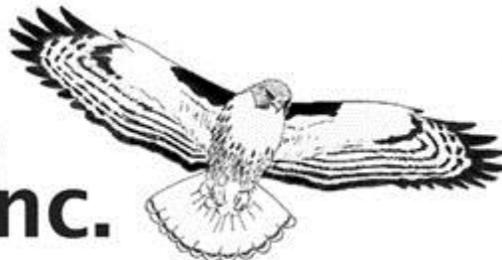


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HAI Flier
Your Monthly Newsletter



Hawks Aloft, Inc.

Conservation, Avian Research & Education

[System.DateTime:: MMMM, d, yyyy]

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Moving Up in the Science Arena

by **Gail Garber**



COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEMS
STUDIES UNITS
NATIONAL NETWORK

This past year saw some significant changes for Hawks Aloft. Early in 2016, Trevor Fetz and I developed and submitted an application to the Collaborative Ecosystems Studies Unit. We were thrilled to receive the email below right before Thanksgiving.

Dear Dr. Fetz,

Attached is Amendment Two to the Desert Southwest CESU Cooperative and Joint Venture Agreement, adding Baylor University, Eastern New Mexico University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Hawks Aloft, Inc. as new nonfederal partner institutions.

Best regards,

~Tom Fish

National Coordinator

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Units Network

We look forward to increased collaboration with other researchers in the Desert Southwest Region as well as others nationwide. To learn more about this collaborative research network, [visit the CESU website](#). We are honored to be part of that program.

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Trevor Fetz, Lead
Avian Biologist

Julia Davis, Education
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Mitigation Specialist

Everett Ogilvie,
Statistician

Emiliano Salazar,
Raptor Rescue
Coordinator

Amanda Schluter, Field
Technician and
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Steve Youtsey.

Raptor Rescue Team

Shelley Armitage
Anthony Bailey
Donna Borowsky
Sophia Borowsky
Jacquelyn Chacon
Linda Chandler
Charles Cummings
Joanne Dahringer
John Douglas
Marion Fisher

Upcoming Docent Training

Docent Training
Saturday, February 11, 2017
9:30 a.m. - Noon
Location DBA

If you'd like to learn more about Hawks Aloft and get involved with an aspect of our organization from outreach events to field studies, and rescuing birds in need to conservation efforts or administrative tasks, our docent training is the first step to volunteering with us. This training is an introduction to our organization and all of the areas in which we work.

Space is limited so sign up soon. Register by [contacting Julia Davis](#), education and outreach coordinator/

Amazon Adventure - With Hawks Aloft and Wildside Nature Tours



**Amazon Adventure
with Hawks Aloft and Wildside Nature Tours
February 3-11, 2018**

Birding, photography, fun and relaxation, all from our 165 foot deluxe riverboat! A host of leaders for your trip will include Kevin Loughlin, bird photographer and owner of Wildside; Edison Buenano, South America's top birding guide; Gail Garber, Director of Hawks Aloft, plus two local naturalist guides.

Our cruise will include afternoon lectures on birds, wildlife and photography. We enjoy multiple excursions by motorized skiff



Each day, designed to reveal the incredible wildlife that calls the rain forest home and with any luck we'll spot sloths, monkeys, toucans, macaws, pink dolphins and so much more!

The cuisine on-board is regional and provides a unique and delicious window into local culture. Gain a rare glimpse of how life 'on the river' is lived and experience the magic of the Amazon on this once-in-a-lifetime riverboat adventure.

Focus and Highlights:

The Peruvian Amazon offers fantastic birds, monkeys, sloths, frogs and other great wildlife. We will explore rivers, creeks and forest trails in search of all we can find! On board the ship we will offer daily lectures on birds, wildlife, photography, art and the local culture.

[Click Here for full details.](#)

Tim Florence
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Dean Klassy
Toni Klassy
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Doug Brown
Photography
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of NM
Eye Care for Animals
Festival of the Cranes -
Friends of Bosque del

[Click Here to view optional pre- and post- tour day trips as well as an extended trip to Macchu Picchu](#)

Black-collared Hawk, Hoatzin, and riverboat images by Kevin Loughlin, Wildside Nature Tours.



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Apache NWR
Monte Vista Cranefest
- Friends of Monte
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Laboratory
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Monster Energy
Company
Monte Vista Crane
Festival, Colorado
Navajo Nation Zoo
Central NM Audubon -
Thursday Birders
New Mexico
Department of Game
and Fish
New Mexico Falconers'
Association
North Valley Academy
Peabody Energy – Lee
Ranch
Petroglyph Animal
Hospital
Petroglyph National
Monument
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Black-collared Hawk, Hoatzin, and riverboat images by Kevin Loughlin, Wildside Nature Tours.

