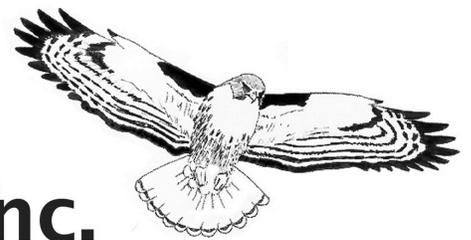
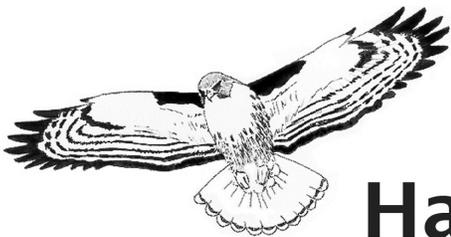


# Living with the Landscape

## Pre-Packet

Grades K & 1



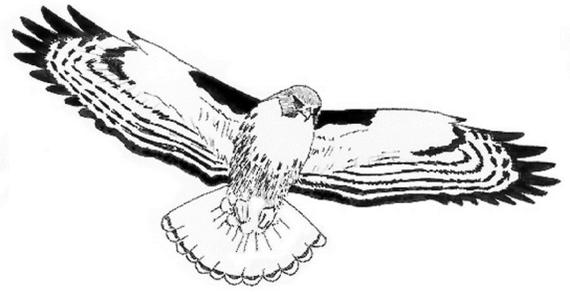
### **Hawks Aloft, Inc.**

*Conservation, Avian Research & Education*

Albuquerque, NM

(505)828-9455

[www.hawksaloft.org](http://www.hawksaloft.org)



We are so excited that you have invited Hawks Aloft, Inc to visit your classroom! The following packet includes background information and additional activities to help your students get the most out of our visit.

All of the materials in this packet can be reproduced for educational purposes and we encourage you to share this packet with your colleagues.

We also offer a single-visit program called Reading with Raptors that features two live raptors and is designed for students in grades PreK-1. This program involves the reading of a bird-related story and games to teach students about bird body parts and adaptations. For a full list of the programs offered by Hawks Aloft and to download free bird-related lessons, visit our website: [www.hawksaloft.org](http://www.hawksaloft.org).

H A W K S   A L O F T ,   I N C

POST OFFICE BOX 10028  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87184  
PHONE / 505-828-9455 FAX / 505-828-9769  
WEBSITE / <http://www.hawksaloft.org>

## About Us

Hawks Aloft, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Albuquerque, New Mexico that works to conserve indigenous wild birds and their habitats through avian research and conservation education. We work closely with local rescue groups and often help rehabilitate injured raptors. In addition, we care for 20 non-releasable raptors who serve as Avian Ambassadors, visiting schools and community events to teach the importance of conservation. Visit our website, [www.hawksaloft.org](http://www.hawksaloft.org) for more information.

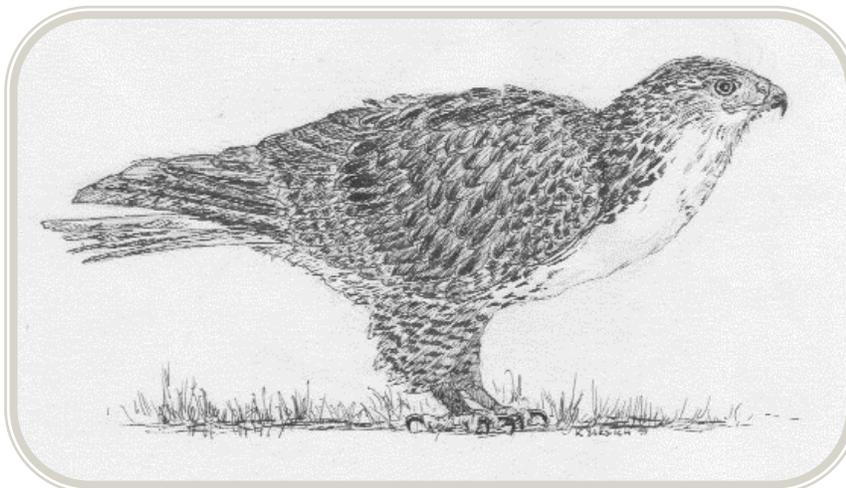
## Research

Through the hard work of both staff scientists and volunteers, Hawks Aloft has been researching songbirds and raptors in New Mexico for over 20 years. Projects include: the effects of riparian restoration on songbird populations, monitoring of the endangered Mexican Spotted Owl, and raptor nest surveys.

