

WELCOME TO THE VERACRUZ RIVER OF RAPTORS IDENTIFICATION-COUNTING COURSE 2016



The Veracruz River of Raptors © Pronatura Veracruz; Laughing Falcon © Pronatura Veracruz

March 14th to April 25th

DO NOT miss this **GREAT** opportunity

***Fee \$700.00 USD**

*we are looking for donor to decrease that cost.

The Pronatura Veracruz River of Raptors program witnesses the **greatest migration spectacle on Earth**. Every fall, in central Veracruz Mexico, an average of four and a half million raptors from over 25 species have been counted in Pronatura's monitoring stations in their southward migratory journey! On a good day, **over 100,000 migratory raptors** and vultures can cover the skies; but, during a **Big Day, over 500,000 have been count!**

During the spring migration we have the opportunity to see the migration northward, although, the numbers are not comparable with the numbers in the Fall, bringing the opportunity to learn a practice to identify Raptors, the place have the same species and the same flight behavior as in the fall, this way, you will be able to gradually get the skill to count and identify raptors at the same time, as the same way that Veracruz River of Raptors counters does.

This raptor counting-identification course is perfect for those that want to join a raptor migration count site or improve their raptor identifications skill; this training course is set up for spring migration, March 14th to April 25th. Where thousands of raptor coming from their wintering grounds, stream the sky of the center of Veracruz where the training course is set up.

The Training course will be set up in the center of Veracruz Mexico, (a estate that contains more than 700 bird species) in the town of Chichicaxtle, where the flight is around 500 000 raptors in the spring, the dates are selected in the middle of the highest flight of the spring migration and takes all the diversity of migratory raptors, plus the local biodiversity of the place, more than 20 raptor species will be seen and many great tropical birds, like Masked Tityra, White-collared Seadeater, Laughing Falcon, Collared-forest Falcon, Bat Falcon, endemics as the White-bellied Wren, Mexican Sheartail and many others like Montezuma Oropendola. Situated near to the coast and not too far from the mountains, you will get involve of the beauty of the place by being able to visit many places that we will suggest depending on your subject of interest. Traveling in central Veracruz is safe and you will enjoy a vast and diverse gastronomy along your time here.

The training will have theory hours and practice hours, in the hour of theory will talk about different tasks like the Veracruz River of Raptors program, flight strategies, behavior of the raptors, etc., every task will have a time to discuss about. And the practice hours we will be in the observation tower learning all what you need to identify raptors by your own.

After this training course we expect you to be able to count and identify raptor species by your own, and improve the understanding of the Raptor migration, you will be potentially qualified to be hired in the Fall migration as a counter or assistant at the Veracruz River of Raptors project or be promoted for other raptor migration count sites in Central or North America, an experience that you can't miss in your life. Some evaluations are expected along the course, for score each participant's performance.

Program: RAPTOR IDENTIFICACION-COUNTING TRAINING SHEDULE 2016

PRONATURA VERACRUZ A.C.

Date	Main theme	Activities
13-Mar-16	Arrival of all participants/Welcome meeting	Pick up all participants at the airport and transport to Chichicaxtle, Veracruz, 18:00 - 20:00 Welcome meeting presentation of all participants.
14-Mar-16	Introduction	8:00-9:00 Breakfast 9:00-11:00 Introduction to the Veracruz River of Raptors (VRR presentation) program, the importance of having a good counting team. 11:00-13:00 Visit to the Look-out, explanation of the flight direction and ID TEST (to see the level of each participant) 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 15:30 birding walk 17:00 Raptor Shapes presentation. 18:00 Dinner
15-Mar-16	Counting and ID raptors	7:00 a 8:00 Breakfast Will explain how to ID and count raptors at the same time, first practice of counting. 13:00 - 14:00- Lunch 14:00 - 17:00-Counting raptors 18:00 - 19:00 Dinner 19:00 Will discuss about the issues with the first practices of counting.
16-Mar-16	Count Practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 Counting raptors 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00-Counting raptors 17:00 - 18:00 Break 18:00 - 19:00 Dinner 19:00 - 21:00 Flight strategies
17-Mar-16	Identification practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00.Practicing and learning species 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors 18:00 -19:00 Dinner 19:00 – Talk about the raptors of the day
18-Mar-16	Count Practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 Practicing how to count, will set up the way the count works in the Veracruz River of Raptors count-sites. 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors

