



MINNESOTA: HAWK RIDGE Raptor & Migration Spectacular September 25–29, 2024

Guide: Steve Huggins
Maximum group size is 7 participants

Price: \$2195 per person sharing
Single Supplement: \$560

Check out the trip webpage here: redhillbirding.com/hawkridge

To register, fill out the booking form here: redhillbirding.com/bookingform

September is the peak time for the visible migration of birds like hawks, eagles, falcons, warblers, blue jays, robins, and many others at Duluth's famed Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory. The town of Duluth will serve as our home base as we explore lakeshore hotspots, boreal forests, and enjoy the spectacle of migration from atop the ridge.

Our time will be split between seeking out migrants and northern denizens and enjoying the spectacular show of visible migration from the Hawk Ridge area, where over 60,000 migrant raptors are counted during fall monitoring. This region is the perfect outdoor workshop for learning about migration and how it is studied. We will take one afternoon to learn more about the research conducted at Hawk Ridge and their study species. If the excellent birding wasn't enough, we will be enjoying fall colors nearing their peak and the food scene in Duluth is downright impressive.

ITINERARY

Day 1, Wed, Sep 25. Arrive to Duluth. Night Duluth

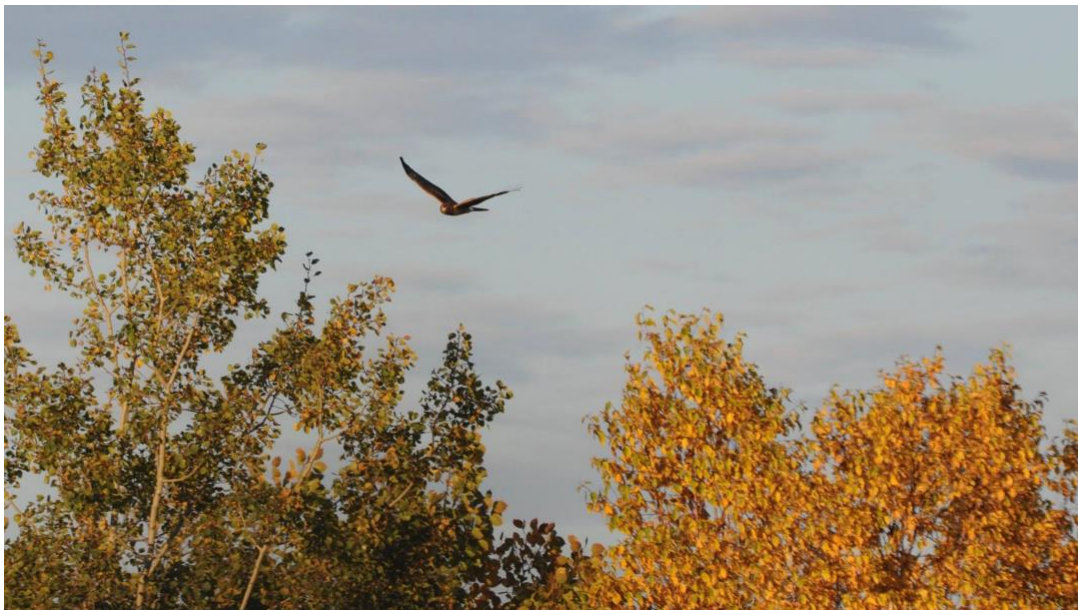
Today we will be designated to traveling to Duluth. We will have a welcome dinner and orientation at one of the many wonderful restaurants in the area while preparing for the next few days of birding.

Days 2-4, Thu-Sat, Sep 26-28. Birding Duluth Area. Nights in Duluth

We will spend the next three days taking in the birding scene along the Superior Lakeshore and Hawk Ridge. We will visit mixed deciduous woods and boreal habitats, with a focus on enjoying migration in the region. A good amount of our time will be spent enjoying all that Hawk Ridge has to offer, including hawk watching, witnessing general migration, migration talks and demonstrations from Hawk Ridge staff, and birding the trail system. Weather will determine the length of our time spent at the Hawk Ridge, and if the weather is conducive for migration, it will be hard to pull ourselves away!

Day 5, Sun, Sep 29. Departure from Duluth

Today is a departure day. We will enjoy a breakfast and have a final morning out birding before heading back home.