## Education

Our best hope for the future of our planet is through education. It is for this reason that Hawks Aloft delivers hundreds of educational programs each year to thousands of children and adults throughout New Mexico. Using live, non-releasable raptors to engage

and excite the public about the importance of conserving wildlife, our programs are tailored to suit the needs of each individual audience. We offer programs for children and adults of all ages. Visit [www.hawksaloft.org](http://www.hawksaloft.org) to learn more about the education programs offered by Hawks Aloft.



## Meet Our Avian Ambassadors

In order to promote conservation and awareness of birds of prey, Hawks Aloft houses and cares for twenty non-releasable birds of prey. All of our education birds have some permanent disability that prevents them from surviving in the wild, such as an injured wing or vision impairment. We provide them with zoo-quality housing, a natural diet, and veterinary care so they can live out their lives in comfort. They live in specially built cages called mews that have been adapted to suit their disability. For example, birds that cannot fly have special ramps that allow them to reach their perches.

Our education birds are given names in order to help identify them. They are, however, wild animals and we treat them as such, never handling them with bare hands or petting them. In order to care for them we require special permits. Any individual found in possession of one of these birds who lacks proper permits faces jail time and up to a \$10,000 fine.

Here are a few spotlights of our education birds. For full profiles of all of our education birds, visit our website: [www.hawksaloft.org](http://www.hawksaloft.org).



**Name:** Aztec  
**Species:** Great Horned Owl  
**Disability:** Fractured arm bones, can't fly.



**Name:** Hudder  
**Species:** Swainson's Hawk  
**Disability:** Fractured left wing, vision impaired in right eye.



**Name:** Clark Kent  
**Species:** American Kestrel  
**Disability:** Fractured bone near collar bone, can't fly well.



## What do I do if I find an injured bird?

If you find an injured bird, approach with caution! An injured bird will be frightened and may try to attack when approached. If possible, contact wildlife rescue to capture the bird. If immediate rescue is needed, it is best to place a towel over the bird before picking it up. **Be extremely careful of its talons and beak.** Place the bird in a cardboard box and close the cover. Then place the box in a dark, quiet area. Do not give the bird any food or water as it could make the bird's condition worse.

In the Albuquerque area, contact the **NM Department of Game and Fish** at 505-841-8881 or **Wildlife Rescue** at 505-344-2500. In Santa Fe/Espanola you can contact the **Wildlife Center** at 505-753-9505, or the **Santa Fe Raptor Center** at 505-699-0455. They will either come get the bird or give you the name of a nearby rehabilitator. In other areas contact the local game and fish office or a veterinarian.

## What about baby birds?

If you find an abandoned baby bird, it is best to leave the bird alone. Most likely the bird is learning to fly and the parents are probably nearby. Just like human children, baby birds sometimes need a little time before they are ready to completely leave the nest. If you find a nestling that does not have all of its feathers, return it to its nest if possible. Contrary to common belief most adult birds do not have a great sense of smell and will accept the young bird even if it has been touched by humans. If you cannot return it to its nest or you think that it has been abandoned, place it in a cardboard box and call a rehabilitator.