		18:00 - 19:00 Dinner 19:00 Behavior of Migratory Raptors
19-Mar-16	DAY OFF	Optional Birding/visit to Chavarrillo and Xalapa
20-Mar-16	Count-ID Practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 Practicing how to count, will set up the way the count works in the Veracruz River of Raptors count-sites. 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors 18:00 Dinner
21-Mar-16	Count-ID Practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 Practicing how to count, will set up the way the count works in the Veracruz River of Raptors count-sites. 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors 18:00 Dinner 19:00 Principal migratory raptors in the planet
22-Mar-16	Count-ID Practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 Practicing how to count, will set up the way the count works in the Veracruz River of Raptors count-sites. 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors 19:00 - 21:00 Talk about the raptors of the day.
23-Mar-16	Count-ID Practice	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 Practicing how to count, will set up the way the count works in the Veracruz River of Raptors count-sites. 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors 19:00 Tracking techniques
24-Mar-16	Count-ID TEST	7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast 8:00 - 13:00 During the day the Raptor ID and estimation numbers will be tested/evaluated. 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch 14:00 - 17:00 Counting raptors (optional)
25-Mar-16	Count-ID practice	End of the course, review and feedback

RESERVATIONS:

Please send the Registration & Participant Release and Indemnity Agreement included at the end of this brochure and your payment ticket to: rioderapaces@pronaturaveracruz.org

Lodging

The cost includes staying in a house in rural conditions at Chichicaxtle. If you want to stay in a local hotel (in Cardel City), we can make reservations for you and the extra cost will be around \$420 USD for 13 nights.

The optional birding activities are not included in the cost. We estimate an extra expenses of \$30 USD for the transportation and food during your free day to visit other places like the Mountains of Xalapa and Chavarrillo.

Airfaire is not included. You need to book your own flight to Veracruz City. There are flights from Houston, TX at 8 pm every day.

You must bring your own binoculars.

NOTE: This information material is for exclusive use of Pronatura and the Organization Partner to promote the VRR environmental education and conservation efforts of Pronatura and its partner organizations conservation efforts in Latin America.

Refund Policy

Refunds are made according to the following policy:

- Cancellations made by participant 40 days before course beginning date will have 100% of deposit and any other balance payments refunded, minus a \$50 administrative fee.
- Cancellations made by participant within 30-40 days will have 50% of deposit returned and full refund of any balance payments received.
- Cancellations made by participant within 0-30 days: the deposit is not refundable, but any other balance payments will be refunded.

The above amounts of non-refundable monies are to cover certain fixed-cost services such as vehicle rental, hotel deposits, instructor's fees, administrative fees, and other services.

Raptor Identification-Counting Course Cancellation and Itinerary Changes

All itinerary activities are subject to change based on local conditions. Pronatura Veracruz reserves the right to cancel, change alter and/or rearrange any specific scheduled itinerary activity, or the complete itinerary, based on the judgment of Pronatura Veracruz staff concerning to local conditions, keeping in mind at all times the safety of our guests. It is understood that as the Mexican based training course and service provider Pronatura Veracruz has a special insight and knowledge in the host country and reserves the right to make all decisions that may affect the safety and health of our foreign visitors whether they be paying quests or guide, staff, management or owners of foreign-based training course operations.

Training course Insurance

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip insurance in order to safeguard against any losses due to training course cancellation due to illness, weather, or accident. For those participants with medical concerns, trip insurance would cover any medical emergencies up to a medical evacuation. Please check with your current insurance policy and/or you may contact Pronatura Veracruz or your travel agent for more information.

For more information and any other inquiry regarding this training course contact:

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SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE RESERVATION AND PARTICIPANT RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT TO BE SENT TOGETHER WITH RESERVATION CHECK DEPOSIT. THANK YOU!

**Pronatura Veracruz Raptor Identification-Counting Course
Registration Form & Participant Release and Indemnity Agreement**

I am willingly participating in a Raptor Identification-Counting Course in the state of Veracruz, Mexico between _____, and I acknowledge that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur with this trip, 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 course 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 course, and/or the safety of any means of transportation during the course, and that Hawk Mountain and Pronatura will have no liability for any defect 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 training course leaders.

In consideration of the right to participate in this course, I hereby release Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Pronatura México A.C. and their agents, 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 training course.

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

Printed Name in Full: _____

Signature **Date**

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____