A Northern Harrier cruises past low over Hawk Ridge

IMPORTANT NOTES

Contact and registration information

To sign up, each participant should complete the [booking form](#). Once we receive the form, we will send you information about paying the trip deposit. If you have any questions before registering, please contact the office at info@redhillbirding.com.

Timing & Transportation

The trip will **begin at 5:00 pm at the Hampton Inn & Suites Duluth North** on September 25 and will end at **12:00 pm** on September 29. We will be birding in a single van. The van will be a comfortable mid-roof van, allowing everyone to have a window seat. An option is available to join the guide driving up to Duluth in the van. We would meet at a TBD location in Lake County and travel together. **The cost for van transport is \$100 round trip.** We will stop for lunch, which is not covered in the transport price.

Physical difficulty

This trip is **physically easy**. Almost all of the birding will be done from roads, wide and flat trails, and other easily accessible locations. A lot of our time will be spent birding at Hawk Ridge, which will require prolonged periods of standing and/or sitting. Some trails around Hawk Ridge are uneven along the ridgeline, and there will be optional hiking opportunities while we are on the ridge.

Pace

The **pace** of the trip is **moderate**. As this is a short trip, we will be taking advantage our time in the field. Most mornings will start with an early breakfast before going to an early morning location. We will do our best to have our lunches in the field to maximize our time enjoying Hawk Ridge and the surrounding area.

Price

The price of the trip is **\$2195** per person sharing a room, with a single- room supplement of **\$560**. This price **includes** all meals (excluding alcoholic beverages) from dinner on Day 1 to lunch on Day 5; all transportation and accommodation during that period; a Red Hill Birding guide; all park entrance fees; guided activities and talks at Hawk Ridge; and a bound checklist to keep track of sightings during the trip. It **does not include** alcoholic beverages, travel insurance, optional activities, snacks, laundry, tips (apart from meals), or other items of a personal nature.

A deposit of **\$450** per person and the submission of a [booking form](#) will secure your place on the trip. Upon receiving your booking form, we will send you deposit details. Final payment is due by **June 25, 2024**. We accept payment by Zelle, check, and bank transfer. We also accept payment by credit card with an additional 3.1% processing fee.

Hotels & Food

We will be staying at a high-quality, modern hotel in Duluth. There will be access to free wireless internet. We will be either eating breakfast at the hotel or taking a bagged breakfast to eat in the field. Most lunches will be in the field or we will stop at a local café. For dinners, will enjoy a nice sampling of the excellent dining available to us in downtown Duluth.

Photography

The **photographic opportunities** are **good**. Many of the birds will be actively migrating, allowing for ample practice with flight shots. We will not be spending much time in a closed canopy, so lighting will generally not be poor. Although this is primarily a birding tour and we will not be making special accommodations for photographers, our more prolonged sessions of hawk/migration watching will allow for plenty of photographic opportunities.

Weather

The weather in mid-September in the Duluth region is generally pleasant with brisk mornings warming up to temperatures in the mid to upper 60s and low 70s. A cold front at this time of year is possible, which could bring down the temps significantly. It is generally a dry time of year, but rain showers are always possible. It is worth checking the weather forecast before departure.

Packing considerations

It will be important to pack layers including a warm jacket, knit hat, and gloves for colder mornings and days, and for prolonged periods of exposed to the elements while hawk watching. A raincoat and/or an umbrella is useful in case of wet weather. Comfortable walking/hiking shoes are important, as we will be on our feet for extended periods.

In terms of gear, you will want to bring the usual binoculars, field guide, hat, camera, and other gear you are accustomed to going birding with. Your Red Hill Birding guide will have a scope for the group to use, but you are welcome to bring your own. A reusable water bottle and, for coffee drinkers, a travel coffee mug, are useful to have along in the car during the day. For our longer periods of hawkwatching, **having a travel chair would be beneficial**. You will want to bring sunscreen and insect repellent as well.

Tipping

We aim to provide **exceptional service**, using guides that are knowledgeable, interesting, personable, and experienced. While tipping is never expected, if you feel that your guides went above and beyond, you are welcome to leave them a gratuity. Tips at restaurants are included in the cost of the tour.

Travel insurance

We do not require travel insurance for trips within the United States. However, we recommend purchasing it to help protect you against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services.

For more information on the available plans or to enroll, go to www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 13-0441.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 55Y

Note that to be eligible for some benefits, travel insurance must be purchased within 1-2 weeks of paying the trip deposit.



Sharp-shinned Hawk migrating below Hawk Ridge