by sumptuous breakfast. Look for Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, gulls, terns, seabirds, and migrating songbirds along the beach and in hotel gardens. Travel to Cardel and arrive at Hotel Bienvenidos, check-in and visit roof-top hawkwatch for afternoon flights. Late afternoon visit to Zempoala ruins, a pre-Colombian settlement of the Totanac culture. Dinner in local restaurant and an introduction to the migrating raptor identification.



September 30th, Hotel Bienvenidos, Cardel

Birding at Villa Rica at Lagoon and visit Quiahuixtlan ruins looking for bird migration from the prominent site. Lunch in Cardel. Hawkwatching on roof in Cardel and Chichicastle for most of the day or rest or explore the town. Visit Hernan Cortez's first house then take evening boat ride on La Antigua river out to Gulf to spot kingfishers, shorebirds, terns, pelicans, followed by dinner in La Antigua open air seafood restaurant.

October 1, Hotel Posada Cafeto in Xalapa

Early morning bird walk in Macuiltepetl Ecological Park, a preserved forest located on an ancient extinct volcano in center city. We will seek out the many resident species that may be found here including the Blue Mockingbird and Blue-crowned Motmot, and Green Jays. A brunch in town and travel to world-

renown *Museo de Antropologia* to view the excellent Olmec exhibits. Rest or shopping downtown then dinner at a local restaurant before returning to Xalapa hotel for evening.

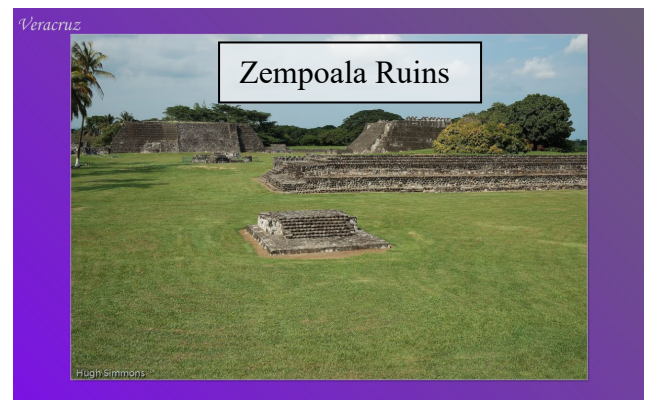
October 2nd, Hotel Bienvenidos, Cardel

An early breakfast and morning birding trip to high elevation pine-woodland forest above Xalapa to look for Red Warbler, Russet Nightingale Thrush, White-eared Hummingbird and other mountain birds. A box lunch on the bus and travel to east to Chichicaxtle to enjoy a late afternoon of hawk-watching and enjoy afternoon program for the local kids at Observatory. Check into Hotel Bienvenidos and enjoy a relaxed evening dinner.



October 3rd, Hotel Colonial, Veracruz.

Early morning birding at El Mirador, a shade coffee plantation with a mature forest. Many forest specialties like Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, Tropical Parula, Gartered Trogon and more are possible; a special lunch will be served on site. Return for hawk-watching at Chichicaxtle then travel south to Veracruz City for the evening. Dinner on the Zocalo in



Double-striped
Thickknee

Veracruz.

October 4th, Hotel Playa Azul.

Pack up and leave early to Las Barrancas grasslands and Alvarado wetlands south of Veracruz. Look for Double-striped Thick Knees, Yellow-headed Vulture, Snail Kite, Limpkin, American Bittern, swallows, and other marsh birds. Boat ride to explore Alvarado Wetlands, a world heritage wetland site with possible Black-collared Hawk and kingfishers. After Lunch, continue south to Catemaco for the evening.

October 5th, Hotel Playa Azul.

Explore Nanciyaga reserve looking for Great Curassow, Scarlet Macaw, RuddyCrake, and other forest birds. Lunch at the reserve then visit Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve for more forest birds and possible White Hawk. Possible rest time at hotel and Dinner at Hotel.



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October 6th, Hotel Mocambo, Veracruz. Bird Ruiz Cortinez in Cloud Forest of Los Tuxtlas looking for caciques, trogons, tinamous, and ornate hawk eagle, black hawk eagle and others. After lunch head to southern part of Veracruz City for overnight.

October 7th. Airport. Head out to airport very early grab breakfast on your own at airport. Say goodbye to new friends!



Collared Aracari

Photos by L. Goodrich, P and C. Sutton, E. Richey.

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Veracruz Fall Migration Anual Averages

Turkey Vulture	1,749,646
Osprey	2616
Bald Eagle	1
Swallow-tailed Kite	247
Mississippi Kite	161122
Hook-billed Kite	151
White-tailed Kite	2
Northern Harrier	433
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3492
Cooper's Hawk	2150
Northern Goshawk	1
Zone-tailed Hawk	156
Red-shouldered Hawk	11
Red-tailed Hawk	196
Roadside Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1,700,415
Swainson's Hawk	733,529
Harris Hawk	5
Common Black Hawk	5
Gray Hawk	606
White-tailed Hawk	2
American Kestrel	6443
Merlin	144
Peregrine Falcon	648
Ferruginous Hawk	2
Golden Eagle	1

TOTAL RAPTORS 4,504,302



Laughing Falcon
by Julio Gallardo

Other migrants enjoyed included White Pelicans, Wood Storks, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, White-winged Doves, White-faced Ibis, Anhingas, etc.



