



SAVANNA HAWK (BUTEOGALLUS MERIDIONALIS)



PANAMA

HAWK RIDGE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Under the River of Raptors

October 28 – November 4, 2021



Join Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory on a thrilling expedition to Panama to witness hundreds of thousands of raptors during their fall migration to South America. Not only will you contribute to the Panama Audubon Society's annual hawk count, you'll also be able to spot Panama's abundant endemic and migratory species from a diversity of settings, including rainforest, cloud forest, tropical dry forest, and mangrove habitats. Spend time in Panama City, El Valle de Antón, and Gamboa and expand your life list as you learn about Panama's tropical ecology, biological diversity, and the current conservation efforts that have been put in place to protect this incredible country.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the spectacular raptor migration under the leadership of Margie Menzies, the Education Program Director for Hawk Ridge, as well as a local birding guide.
- Assist Panama Audubon Society with their annual hawk count at Ancón Hill.
- Bird the cloud forests of Altos de Campana, Panama's oldest national park, home to tanagers, manakins, antvireos, and hawks.
- Observe migratory shorebirds at the mangroves of Punta Chame and the coastal town of Juan Hombron.
- Hike the world-famous Pipeline Road and ascend the 100-foot observation tower at the Rainforest Discovery Center for rare views of the forest's canopy level.
- Visit the world-famous Miraflores Locks and museum of the Panama Canal.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



PHOTO BY ARIEL AGUIRRE

OCTOBER 28 - PANAMA CITY

Arrive in Panama City and transfer to the hotel for check-in. (Check-in starts at 3 pm.) This evening, have dinner and get to know your fellow travelers in the hotel restaurant. *Overnight at Holiday Inn Panama Canal. (D)*

OCTOBER 29 - PANAMA CITY

Orientation to the program is followed by morning birding at the hawkwatch on Ancón Hill with Panama Audubon Society. Fall counts here usually exceed 1.5 million birds, concentrated between October 1 and November 18. The daily count record for this site was achieved on October 27, 2011, when 893,783 birds were counted. Be on alert for kettles flying over! This



RAPTOR MIGRATION BY ARCHIE KIRCHMAN

will be your first chance to see the migration and try your hand at spotting Turkey Vultures, Swainson's Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Mississippi Kites as they make their way south in extraordinary numbers. You will also take in views of the Panama Canal, the Old City, and downtown. Enjoy a picnic lunch, and then head over to the Panama Bay Mudflats, Panama Viejo ruins, and Costa del Este area for shorebird viewing. Resident raptors of interest may include the

Gray-lined Hawk, Crested Caracara, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Dinner and possible evening program by HRBO leader. *Overnight at Holiday Inn Panama Canal. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 30 - EL VALLE DE ANTÓN

Early this morning, depart for El Valle de Antón, stopping along the way for birding at Altos de Campana, Panama's oldest national park. The cloud forest habitat at Campana harbors many middle elevation species including the Black-and-yellow Tanager, Plain Antvireo, Rufous-collared Sparrow, White-ruffed Manakin, White-throated Thrush, and Bay-headed Tanager. Bat Falcon, White Hawk,



BAY-HEADED TANAGER BY JULIAN LONDONO

and Roadside Hawk may be present. Have lunch at a local restaurant. Make another stop at Punta Chame, watching for Savanna Hawk, American Kestrel, and Aplomado Falcon along the way. Located approximately 30 minutes from Coronado on the Pacific coast, this small peninsula contains mangrove patches and ponds that are frequented by migratory shorebirds and seabirds. Return inland and continue to your accommodation in El Valle de Antón. Check in and enjoy some leisure time before dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Los Mandarin's Boutique Spa and Hotel. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 31 - EL VALLE DE ANTÓN

Early this morning, go birding at Cerro Gaital Natural Monument. The lush, 827-acre nature reserve protects the mountainous terrain surrounding El Valle de Antón and is home to more than 300 bird species. Some of the best birding is done along the fringes of the reserve, where vegetation is less dense. Migrant raptors can be seen here, as well as residents like the Barred Hawk and the Bat Falcon. Look for the Tawny-crested Tanager, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Green Hermit, and Spotted Woodcreeper. After lunch, visit the small town of El Valle and stroll the Sunday market where



SWAINSON'S HAWK

vendors offer many items, including produce and excellent regional handicrafts. Late this afternoon, go birding along the Cara Iguana Trail, where Zone-tailed Hawks have been seen soaring among the vultures. The tropical dry forest's middle altitude habitat is home to the Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Long-billed Starthroat, Little Tinamou, and Gray-headed Chachalaca. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Los Mandarin's Boutique Spa and Hotel. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 1 - GAMBOA

