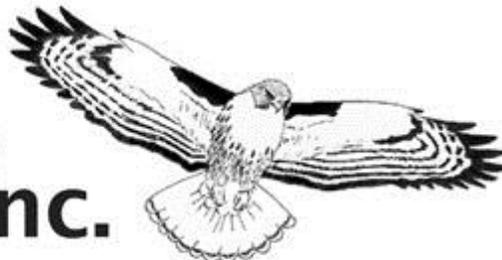


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Avian Conservation in New Mexico – A Partnership Project, by Gail Garber, Executive Director



With the goal of disseminating current data about New Mexico birds, and educating land managers and the public about threats to various species, representatives of many government agencies, Audubon, Natural Heritage New Mexico, and Hawks Aloft re-convened the New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners (NMACP) about a year ago. Under the leadership, guidance, and dedication of Peggy Darr, Nongame

Avian Biologist with NM Department of Game and Fish, the steering committee has been working to update conservation scores for New Mexico bird species. We are pleased [to announce our new website](#), still a work in progress, so that you will have a resource to learn more about our native birds.

On January 26, 80 land managers, biologists, conservationists, and other interested individuals convened at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge to learn about different species and their habitats. The daylong meeting concluded with a rousing discussion regarding how to best work together to help priority bird species.

Birds are the ultimate 'canary in the coal mine'. In part, because they are so mobile,

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Julia Davis,
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Carol Fugagli,

and can leave degraded habitats, or be attracted to areas with prime habitat, and because they are easy to accurately monitor cost-effectively, they tell us much.

Using a complex scoring system that takes into consideration things such as 1) global population size, 2) distribution (breeding and wintering), 3) threats to population, 4) New Mexico population trends, and 5) importance of New Mexico to the global population, all species found here at some time of year were scored. Also considered was the 'half-life' of the species' population, i.e. the length of time in which its population will decline by another 50% on the current trajectory. Visit the website to view the four categories of Conservation Concern, totaling 133 high-ranking species of concern along with their habitat associations. Seventeen species are included in the Species Conservation Level 1, the highest level of concern, each with scores of 17 or above. It includes birds such as the expected Lesser Prairie Chicken with a score of 21, but the little known Bendire's Thrasher ranks even higher with a score of 22.

Several species, restricted to pinyon-juniper habitat scored particularly high: Pinyon Jay (19), Juniper Titmouse (19), *Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (17), Black-throated Gray Warbler (16), Gray Vireo (16) and Mountain Bluebird (15). Taken as a whole, this suite of high-scoring species identifies a habitat in need, the under-appreciated and much maligned pinyon-juniper, at risk due to drought, insect infestation, fuel-wood reduction projects, and widespread clearing for perceived grassland habitat improvements.

You might be surprised by some of the others. I certainly was! Scoring a risk factor of 17, the oh-so-common Scaled Quail, a bird that most of us take for granted, has declined by 67% since the 1960s and now has a projected half-life of 8 years! Yes, that's EIGHT YEARS! Clearly, there is a desperate need to figure out the cause of the decline and see what might be done to reverse the trend.

In New Mexico, there is much to learn from birds.

Check the website for information about upcoming meetings, presentations from this January 2017 meeting, and more. For more information about the NMACP, contact Peggy (margaret.darr@state.nm.us) or myself. (gail@hawkaloft.org)

Images of Scaled Quail, above, and Pinyon Jay, below, by Larry Rimer.

Educator

Angela Green,
Office Manager

Maggie Grimason,
Senior Editor,
Educator

Lisa Morgan, Field
Technician and
Mitigation Specialist

Everett Ogilvie,
Statistician

Emiliano Salazar,
Raptor Rescue
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Fly In at Bosque del Apache NWR - The 2017 HAI Raffle Quilt

We did again, with the major effort taking place in one day at the Jemez Cabin. This year, the quilt is based on an image of cranes landing in a beautiful sunset, taken by Larry Rimer. It just so happened that yours truly had fabric that almost matched the photograph! However, the intricate center was stitched in advance, so that Barb Deshler could hand applique the cranes. Donna Barnitz came up with the idea for the 3-D marsh grasses to complete the center ensemble.



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Association of NM
 Eye Care for
 Animals
 Festival of the
 Cranes - Friends of
 Bosque del Apache
 NWR
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 Cranefest - Friends
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As usual, we gathered at the cabin on Friday to begin prep, so we were ready to go on Saturday morning. We stitched and laughed, relaxed and ate, conversed and watched birds during the day and a comedy at night. Below are a few photos from our weekend quilting retreat as we stitched Quilt Top #25! On Sunday morning, we gathered in the dining room so Steve Elkins could take the official photo! The quilt top has gone off to Kris Vierra for her excellent longarm machine quilting and the finished quilt will make its debut at the Festival of the Cranes in Monte Vista, Colorado in a month's time! Be sure to get your raffle tickets!



