



VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS

ITINERARY

MINNESOTA: MIGRATORY GEMS OF HAWK RIDGE & WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR

SEPTEMBER 22–27, 2025

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White-throated sparrow among fall colors in Duluth © Erik Bruhnke

Fall migration in northeastern Minnesota holds a kaleidoscope of migrating avian possibilities. The expansive North Shore of Lake Superior funnels hundreds of thousands of birds past Duluth every fall. Each day we will be sure to savor the autumn Northwoods scenery, complimenting the exciting birding taking place. In addition to spending a great deal of time learning about the many songbirds and waterbirds around the vicinity of Lake Superior, we will also spend time advancing our hawkwatching skills at the renowned local hawkwatching site, Hawk Ridge. A diverse plethora of raptors and

non-raptors alike are all possible at Hawk Ridge. The extensive and legendary Sax-Zim Bog will also be explored to maximize our birding experience in northeastern Minnesota. In addition to the wonderful birding, we will be enjoying delightful cuisine (focusing on many local ingredients at local restaurants), all while staying at one hotel with lake-facing rooms, our home-sweet-home for the tour. All-in-all, this tour is a treat to the senses during a special timeframe of fall migration taking place.

September 22, Day 1: Arrival in Duluth, MN. Participants planning to arrive in Duluth this afternoon should make their way to our hotel where a room will be reserved in each person's name. Participants should plan on taking a taxi/Uber/Lyft to the hotel (approximately \$30). Including those who arrive pre-tour for Hawk Ridge's Hawk Weekend festival, we will gather as a group in the hotel lobby at 4:30 p.m. for a welcome and orientation, followed by some local birding. After birding we will make our way to dinner.

NIGHT: Hampton Inn Canal Park, Duluth

Sept 23-26, Day 2-5: Hawk Ridge, Great Lakes, and Boreal Forest Birding.

Throughout the tour we'll visit an array of hotspots, providing a thorough sampling of local and migrating birds of the area. Our hotel is just a short drive from the legendary Duluth hawkwatching site: Hawk Ridge - one of the highlights of our tour. An official hawk count has been taking place at Hawk Ridge since 1972. Throughout the tour we will be sure to spend time at Hawk Ridge exploring the raptor migration when the conditions/times are best for doing so. Day-by-day we will monitor the weather and upcoming days' forecast to plan our birding locations accordingly to maximize our birding potential.



Bald Eagle © Erik Bruhnke

From atop Hawk Ridge, kettles of Broad-winged Hawks may be seen migrating through in considerable numbers during the latter half of September. We will also be in prime-time for seeing Sharp-shinned Hawks migrating through in good numbers as well. Although peaking in greater numbers in October and into early November, American Goshawks (at the timing of the tour) are very scarce but possible as an early migrant. Nice flights of all three regularly occurring falcons (Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, and American Kestrel) are likely, especially when the weather is favorable for good migration. Red-tailed Hawks are increasing in numbers as October draws near, and Osprey can be coming through in good numbers. The birdfeeders at Hawk Ridge often welcome a plethora of White-throated Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows, with a chance of Harris's Sparrow and other species joining them during this sparrow-filled time of migration. Late September is a great time to

scan the skies for raptors and more at Hawk Ridge, and we will be sure to take full advantage of this hotspot.



American Kestrel © Erik Bruhnke

Throughout the westernmost tip of Lake Superior are two major peninsulas; Park Point and Wisconsin Point. These vast expanses of land are highly regarded as offering some of the best overall birding opportunities in the area. The fusion of woodlands meeting vast dunes, great lakes shorelines, and expansive waters makes these two nearby spots worthy of birding. Park Point and Wisconsin Point are just minutes from our hotel. While scanning from shore, we'll spend some time going over gull ID (yes, it can be

fun!) along with looking for uncommon jaegers. We'll be on the lookout for migrating Common Loons, the state bird of Minnesota. With luck we may have a chance for Red-throated Loons, a possible rarity during the mid-fall months. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal are migrating through, as are Northern Pintail in late September. With persistence, an uncommon Horned Grebe or Surf Scoter could be possible, in addition to other water-dwelling rarities. The latter half of September is also a good time to look for various shorebirds migrating through the area too. Along the wooded habitat nearby, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Golden-crowned Kinglets are likely as are several lingering, latter-autumn warbler species. Purple Finches, American Robins, and movements of Common Grackles and Rusty Blackbirds often migrate through in good numbers as late September comes around. Some of these may be seen throughout the nearby woodlands, while others may be seen passing through the skies, exhibiting the phenomenon known as morning flight. Tens of thousands of Blue Jays migrate past Duluth every fall, with many of them flying throughout middle and late September. The high-soaring American White Pelicans and Sandhill Cranes could grace our presence at any time too. We will spend several mornings checking the nearby shorelines and surrounding areas, looking for a rich spectrum of migrating possibilities.