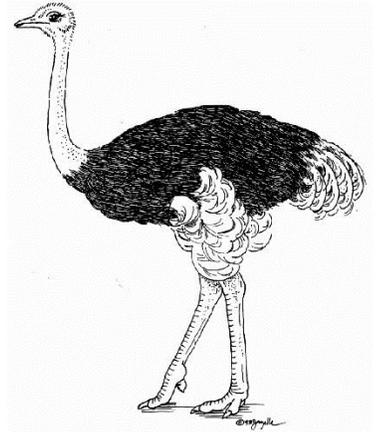




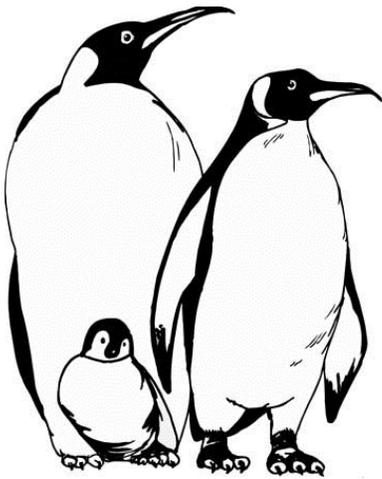
## Bird Bodies



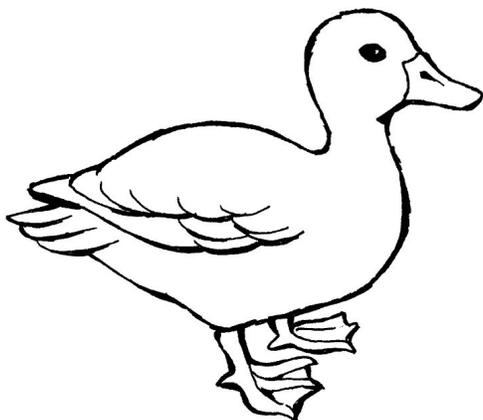
Bird bodies are specially adapted to help them live the way they do. They have wings to help them fly, beaks that are used to eat their food, feet that have all sorts of different uses, feathers to keep them warm and dry, and eyes to allow them to see.



All birds have wings, beaks, feet, feathers, and eyes but these parts can be very different. A penguin's wings are more like flippers and help them to swim instead of fly. A duck's beak is flat to help them find food in wet and muddy places. An ostrich's feet are big and thick to help it run fast. Boy peacocks have big, colorful feathers to help them find a mate. Owls have big eyes that help them to see at night.



In the student hand-out, have your students draw a bird making sure to include: wings, beak, feet, feathers, and eyes. Then, they should draw the place where their bird lives, its habitat.