Thank you to all who participated: Donna Barnitz, Ed Chappelle, Mary Chappelle, Julia Davis, Barb Deshler, Rick Deshler, Steve Elkins, Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer, Chellye Porter, Lizzie Roberts, Carolyn Sanborn, Allison Schacht, and Kris Vierra.

And three dogs helped out too: Gabby and Laney Garber and Layla Chappelle! After all, they were part of our village in the mountains!

Fly In at Bosque del Apache NWR, by Larry Rimer. Mary Chappelle stitches the final seams on the quilt, by Gail Garber. The 'official' 2017 Raffle Quilt Photo, by Steve Elkins.

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Raptor



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 Francisco Resendez
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 Frank K. Wilson

Notes from the Winter Field Season, by Trevor Fetz, Lead Avian Biologist



The first two months of the winter field season for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study have been interesting. Overall, bird numbers seem to be relatively high compared to previous years. But, there has been a huge dichotomy among transects. Some transects are supporting extremely high numbers of birds this winter, relative to normal, while other

transects are supporting extremely low numbers relative to their normal. This is unusual. During most winters, trends in bird abundance are generally consistent across individual transects and habitat types. During good winters, most transects tend to support relatively high numbers compared to their historic averages while the opposite is true

Raptor Survey Team

Chuck Brandt
 Mary Bruesch
 Ed Chappelle
 Gill Clarke
 Gail Garber
 Roger Grimshaw
 Jerry Hobart
 Bonnie Long
 Donna Royer
 Susan Russo
 Sam Sanborn

during bad winters.

There have also been some interesting trends at the individual species level. Most notable has been the lack of Mourning Doves throughout our study area. During most winters, Mourning Dove has been common to abundant throughout the bosque, with a number of transects consistently supporting large flocks. But, with approximately 490 surveys completed so far this winter, only twice have we recorded Mourning Dove numbers of 10 or more. Overall, we have fewer than 50 Mourning Dove detections, which is less than 10% of what we normally have by this time in the winter field season. Presumably, Mourning Doves are hanging out somewhere, but, not on our transects.

Two other species documented at substantially lower than normal numbers so far this winter are White-crowned Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Historically, White-crowned Sparrow has been the third most abundant bird species in the bosque during winter. The species has been common on some of our transects this winter, but overall numbers are well below average. A comparison with Song Sparrow illustrates this, as this is the first winter during which we have documented more Song Sparrows than White-crowned Sparrows. White-throated Sparrow has never been particularly common in the bosque, but is generally present in small numbers throughout the bosque. And, our detections of White-throated Sparrow have been increasing over the past 3 or 4 winters, with flocks of 3 to 6 individuals regularly occurring at some transects. But, so far this winter the species has been virtually absent, as we only had 5 detections through the end of January.

In contrast, Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers have been particularly high so far this winter, especially on transects with substantial Russian olive berry crops. Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers have steadily decreased during the past several winters, so it is nice to see a bit of a rebound this year. This is also the first time in several winters that we are documenting large numbers of Mountain Bluebirds in the bosque. Most of our historic Mountain Bluebird detections have been from a Russian olive transect in Belen. This also is the transect where the largest numbers have been recorded this winter, including a flock of 121 individuals on a mid January visit. But, we also have recorded Mountain Bluebird flocks on transects at La Joya and Sandia Pueblo. The influx of bluebirds may indicate poor foraging opportunities in their normal, upland haunts. But, it is nice to see large flocks after being absent for the past few years.

Verdin numbers on our transects are higher this winter than any previous season. We began documenting the species in our study area about 3 years ago, but this is the first time they have consistently been present on any of our transects. I have consistently recorded individuals this winter on 2 different transects at La Joya and 3 different transects in Belen. Other notable detections so far this winter include Brown Thrasher at 2 different transects in Corrales and 1 transect in Belen, a Harris's Sparrow at La Joya (twice) and a single Yellow-headed Blackbird at La Joya. Hopefully, the last month of the winter field season will reveal more interesting detections.

Song Sparrow, above, image by Tony Giancola. Mountain Bluebirds, below, by Larry Rimer.