On at least one day of the tour, we will make our way up to Sax-Zim Bog. This renowned hotspot is located just short of an hour's drive northwest of our hotel. The day's plan for the Bog is variable, but we will likely have an early-morning effort to look for the Great Gray Owls in the boggy habitat at this location. Although uncommon, Great Gray Owls are possible in Sax-Zim Bog during the fall months. The many vast roads and boardwalks in Sax-Zim Bog welcome our travels among different environments (boggy areas, large fields, upland forests, and more). We will be on the lookout for resident Canada Jays, with a slight possibility of Boreal Chickadee and Black-backed Woodpecker in the respective areas. Like the areas closer to Duluth, Sax-Zim Bog provides good habitat for migrating, boreal-breeding warblers. An array of sparrows are possible in Sax-Zim Bog in late September including Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated, White-crowned, Fox, and Swamp Sparrows to name just a few. Northern Harriers often patrol the food-rich fields of Sax-Zim Bog, and it's worth keeping an eye out for field-dwelling Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs too. There is much to

appreciate throughout this expansive and unique landscape of Sax-Zim Bog; Renowned for winter and summer birding, but underappreciated throughout the fall months.

On one night of the tour there will be an optional post-dinner excursion up to Hawk Ridge for a scheduled owl banding program, where we may have a chance to see up-close Northern Saw-whet Owls.



Fox Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow © Erik Bruhnke

NIGHT: Hampton Inn Canal Park, Duluth

September 27, Day 6: Departures Home. Transfers will be provided to Duluth International Airport in time for flights departing this morning.

TOUR LIMIT: This tour will be limited to 12 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: This tour will be led by Erik Bruhnke. A second leader will be added if tour size warrants.



Erik Bruhnke has loved birds since he was a child looking at chickadees. In 2008 he graduated from Northland College in Wisconsin with a Natural Resources degree. Erik taught field ornithology at Northland College for three semesters. Between 2009 and 2014, he spent his summers conducting field research focused on breeding bird transects in Upper Michigan, point counts for a breeding bird atlas in Minnesota and Wisconsin's Northwoods, vegetation and breeding bird surveys throughout wind farms in North Dakota's prairie potholes, and cavity-nesting surveys in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. A devoted raptor nerd, he is drawn to hawkwatches. He worked as an interpreter for six seasons at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, Minnesota; counted migrating raptors at the Corpus Christi HawkWatch in Texas in 2015; and was the 2016 and 2017 hawk counter at the Cape May Hawkwatch in New Jersey. Erik's wildlife photography has won national awards, and he's written for the American Birding Association's *Birder's Guide*, *BirdWatching* magazine, and *Bird Watcher's Digest*. When not leading birding tours, Erik often leads field trips and speaks at birding festivals. He also enjoys hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and just being out in the snow. In his free time, he loves to cook and bake.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is **\$3,595** per person in double occupancy from Duluth. This includes all meals beginning with dinner on Day 1 through dinner on Day 5, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation during the tour, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leader/s. It does not include airfare from your home to Duluth and

return, arrival transfer to the hotel, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$900**.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, the deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. If you would like to pay your deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at <https://ventbird.com>) should be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

PAYMENTS: All tour payments may be made by credit card (MasterCard or Visa), check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). These include initial deposits, second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc. Full payment of the tour fee is due 150 days (April 25, 2025) prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:

CANCELLATION BY PARTICIPANT:

Refunds, if any, for any cancellation by a participant are made according to the following schedule: If participant cancels 180 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$250** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. If cancellation is made between 179 and 151 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the tour fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 150 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre- and post-tour extensions. **For participants' protection, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance that covers trip cancellation/interruption.**

If participant cancels:

180 days or more before departure date

179 to 151 days before departure date

150 days or less before departure date

Participant's refund will be:

Participant's deposit minus \$250*

No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance of the tour fee will be refunded

No refund available

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months from the date of participant tour cancellation, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person. To qualify, cancellation must occur 180 days or more before departure date; deposit transfers must be made at the time of cancellation; and one transfer per deposit.

CANCELLATION BY VENT:

If VENT cancels a tour prior to departure without cause or good reason, VENT will provide the participant a full refund, which will constitute full settlement to the participant.

