

MONTANA AUDUBON'S VERACRUZ, MEXICO BIRDING TOUR 2008

September 29—October 10, 2008

Join Us!

Tour Reservations:

Sandy McIntyre
Montana Audubon
P.O. Box 595
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: 406-443-3949
Email: sandymc@mtaudubon.org

Tour Organizer:

Jack Kirkley, Professor of Biology
University of Montana - Western
Office phone: 406-683-7321
Email: j_kirkley@umwestern.edu



Mississippi Kite, USFWS photo.

Tour Description:

Join Montana Board Member Jack Kirkley on this 10-day in-country adventure exploring and birding the varied ecological habitats in the Veracruz region of eastern Mexico. Our tour is specially scheduled to take place during the height of the raptor migration season when the stunning “river of raptors”.... several million strong..... streams through the Veracruz area, providing one of the most awesome wildlife spectacles in the world. Soaring in dizzying vortex-like clouds and seemingly endless lines these flocks include 25 species raptors, dominated by tens of thousands of Mississippi Kites, Broad-winged Hawks and Turkey Vultures, which should be visible nearly every day. Our birding tour will also include early morning and afternoon visits to coastal lagoons, wetlands, lowland forests and savannas, as well as high mountain pine-oak forests and cloud forests to enable us to see as many species of birds as possible..... (540 species of birds are listed for central Veracruz!) We will be led by skillful, local birding guides provided by our hosts, the nonprofit organization, Pronatura-Veracruz. We will stay at comfortable hotels in the towns of Cardel and Xalapa, as well as in the Catemaco Lake region.

Tour Fees:

- Double occupancy = \$2925 per person
- Single occupancy = \$3250 per person

Note: *Singles who wish to have the double occupancy rate will be paired with a participant of the same gender, when such an arrangement is possible and is acceptable to both parties.*

The tour fee INCLUDES all of the following:

- all lodging in Mexico;
- all meals;
- all park entrance fees;
- all in-country transfers by van, boat or by air;
- all guided tours; and
- tax deductible contributions to Pronatura Veracruz and Montana Audubon. The value of your tax deductible contribution to Montana Audubon will be \$900. Montana Audubon will be sharing 50% of your contribution with Pronatura Veracruz.

The tour fee DOES NOT include:

- International air fare to and from Mexico;
- Airport departure tax;
- Tips for our in-country tour guides, bus drivers, hotel/restaurant workers, etc.; and
- Alcoholic or other beverages, beyond the beverages provided with our meals.

Trip Insurance:

Trip insurance is NOT provided by Montana Audubon. It is strongly recommended that each participant purchase trip insurance to protect against any unavoidable, last minute circumstance that might force the person to have to cancel his/her participation in the trip. Refund of trip fees will only be provided under certain, limited circumstances, as described below.

Fee Deadlines:

June 21, 2008 - Reservation deposit (\$1000) is due

August 15, 2008 - Full payment of tour fee is due

Refund Policy:

Full fees will be refunded up until the June 25 trip "decision date". Between June 25 and August 25, all fees will be refunded except a \$200 administrative fee. After August 25, refunds will be made only if the trip must be cancelled and only to the extent that funds are recoverable.

Airline Arrangements:

Participants should pursue their own airline booking arrangements to Veracruz airport (VER) through their local travel agents. Your date of arrival in Veracruz should be September 29 and your date of departure on October 10.

Full Itinerary Available:

- By Mail: Call the Montana Audubon Office: (406) 443-3949
- Or email Jack Kirkley: j_kirkley@umwestern.edu or phone him: (406) 683-7321.