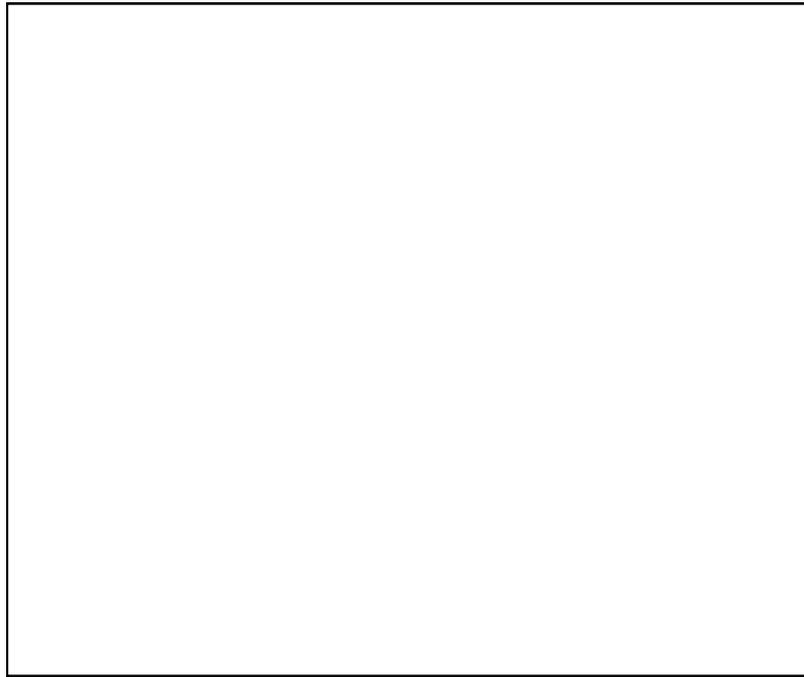




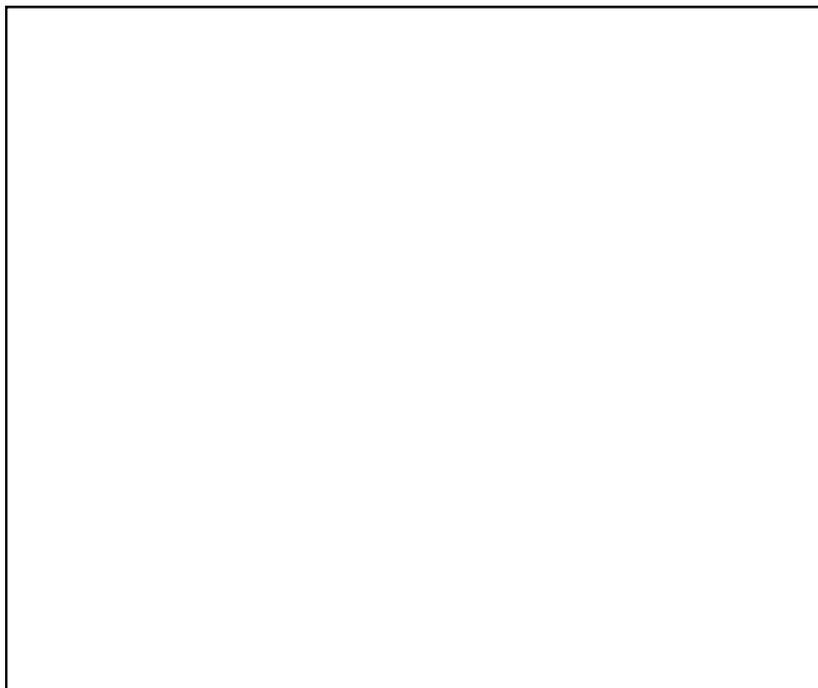
# **Bird Bodies**

## **Student Handout**

In the box, draw a bird. Make sure to draw it's wings, beak, feet, feathers, and eyes.



Now draw the place where your bird lives: its habitat.





## What is a Raptor?

Although the name sounds scary, raptors are birds that we sometimes see in our neighborhoods.

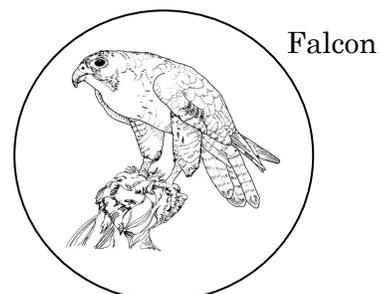
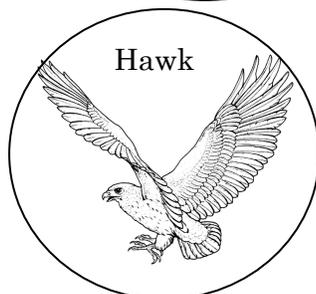
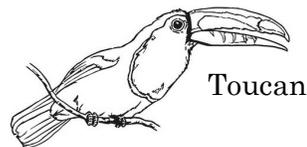
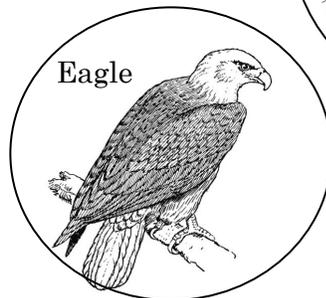


Raptors include eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls. All of these birds are also called birds of prey because they eat other animals. Not all birds of prey are raptors, however.



The raptors are a special group of birds that hunt a very special way. They use their special claws, called talons, to catch their food. They may eat mice, or lizards, or even pigeons. Raptors will catch their food using their talons and then use their sharp beaks to eat it. Their beaks point down at the end to help them chew meat just like our teeth.

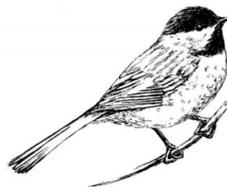
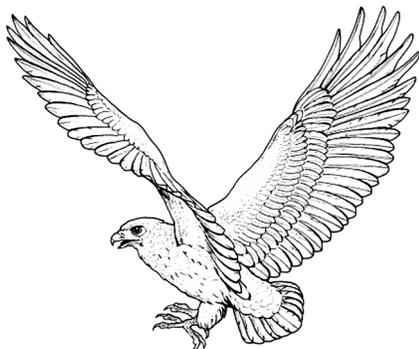
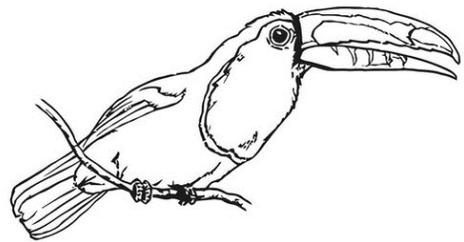
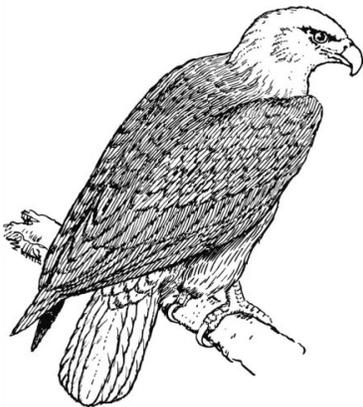
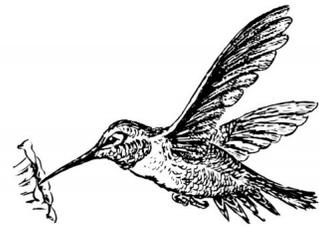
In the student hand-out ask your students to circle the pictures of birds which are raptors. The answers are below:



## What is a Raptor? Student Handout

Raptors are a group of birds that use their special claws called talons to catch their food. Owls, eagles, hawks, and falcons are all raptors.