If VENT cancels or delays a tour or any portion of a tour as a result of any Force Majeure event, VENT will use its reasonable best efforts to refund any payments on the balance of the tour fee to participant; provided that, VENT will have no obligation to provide a participant with a refund and will not be liable or responsible to a participant, nor be deemed to have defaulted under or breached any applicable agreement, for any failure or delay in fulfilling or performing any term of such agreement. A “**Force Majeure**” event means any act beyond VENT’s control, including, without limitation, the following: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order, law or actions; (e) embargoes or blockades; (f) national or regional emergency; (g) strikes, labor stoppages, labor slowdowns or other industrial disturbances; (h) shortage of adequate power or transportation facilities; and (i) any other similar events or circumstances beyond the control of VENT.

This VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy does not apply to air tickets purchased through VENT or to any special arrangements, such as additional hotel nights, that fall outside of the services described in the tour itinerary.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: To safeguard against losses due to illness, accident, or other unforeseen circumstances, we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance as soon as possible after making a deposit. VENT has partnered with Redpoint Travel Protection as our preferred travel insurance provider. Through Redpoint, we recommend their **Ripcord** plan. Designed for all types of travelers, Ripcord is among the most comprehensive travel protection programs available.

Critical benefits of Ripcord include a completely integrated program with a single contact for emergency services, travel assistance, and insurance claims; **medical evacuation and rescue services** from your point of injury or illness to your **hospital of choice**; comprehensive travel insurance for **trip cancellation/interruption**, medical expense coverage, and much more. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as security evacuation coverage in case of a natural disaster or other security events, **waiver for pre-existing medical conditions exclusion**, and a “**Cancel for Any Reason**” benefit. Ripcord is available to U.S. and non-U.S. residents.*

For a price quote, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit:

ripcordtravelprotection.com/ventbird; or click the **Ripcord** logo on our website (click Help and Trip Insurance); or call +1-415-481-0600. Pricing is based on age, trip cost, trip length, and level of coverage.

*To be eligible for the pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver and the optional Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) upgrade, you must purchase your policy within 15 days of making your first trip payment. The CFAR benefit provides reimbursement for 75% of covered costs, and increases the policy premium by approximately 50%. Policies may be purchased either for the full value of the tour fee at the time of deposit or in segments as individual tour payments are made (deposit, mid-payment, final balance, additional arrangements, etc.). The “pay as you go” approach reduces up-front expense and ensures that the amount paid toward your full policy premium is in proportion to the amount paid toward the full tour fee. If you choose to “pay as you go,” you must cover each deposit or payment within 15 days, and ensure all non-refundable trip cost in order to maintain the CFAR benefit. Please refer to the policy for a full description of coverage.

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

In line with the decision made by the federal government (including the CDC), Redpoint considers COVID-19 illness as any other seasonal respiratory illness. Providing only a positive Covid-19 test result will likely not be considered a covered event per the terms and conditions of the company's policy. Redpoint maintains a Coronavirus FAQ page on its website that addresses questions and concerns travelers may have regarding COVID-19 and Redpoint's policy. We strongly recommend that you visit the page for an overview of relevant topics.

Please visit the **Coronavirus FAQ** page at the following link:

https://redpointtravelprotection.com/covid_19_faq/

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Per-person fees apply for each set of travel arrangements: \$50 domestic; \$75 international.* Many of our travelers choose to make their own air travel arrangements, but we emphasize the benefits to using our services. If you book your air arrangements yourself, Victor Emanuel Travel is unable to provide support in managing any flight delays and/or cancellations that could occur before and during a tour. When you purchase air tickets through Victor Emanuel Travel, our staff has ready access to your air ticket record and can provide assistance as problems arise. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

*An air ticket will be purchased by Victor Emanuel Travel on behalf of the traveler with the traveler's consent. A purchase is considered final upon receipt of payment. If a ticket is subsequently reissued at the behest of the traveler (i.e. voluntary change of plans), the same fee rates apply for the reissue process, in addition to any fees that may be charged by the airline.

CLOTHING: A couple of pairs of pants are essential. Cool nights and cool-to-warm days are the norm this time of year, making additional layers of great value for the tour. T-shirts and long-sleeved shirts are functional, and a sweater/fleece will likely be used daily. Button-up field shirts are functional when milder days take place. Rain gear (jacket and pants) is important, as rain showers can occur

with the changing of weather fronts. It is a good idea to have a set of gloves. The mix of sunny days and a possibility of rainy days will warrant bringing a hat. Many folks prefer the wide-brimmed variety; a standard baseball cap, although offering less sun protection, will suffice. A warmer hat is also recommended for the cooler early mornings that we will be experiencing. Outdoor stores such as Cabela's, REI, and Duluth Trading Company carry field clothing that many birders find appealing.