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Valles Caldera National
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Wild Birds Unlimited -
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Las Cruces

Thank You to our October Donors

Chuck Brandt
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Charles & Sherri
Karaian
Janet Mathews
Peggy Norton
Ann Rhodes
Kathleen Rhoades
Priscilla Sears
Bari Lee Sears
Lela Belle Wolfert

Upcoming Events - Please Help

Wednesday, December
7
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dolores Gonzales
Elementary School
Living with the
Landscape

Thursday, December 8
10 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.
Wherry Elementary
School
Living with the
Landscape

Saturday, December
10
10 a.m. – Noon
Raptor Handling Class
Class is full

Wednesday, December



>>

[Click Here to view optional pre- and post- tour day trips as well as an extended trip to Macchu Picchu](#)



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14
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Lowell Elementary
School
Living with the
Landscape

November Rescues

We had 14 hotline calls and 5 intakes in November, which included:

Cooper's Hawk -
Gunshot - Released
Sharp-shinned Hawk -
Head trauma
Cooper's Hawk -
Fractured humerus and
shoulder
Banded Cooper's
Hawk - Head trauma
Cooper's Hawk -
Fractured right wing
metacarpals

For the birds that were unable to be rehabilitated, we sincerely thank the homeowners, passers-by, rehabilitators, veterinarians and volunteers that cared enough to help these birds in their time of need. The rescuers' heart-felt care undoubtedly made their passing much more peaceful and comfortable.

Wish List

De-icers for bird baths
Toilet Paper
Paper towels
Bleach for bird laundry
Paper towels
8.5 x 14 copy paper
8.5 x 11 copy paper
Toilet Paper
File Folders
File folder labels
Digital camera

enjoy multiple excursions by motorized skiff



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Black-collared Hawk, Hoatzin, and riverboat images by Kevin Loughlin, Wildside Nature Tours.

Clear shower curtain
Manila folders
Someone to do mews maintenance
Laminating materials
Foam board
Binoculars
Nature-themed children's books
8' wooden closet rods
Gift cards for Home Depot, Lowe's, Target or Staples
"Forever" postage stamps
GPS units (even old ones)
Spotting scopes and tripods
4WD Vehicle, minivan, or station wagon
Ink cartridges (920) for HP Officejet 7000



>>

[Click Here to view optional pre- and post- tour day trips as well as an extended trip to Macchu Picchu](#)

Planning and Preparation **by Emiliano Salazar, Raptor Rescue Coordinator**

With rescue efforts and activity slower and more sporadic this time of year, I have been working on various improvements and administrative duties to help build the Raptor Rescue program. Some tasks are proving more difficult than expected. One example of these unforeseen difficulties occurred when the rescue team inherited an old iPhone 4 to replace our even older non-smart flip phone. The iPhone 4 had to be activated and connected to our Raptor Rescue hotline number and synchronized with our contacts. Unfortunately, the iPhone 4 had limitations as to how many recipients you can send a text out to. Yet, it is essential that we are able to send out mass texts to our many volunteers. As such, I began the process of researching third-party apps that are designed for group texting, then purchasing the app with a new iTunes account and, finally, testing it out. All the little roadblocks seem to be worth it so far. Technology is great and dealing with "old" equipment has its challenges; this phone is much easier for typing out text messages and sending and receiving photos. The hotline phone is an extremely important tool and asset for the rescue team and the time investment required to get the new phone up and running was worth it.

Along with the new phone we have new volunteers in different parts of the state. These volunteers have different skill levels and a decision process must be

considered before mobilizing them to help insure the safety of all. We also have started to work with new partners, including rehabilitation organizations, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, animal control officers, and new transporters. All of these new partners have different talents and capabilities that need to be considered before calling on them. In addition to these changes, every development must be documented with new procedures and protocols. I am thankful for the expertise of my mentor, Lisa Morgan, and the experienced rescue team members for their guidance in developing these new procedures.

A Look Backward and a Look Forward **by Everett Ogilvie, Statistician**

During the past month I have been working on the Bosque Nesting Raptors Study, bringing it up to date with the addition of 2014, 2015, and 2016 data. I am updating existing tables with the new data, including in-depth examination of active nests by species, the number of young, the number fledged, and analysis of reproductive rates. We have eight species included in the study and the greatest number of active nests are those of Cooper's Hawks and Great Horned Owls. I found it interesting that we had only two active Long-eared Owl nests over the 13 years of surveys. I also found it interesting how consistent the average fledging date is from year to year.

I recently spent a little time talking with Emiliano Salazar, our Rescue Coordinator, about new ways to compile our rescue information so we can easily access and summarize it. This information can help identify the species most often rescued across the state, and possibly identify any areas that may have a greater than average number of birds rescued. At the very least this database can provide (in conjunction with the current records we keep) a record of the very important work this organization and our volunteers do.

Future work for me will include helping Gail with our year-end report on the study mentioned above and some field work this coming spring doing raptor surveys in the Rio Grande Gorge in the Taos area.

Great Horned Owl family, image by Doug Brown.



Festival of the Cranes 2016

by Julia Davis, Education and Outreach Coordinator

The Rio Grande is an important waterway originating in south-central Colorado. It flows through and floods portions of the Southwest before entering the Gulf of Mexico. Humans and wildlife have coexisted along the Rio Grande for thousands of years and every stretch of the vast river has its own unique history and story to tell. Each fall, people come together to celebrate Sandhill Cranes and their migration to Albuquerque and other places in New Mexico, like Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. For a brief history of Bosque del Apache, [visit their website](#).