Circle the birds that **are** raptors.





## **Predator & Prey**

Raptors are predators. That means they eat other animals. Different raptor species eat different kinds of animals, including: insects, mice, other birds, snakes, and fish.

In many raptor species, both the mom and dad birds help care for their babies. While in the nest, the parents bring their babies different kinds of food to keep their bellies full. Once the babies are big enough, the parents teach them how to hunt. When the babies are able to fly and hunt on their own, then it is time to leave the nest! Sometimes, teenage birds don't like this idea, however, and will cry out for their parents to feed them. After a few days, they will get the idea and fly off to hunt and have families of their own.

In the Student Handout, your students can color in the picture of an adult eagle feeding her chicks. Then, they can connect-the-dots to learn what else the baby eagles like to eat.



Several of our female education birds will often foster orphaned or abandoned babies of the same species. In the picture above, one of our Swainson's Hawks, Hudder, feeds two 21-day old chicks.



# Predator & Prey Student Handout

Raptors are predators. That means they eat other animals.



Connect the dots to find out what else the baby eagles like to eat.





## Books to Include in your Classroom

Integrate birds into your whole curriculum! Here are some suggested books that can either be read by or to the students.

### Fiction

- *The Barn Owls* by Tony Johnston
- *Beaks* by Sneed B. Collard III
  
- *Eagle and the Wren* by Jane Goodall
- *Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert
- *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess
- *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell
- *There's an Owl in the Shower* by Jean Craighead George, Christine Herman Merrill (Illustrator)
- *Wild Birds* by Joanne Ryder
- *Wump World* by Bill Peet



### Non-Fiction (stories)

- *A Day in the Desert* by Jean Craighead George
- *Eagles, Hawks, and Owls* by Virginia Alvin
- *How do Birds Find Their Way?* by Roma Gans
- *Urban Roosts: Where Birds Nest in the City* by Barbara Bash
- *Watching Desert Wildlife* by Jim Arnosky
- *What Makes a Bird a Bird?* by May Garelick

### Non-Fiction

- *Atlas of Endangered Species* by Steve Pollock
- *Birds in Your Backyard* by Barbara Herkert
- *Earth Book For Kids* by Linda Schwartz
- *Every Living Thing* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Everything you Never Learned About Birds* by Rebecca Rupp
- *How Nature Works* by David Bernie
- *The Life Cycle of a Bird* by Bobbie Kalman
- *Peterson Field Guides: Birds of Prey for Young Naturalists* by Jonathan Latimer, Karen Stray Nolting, and Roger Tory Peterson (Illustrator)
- *Protecting Our World: A Beginners Guide to Conservation* by Felicity Brooks
- *Raptor! A Kid's Guide to Birds of Prey* by Christyna M. and René Laubach, and Charles W.G. Smith
- *Saving Birds: Heros Around the World* by Pete Salmansohn
- *Sharing the Wonder of Birds With Kids* by Laura Erickson and Kathryn Marsaa (Illustrator)





## Attracting birds to your school

Attracting birds to your school or home is a perfect opportunity to observe birds close-up. Building a bird feeder is an inexpensive and fun way to create a bird-friendly habitat! Below are three different bird feeders you can build. Try building them all to see if certain birds prefer specific food.

### Treat Bag

#### **Materials:**

- Mesh bag (from oranges)
- Birdseed
- Suet
- Unsalted peanuts
- Yarn

#### **Directions:**

1. Tie a length of yarn to the top of the bag.
2. Fill the bag with treats and hang it from a tree branch or hook.



### Fruit Feeder

#### **Materials:**

- Orange, apple, or pear
- Yarn (2-3 feet long)
- Knife

#### **Directions:**

1. Have an adult help you cut the fruit in half.
2. Poke a hole through the center of the fruit.
3. Pull the yarn through the hole and tie it to make a handle and hang on a tree.

### Pine Cone Feeder

#### **Materials:**

- Peanut butter
- Pine cones
- Yarn (2 feet long)
- Birdseed
- Scissors

#### **Directions:**

1. Tie a length of yarn to the end of a pine cone.
2. Cover the entire pine cone with peanut butter.
3. Roll it in birdseed and hang it outside your window.



## How to Help

Around the world, wildlife is being threatened by human activities. Brainstorm with your students on some of the biggest threats to wildlife & ways that they can make a difference in their own communities.