FOOTWEAR:

Bring a good fitting, broken-in pair of water-resistant hiking boots or trail shoes for time in the field. Athletic shoes are sufficient when not birding and for evenings. Some folks may opt to bring NEOS overshoes or full rubber boots, which can come in handy should rainy conditions take place throughout the tour.

LAUNDRY SERVICE: The Hampton Inn offers coin-operated laundry facilities.

CLIMATE & WEATHER: The weather this time of year is highly variable. Mornings can start out in the 40s but more often in the 50s. Cool fronts can limit daytime highs to the 50s but on many days the temperatures can peak into the 60s and seldomly into the 70s. Early morning frost is also possible. Cool fronts can bring a burst of insulation-requiring conditions, whereas warm fronts can bring exceptionally mild and comfortable autumn conditions by Upper Midwest standards. Being right on Lake Superior often results in a cooler temperature, compared to when we're birding even slightly inland throughout the tour. Some late-September visits to Duluth experience warm and comfortably dry days, and some visits experience Minnesota's Northwoods' cooler days with intermittent scattered rain. It is important to come prepared for the varied weather that can occur here. The summertime black flies are long-gone by the time of our tour and mosquitoes are nearly non-existent, with a slight chance of them on only the mildest of fall days.

CONDITIONS: The landscape that we hike on the tour is largely flat, but dotted with areas of slightly-higher elevation terrain. This tour will concentrate its activities on areas that are quite level and easily accessed, despite much of Duluth existing on a large hillside. Gravel roads through large forests, edges of fields, and possibly a sandy beach or two will comprise most of the terrain through which we'll be birding. We may partake in some light trail-hiking in the woods as well, with varying but easy-walking terrain.

We'll have some early mornings to take full advantage of birdsong and prime birding activity (for migrants and resident species alike). Varied weather such as windy conditions or rain can influence where we will bird on different days. Flexibility is key with our birding plans each day. This tour is suitable for all travelers.

Any amenities beyond birding needs are available moments away from our hotel. The Hampton Inn is located in Duluth's Canal Park, a short peninsula along Lake Superior where a plethora of one-of-a-kind stores and restaurants line the streets. Fitness room, indoor pool, and hot tub are available in our hotel, with a lakeside walking path immediately behind the hotel.

MEALS: Great food compliments fun days of birding. Duluth prides itself with many locally owned and unique dining establishments. Locally sourced ingredients and culinary dishes unique to this northern region will be available. Wild rice, walleye, and maple syrup-focused dishes are just some of the flavors to enjoy. We will take full advantage of the finer dining options in town. Duluth also has a booming microbrewery scene. Those with an appreciation for craft beer will find the selection pleasing. Weather pending, we may partake in an outdoor picnic or two to enjoy some birding while

dining. Throughout the tour we will make a point of dining at different establishments to savor a taste of what the area offers.

EQUIPMENT: One of the most important aspects of having an enjoyable travel experience is being prepared with proper equipment. The following items will come in handy during your trip to Minnesota: You should pack a belt pack or day pack (for carrying books, sunscreen, water, etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. You will need an alarm clock for our early-morning starts and ear plugs if you are a light sleeper. The city of Duluth has excellent-tasting tap water. Please consider bringing your own water bottle and refilling it, to reduce the consumed resources while on tour. Bottled water (among other beverages) will always be available throughout the tour.

BINOCULARS & SPOTTING SCOPES:

Binoculars – We strongly recommend good binoculars of 7, 8 or 10 power magnification. We recommend that you do NOT bring mini-binoculars (pocket-size binoculars) of any kind. Some people like “minis” because they are small and lightweight; but they have an extremely small field of view and very poor light gathering power. Trying to find a bird in mini binoculars is like trying to read a book through a keyhole. It can cause frustration, and even if you do manage to get the bird in your binoculars before it flies, you will have a poor view. Larger binoculars have better light-gathering ability, and will offer more enjoyable views during our field experiences.

Spotting Scopes – Your tour leader will have a scope available for group use throughout the trip, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. A scope is not often beneficial with woodland birding; however, while scanning the waters, beaches, and skies throughout the tour, a spotting scope will come in handy. A spotting scope is by no means required for the tour, as the leader’s scope will be readily available every day, used when needed.