In 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared Bosque del Apache a National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge was established to preserve and manage the land for wildlife, including migratory birds, and serve as a venue for people to observe and learn about the wildlife they share the world with. Each year, we celebrate this mission by attending the Festival of the Cranes during the third week of November.

Three years ago, I attended my first Festival of the Cranes, and the image of Snow Geese and cranes circling through the air is forever etched in my mind as one of the most awe inspiring experiences of my life. This year, Hawks Aloft's Executive Director, Gail Garber, presented three adult classes (Raptor Identification, All About Owls, and Life and Times of New Mexico Raptors of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque) and led a raptor tour through the refuge. Saturday and Sunday, we set up the Hawks Aloft education booth in the visitor center's plaza to meet and relay our message of environmental conservation to the public, with the help of our avian ambassadors.

Idaho, a female Swainson's Hawk, made her debut at this year's festival. Gail brought her out briefly to get a taste of what being an Avian Ambassador with Hawks Aloft is like. At first, she was understandably nervous to be close to so many humans. Overall, she did really well, especially during the overnight portion of the trip where we set up birds (in this case eleven raptors) in our two bedroom suite at the EconoLodge in Socorro.

As with all of our big events, this one could not have been done without the help of our amazing volunteers! New and old alike, our volunteers always go the extra mile to make these events a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came out to help and made this event so special: Chuck Brandt, David Buckley, Ruth Burstrom, Niels Chapman, Ed Chappelle, Mary Chappelle, Linda Chandler, Dagny Cosby, Rebecca Ezechukwu, Jerry Hobart, Molly Lord, Maurice Mackey, Chellye Porter, Larry Rimer, and Allison Schacht.

The Office Season is Finally Ending!

by Trevor Fetz,
Lead Avian
Biologist



As was the case during the previous two months, my November was dominated by office work, including data entry, data analysis, report writing and editing. But, the end is in sight! The winter 2017 field season for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study begins in December and I made several forays into the field during

November to make preparations. In order to address logistical issues, some survey routes were reassigned between the four bosque songbird surveyors (Amanda, Gail, Lisa and I). Thus, a couple of field visits were made during November to familiarize people with routes they had not previously surveyed and to ensure that some particularly challenging routes were accessible.

The highlight of the month was a birding trip to San Diego in early November. There weren't any unusual birds to chase down and the weather was very hot and dry. But, I did manage to find most of the local species I was looking for. I added one life bird--Ridgway's Rail. Previously considered a subspecies of Clapper Rail, Ridgway's Rail was reclassified as a distinct species in 2014, in part due to reproductive isolation from Clapper Rail throughout its range. Ridgway's Rail is found in marshes and mangrove swamps in California, western Arizona, and coastal western Mexico. The species was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to limited and declining populations as a result of habitat loss and degradation. Other species of note I located during the trip included Nuttall's Woodpecker, California Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, Wrentit, Allen's Hummingbird, and Red-breasted Sapsucker. One species I was hoping to find but didn't, was Tricolored Blackbird. But, overall, it was a great trip and a good break from the office.

Ridgway's Rail, image by Trevor Fetz.

Painting Feathers

by Maggie
Grimason,
Senior
Editor/Educato
r



For years, when the holiday season rolled around I'd ask my mother what kind of gift she would like. Invariably, the same response would come back to me, "I don't need anything, sweetheart." She'd rather, she always said, that I save my money; making the trip home to Indiana every year was enough of a gift. But, I love my mom, and no matter how many times

I say it, or how often I try to show it, I wanted to *give* her something. Something she could unwrap on Christmas morning and have forever. So, about four years ago I started a new tradition. I began to paint her birds.

My mom has always been a backyard birdwatcher and having lived all of her life in rural Indiana—our home situated squarely between acres and acres of farmland on two sides and forests on the others—she's had plenty of opportunities to glimpse her favorite type of bird, that is, owls. While there has been an American Kestrel in the mix over the course of the years, I've primarily taken on painting different species of owls for her. As the holiday season rolls around, reference photos are scattered over my small desk, test strip of watercolors and paint brushes stashed in every warm corner I've found to work in this winter.

Painting these birds has been an educational process for me, not just in the study of watercolor, but in my appreciation and understanding of the physicality of these nocturnal raptors. Looking at the patterns of color on a single feather, or across the back or belly, I mean *really* looking at them, trying to memorize and then recreate their intricacy is an awe-inspiring challenge. Trying to capture the depth of huge, dark eyes or the curve of a talon has made me a better painter, yes, but also a better observer in all regards and perhaps most profoundly, a stronger admirer of these truly beautiful birds.

Last year, I managed a portrait of a Barn Owl's ghostly face fading into a black background. This year, I attempted, and later abandoned, a Great Horned Owl (using a few pictures of our very own Aztec as reference), before settling on a small painting of a Spotted Owl. Careful and quiet contemplation while I paint has benefited me in a multitude of ways; as such, the real gift is for me.

Barn Owl and Spotted Owl paintings by Maggie Grimason.



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