Some of the major threats to wildlife are:

- **Loss of habitat:** Habitat loss is the primary threat to all plants and animals on Earth. Habitat is destroyed for agriculture, urban development, oil & gas exploration, and water diversion.
  - **Ways to help:** Plant native plants in your yard to help create habitat. Get involved in efforts to restore or re-plant damaged habitat.
- **Pollution:** Human activities have led to the contamination of many habitats. Pollution can be very visible, such as trash thrown on a beach, or it can be invisible, such as chemical pesticides polluting a stream.
  - **Ways to help:** Organize a trash clean-up day to pick up litter around your neighborhood or school.
- **Climate Change:** Changes in normal weather patterns are a big threat to wildlife. Drought, severe storms, and higher temperatures can cause animals to lose their food sources, get thrown off their migration routes, or lose their habitat all together.



major contributors to climate change. When you can, walk or ride your bike instead of driving.

- **Invasive Species:** Humans have introduced non-native species to every habitat on Earth. These introductions were sometimes accidental, such as stowaways on ship hulls, and sometimes on purpose, such as the release of pets into natural habitats.

- **Ways to help:** Plant native plants in your yard instead of exotics which can become invasive. Don't release any pets into the wild. When you travel, clean any mud or dirt off your shoes before you go to a new place. This will help prevent stowaways.

## Get Involved

Hawks Aloft has 20 education birds that need your support! Currently, a large portion of our donations go towards caring for our educational birds.

### How can you help?

Enjoyed our visit? Your students can continue to learn about raptors through our Adopt-a-Raptor program. Your class will receive a certificate with a picture of your bird, a description of its history, and video links updating you on the status of your chosen bird.

**What are the donations used for?** Donations help provide the raptors with a quality diet, equipment, housing, and medical care. Our education birds are all non-releasable due to a permanent disability. Your donations help to ensure they live a long and comfortable life serving as ambassadors for their species.

**Here are just a few of our raptors available for adoption.**



Kestrel: \$35



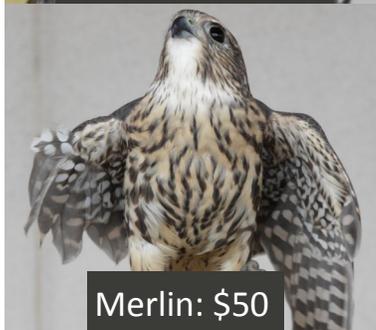
Great Horned Owl: \$60



Screech Owl: \$35



Red-tailed Hawk: \$75



Merlin: \$50



Ferruginous Hawk: \$100

Visit [www.hawksaloft.org/education/our-educational-ambassadors/](http://www.hawksaloft.org/education/our-educational-ambassadors/) to view the profiles for all our education birds and decide which one to sponsor today!

Adopting a raptor gives you exclusive access to video updates on your bird before they are released to the public!

To adopt a raptor, fill out and mail in the request on Page 16, or visit our website.



**YES! We want to adopt an Educational Raptor!**

**Please check one:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screech Owl: \$35.00      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk: \$60.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burrowing Owl: \$35.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk: \$75.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel: \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk: \$75.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Crow: \$35.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon: \$100.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merlin: \$50.00           | <input type="checkbox"/> Ferruginous Hawk: \$100.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl: \$60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rough-Legged Hawk: \$100.00 |

Specific Bird Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Certificate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and send with your payment to:

Hawks Aloft, Inc.

P.O. Box 10028

Albuquerque, NM 87184

Please make checks payable to **Hawks Aloft, Inc.**

Or call us at **505-828-9455** to use your credit card!



# Program Evaluation

**Hawks Aloft wants your feedback! This helps us to improve our programs and better serve our community.**

Your honest critique helps us to improve our program. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Group \_\_\_\_\_

Program Date \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Program \_\_\_\_\_

For the following questions, check the box that best describes your feelings.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. The program met or exceeded my expectations.					
2. My students were engaged in the program.					
3. My students benefited from the program.					
4. I learned something from the program.					
5. The pre-packet was age-appropriate & helpful.					
6. Scheduling my program was easy.					
7. This program was worth the cost (if applicable).					
8. I would recommend this program to my colleagues.					

9. What part of the presentation had the most impact on the students?

10. Which part of the program did they enjoy the least?

11. How can the program be improved?

Please send all completed evaluations to: Hawks Aloft, Inc., Attn: Education Dept.

PO Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184

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