HEALTH: VENT follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for standard travel precautions, which includes vaccination against a variety of preventable diseases. Among these so-called Routine Vaccinations are measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (boosters for adult travelers), and Varicella (Chickenpox). You should also be up-to-date with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

If you are taking personal medication, prescription or over-the-counter, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

COVID-19: We continually emphasize that our number one priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees. Although VENT no longer maintains any of its COVID-era prevention protocols, we strongly recommend best practices for protecting yourself and your fellow travelers against COVID-19 illness. These measures include receiving the primary series vaccinations for those eligible, staying “Up to Date” with COVID-19 booster shots, wearing high filtration N-95 or KN-95 masks when in airports and on airplanes, and avoiding risky social settings in the lead-up to your tour. These recommendations are firmly rooted in CDC guidance regarding recommendations for avoiding COVID-19.

Insect Repellents – There are insect repellents for the skin and an insect repellent used to treat clothing that should not be applied to the skin.

Insect repellents for the skin are commonly available in three forms:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide): A chemical compound that is marketed under various brand names (OFF!®, Cutter™, Ultrathon™, etc.) and offered in a variety of formulations including sprays, lotions, time-release preparations, and disposable wipes. The formulations will state a percentage of the active ingredient DEET on the packaging. DEET may be applied to exposed skin directly and/or sprayed on clothing. Please be careful when applying DEET as it can damage plastics and lens coatings.
- Picaridin: A synthetic formulation that is derived from piperine, a substance found in plants that produce black pepper.
- Herbal insect repellents: Various mixtures of organic ingredients such as oils from eucalyptus, citronella, cedar, and other herbs. The herbal repellents are more difficult to categorize because of the difference in ingredients from one brand to another. There is considerable variation in their effectiveness.

An insect repellent for clothing is marketed in one approved formulation:

- Permanone® (Permethrin) is an odorless spray-on repellent that may be used for **pre-treatment** of clothing, gear, and tents. It should not be used directly on the skin or sprayed on clothing while it is being worn. The pre-treatment process requires a number of hours to complete and must be done outdoors, so is best completed in advance of travel. Do-it-yourself pre-treatment has to be repeated more often than commercial treatment using Insect Shield® technology. It is available at various outdoor stores and can easily be found online.
- Insect Shield® apparel: Clothing pre-treated with Permanone is made by a variety of manufacturers. It is available for purchase from some sporting goods suppliers. The clothing is advertised as retaining its repellency for up to 70 washings.

The US EPA offers a search tool to help choose a repellent that is best for a particular situation. For example, some repellents work for mosquitoes, but not for ticks.

<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/which-insect-repellent-right-you>

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). You can check the CDC website <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html> (click on Travel Health).

SUGGESTED READING: A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend <http://www.amazon.com> which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

Sibley, David Allen. The Sibley Guide to Birds of North America. Second Edition. New York: Knopf, 2014.

Dunn, Jon and Jonathan Alderfer. National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Seventh Edition. Washington, D. C.: National Geographic Society, 2017.

O'Brien, Michael, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson. The Shorebird Guide, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Liguori, Jerry. Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors in Flight. Princeton University Press, 2005.

Dunne, Pete, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton. Hawks in Flight (2nd edition). Boston: Mariner Books, 2012.

Eckert, Kim. A Birder's Guide to Minnesota (5th edition). Duluth: Stone Ridge Press, 2022.

TIPPING: Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc., a Texas corporation, and/or its agents (together, "VENT") act only as agents for the participant in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the participant or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in airfare or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the participant, as tour rates only provide for arrangements for the time stated.

VENT reserves the right (i) to substitute hotels of similar category, or the best reasonable substitution available under the circumstances, for those indicated and (ii) to make any changes in the itinerary that are deemed necessary by VENT or which are caused by third party transportation schedules (i.e. railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, etc.).

VENT reserves the right to substitute leaders or guides on any tour. Where VENT, in its sole discretion, determines such substitution is necessary, it will notify tour participants.

VENT reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure with or without cause or good reason. See the VENT Cancellation & Refunds policy set forth above.

Tour prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on January 29, 2025, and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change thereto.

VENT reserves the right to decline any participant's Registration Form and/or refuse to allow any participant to participate in a tour as VENT deems reasonably necessary, in its sole discretion. VENT also reserves the right to remove any tour participant from any portion of a tour as VENT deems necessary, in its sole discretion, reasons for such removal include but are not limited to, medical needs, injury, illness, inability to meet physical demands of a tour, personality conflict or situations in which such removal is otherwise in the best interest of the tour, the tour group and/or such participant. A participant may also voluntarily depart from a tour. If a participant is removed from a tour or voluntarily departs from a tour, such participant will be responsible for any expenses associated with such removal or departure, including but not limited to, transportation, lodging, airfare and meals, and VENT will have no obligation to refund or reimburse any such removed or departed participant for any tour payments or deposits previously paid by such participant.

MNGEM:20250919
11/27/23 - EB
1/30/25-PN/SB