Depart El Valle early with a boxed breakfast and begin the journey to Gamboa. En route stop for birding at Juan Hombron for raptors such as the Savanna Hawk and, on occasion, the elusive Aplomado Falcon. Other specialties include Veraguan Mango, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Bran-colored Flycatcher, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, Northern Scrub-Flycatcher, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Wood Stork, and Plain-breasted Ground-Dove. Check in and have lunch at Gamboa Rainforest Resort, and then have some time at leisure. Later this afternoon, set out for birding on the hotel grounds and the Waterfall Trail, looking for species such as Southern Nightingale-Wren, Olive Tanager, and Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo. Dinner at the resort. *Overnight at Gamboa Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*



GAMBOA RAINFOREST BY JAVIER LOSA

NOVEMBER 2 - GAMBOA

Have breakfast at the hotel, and then transfer to the Panama Canal's famed Miraflores Locks. Explore the museum and hopefully see a ship pass through the locks. Lunch is at the on-site restaurant. This afternoon, take a field trip to the Rainforest Discovery Center, located at the world-famous Pipeline Road. The 100-foot-high observation tower provides a unique chance to observe birds residing in the upper stratum of the rainforest. Look for King Vultures and migrating raptors; other birds may include Mealy and Red-lore'd Parrots, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans, many species of tanagers, Blue Cotinga, Masked Tityra, and Green and Red-legged Honeycreepers. Continue birding along Pipeline Road, looking for Crested Eagles and Hook-billed Kites. Golden-collared Manakin, White-bellied and Blue-throated Antbirds, and Pheasant Cuckoo may also be seen. Return to the hotel for dinner. *Overnight at Gamboa Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*



MIRAFLORES LOCKS BY STEFFI LOPEZ

NOVEMBER 3 - GAMBOA

Depart early this morning for Ancón Hill for more hawkwatching. Return to Gamboa for birding along Pipeline Road to pick up any species you may have missed. If time permits, visit the Summit Botanical Garden and Zoo. This may be your only chance to see a Harpy Eagle up close, as they are very rare in the wild. This afternoon, take a boat ride on Chagres River and keep your eyes open for kites and Ospreys. After dinner, listen for owls on a night hike. *Overnight at Gamboa Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 4 - DEPART

After an early breakfast, depart for the airport for your flight back to the US. Check-out is at 12 pm. *(B)*

ABOUT YOUR LEADER



Margie Menzies

Margie joined the Hawk Ridge staff as a Naturalist in 2011 and currently is the Education Program Director for Hawk Ridge. She loves birds, learning, and sharing the natural world with people of all ages. She also is the Naturalist at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center in

Schroeder, MN and works with passerine banding at Hawk Ridge during migration and with three MAPS stations studying summer breeding birds at Hawk Ridge, Wolf Ridge, and Sugarloaf Cove.

LAND PRICING

\$3,075 (10 participants)

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide for the duration of the program, most gratuities except for main guide and driver, bottled water on the bus, and donation to Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities for guide and driver, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with flight arrangements if desired.

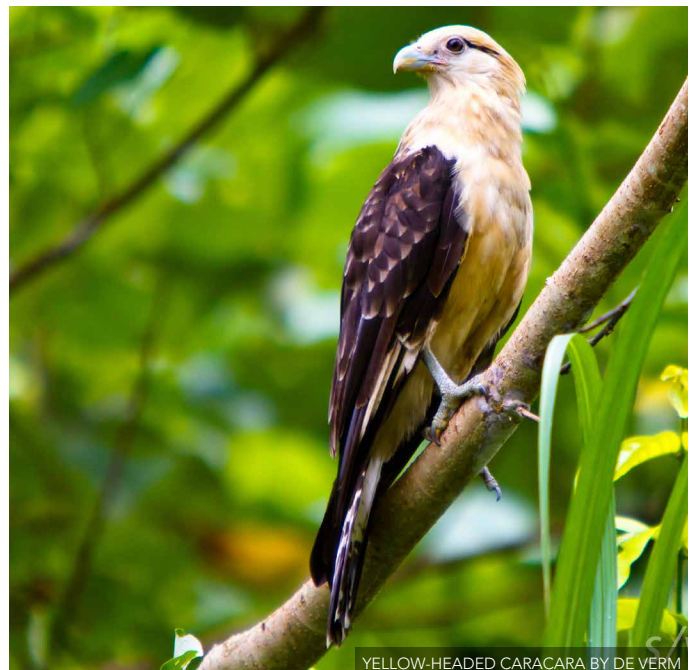
TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$265 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until July 25, 2021, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/hrbo-pn21 or contact Debbie Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com or 866-748-6146.