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**2021 Hawk Mountain Veracruz
Hawk-Watching Excursion
Reservation Form**

Yes! Sign me up for a place on the 2021 excursion to view the River of Raptors in Veracruz, Mexico. Enclosed is my \$500 deposit for trip due by June 1, 2021 with final payments by August 1, 2021. I have signed and attached the participant release form and I enclose it herein.

Name _____
(write full name found on passport, and nickname if you use one.)

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Deposits can be made with check (to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) or credit card:

Visa or Master Card number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____. Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Send Reservation Form and payment to:

**L. Goodrich, Trip Coordinator
Veracruz Hawk-Watching Excursion
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
410 Summer Valley Road
Orwigsburg, PA 17961**

Questions may be directed to Laurie Goodrich at: 570-943-3411 x 106, or at
goodrich@hawkmtn.org

Veracruz Trip Cancellation Policy

Refund of deposit and payment, less a \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 60 days before departure. If cancellation is made between 45 to 60 days before departure a \$150 handling fee is not refundable, but other payments will be returned, less any inseparable costs. All efforts will be made to fill the place and refund costs other than the \$100 if the place is filled. After 45 days before the trip, cancellation charge will be 25% of tour price and may be as much as 100%, depending on the separable costs (such as individual rooms, per-person charges and fees) that can be recovered. All participants are urged to purchase trip insurance. Information on trip insurance can be obtained from your own insurance agent or Travel Safe. Also, check with your carrier on coverage for items you will carry on the trip.

Responsibility:

For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura, A.C., its agents, trip leaders, employees, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release Agreement attached. Pronatura, A.C., Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motor coach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles, or for any reasons whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura, A.C., accept no responsibility for losses, or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participants shall bear all such losses and expenses. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura, A.C., reserve the right to make any changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura A.C. reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage and personal items carried by owner are at the owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking the tour. If you have questions regarding the physical requirements, contact the Laurie Goodrich at Hawk Mountain. Weather will be hot and muggy. Each participant is responsible for bringing the appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in post-reservation materials. The receipt of your tour deposit shall be deemed to be your consent to the above conditions. Each tour participant also shall

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sign and deliver the release and indemnity agreement at the time of registration.

I also am aware of the highly contagious nature of the novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 (the "Disease") and the risk that myself and other persons may be exposed to or contract the Disease by participation in the Veracruz River of Raptors Tour, hereafter termed "Program Activity". Further, I am aware that attending the Program Activity, I could increase my risk of contracting the Disease. I also understand and acknowledge that such exposure or infection may result in illness, personal injury, permanent disability, death, or property damages to myself or other persons. I acknowledge that this risk may result or be compounded by the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself or others, including but not limited to, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Program Activity employees, volunteers, Third-Party Entities associated with the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary as part of the Program Activity, and Program Activity participants and their families. Notwithstanding the risks associated with the Disease, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily choosing to participate in the Program Activity.

I understand that while the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has implemented preventative measures to reduce the spread of the Disease, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary cannot guarantee that I will not become infected with the Disease because of participating in the Program Activity. I understand that no list of restrictions, guidelines, or practices will remove all of the risk of exposure to the Disease while my I participate in the Program Activity.

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Hawk Mountain 2021 Veracruz Hawk-Watching Excursion Participant Release and Indemnity Agreement

I am willingly participating in a birding tour in the state of Veracruz, Mexico between September 27th and October 8th, and I acknowledge that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur with this expedition, known or unknown, relating but not limited to: travel in remote areas by means of aircraft, boat, automobile and other conveyances, without the means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities; nature walks or hikes, swimming, use of camera and birding equipment, accidents and/or illness, and acts of nature, man, or God.

I recognize and agree that I am taking part in this trip at my own risk. I acknowledge that Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura make no warranty or representation, express or implied, regarding the conditions that may be encountered during the trip, and/or the safety of any means of transportation during the trip, and that Hawk Mountain and Pronatura will have no liability for any defect in or dangerous conditions pertaining thereto.

I further certify that I am in good health and able to and have taken any precautions recommended by my physician or trip leaders to ensure my safety and good health.

In consideration of the right to participate in this expedition, I hereby release Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura A.C. and their agents, their trip leaders, associates, related parties, directors, and staff, from all responsibilities for damages, injuries, losses, or delays due to any reason whatsoever and hereby assume all risks and dangers in connection with this trip.

I have read the itinerary and related information pertaining to this trip and I am aware of the terms and conditions of the trip involving refunds and cancellations, responsibility and liability.

Signature

Date

Printed Name in Full:_____

Signature

Date

Printed Name in Full:_____

(If a couple is registering, please have both sign the document)