Martin Schelble
Diane Schlies
Steve Youtsey

Upcoming Events - Please Help

Saturday, February
11
9:30 a.m. – 12:30
p.m.
Hawks Aloft Docent
Training
Corrales
Community Center

Monday, February
13 – Friday,
February 17
Silver City
Living with the
Landscape

Tuesday, February
21
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Lowell Elementary
School
Living with the
Landscape

Wednesday,
February 22
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Dolores Gonzales
Elementary School
Living with the
Landscape

Wednesday,
February 22
1 – 2:30 p.m.
OASIS
Albuquerque
All About Owls

Thursday, February
23
9:50 a.m. – 3:30
p.m.
Wherry Elementary
School
Living with the
Landscape



© Larry Rimer 2017

Tuesday, February 28
10:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Lowell Elementary School
Living with the Landscape

Wednesday, March 1
9:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Dolores Gonzales Elementary School
Living with the Landscape

Thursday, March 2
10:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wherry Elementary School
Living with the Landscape

Tuesday, March 7
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
Route 66 Elementary School
Single Visit Birds of Prey

Wednesday, March 8
Time TBD
Desert Ridge Middle School
Single Visit Birds of Prey

Thursday, March 9
1 – 3:30 p.m.
Manzano Day School
Single Visit Birds of Prey

Friday, March 10 – Sunday, March 12
Monte Vista Festival of the Cranes
Outreach Booth and Tours

January Re



New Peregrine Falcon T-shirt Available Now

We are thrilled with our brand new T-shirt design, featuring Doug Brown's Peregrine Falcon image. This image won second place in an international photography contest and Doug traveled to France (I believe) for the award.

We worked with [Jim Morris Environmental T-shirts](#) this year, and are equally thrilled with the results of our new partnership. The T-shirts are wonderfully soft feeling, made with Earth Friendly Organic Cotton and produced in the USA. We have a wide range of sizes in both short and long sleeves, with both Ladies and Unisex styles. We have no youth sizes. So, pick the one you want, but don't delay! These will be selling quickly!

The price for short sleeve is \$19 and long sleeve is

\$25. [Order yours today on our website](#) or stop by the office to try one on! As always, please call the office at 505-828-9455 to ensure that someone will be there when you arrive. We often are out of the office attending to other business.

scues

Great Horned Owl:
Barbed wire
(euthanized)
Red-tailed Hawk:
Head trauma?
Unknown
(euthanized)
Cooper's Hawk:
Impact (DOA)
Mexican Spotted
Owl: Emaciation
(died)
Merlin: R wing
fx/emaciation (died)
Northern Saw-whet
Owl:
Emaciation/dehydration
(pending)
Sharp-shinned
Hawk: Impact
(DOA)

January, and the other winter months usually see birds in the most dire conditions, and last month was not an exception. 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

Laundry Detergent
De-icers for bird
baths
Toilet Paper
Paper towels
Bleach for bird
laundry



Settling In, by Angela Green, Office Manager

I've been having a great time settling in to my new position as office manager here at Hawks Aloft. Everyone has been very kind and helpful as I learn the ropes!

So far, I've been taking care of payroll and bookkeeping, as well as tracking and billing for the various contracts, and I can't wait to be involved with even more. It's wonderful to know I'm in a support position that enables others to do such worthy work.

As an undergraduate at Northern Arizona University, I did raptor research, including Spotted Owl surveys, for the US Forest Service. My graduate degree is in business and accounting. For many years I've looked for a career position that would combine my love for

accounting with my love for animals and conservation. It's very satisfying to know I've found a place where I can meet that goal. It's also a very busy office, which suits me just fine. There's always something interesting going on!

Now I'm looking forward to meeting some birds, attending this month's docent training, and learning more about Hawks Aloft.

Mexican Spotted Owl image by Larry Rimer

Paper towels
8.5 x 14 copy paper
8.5 x 11 copy paper
File Folders
File folder labels
Digital camera
Clear shower curtain
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



education and outreach coordinator.

Rebecca Ezechukwu, holding Terra, our educational Burrowing Owl, at a basic raptor handling class. *Image by Julia Davis.*

Upcoming Docent Training

Docent Training
Saturday, February 11,
2017
9:30 a.m. - Noon
Corrales Community
Center

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](#),

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.](#)

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

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

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

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



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

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





>>

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

Bosque Nesting Raptors Study - Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Training Class

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location Provided with Registration

If you'd like to join our team of surveyors that monitors nesting raptors in the Middle Rio Grande bosque, please contact Gail or Lisa to register for this class. We seek dedicated volunteers that love exploring the bosque habitat and are willing to spend several hours per month from March - August, locating historic nests, searching for new nests, and monitoring nests that become active. The two dominant raptor species nesting in the bosque are Great Horned Owl and Cooper's Hawk. Volunteers must be familiar with navigation via GPS unit and possess their own equipment, and be comfortable navigating alone in the riparian forest. We will provide training in methodology, maps, raptor identification, aging young, and other support. A very limited number of routes are available.

Current volunteers that intend to keep the same routes, can pick up 2017 spreadsheets, data sheets and maps on or after March 14, 2017.

Again, contact either Lisa Morgan or Gail Garber to register for the class.

Upper Rio Grande Gorge Raptor Monitoring-Volunteer Help Needed!

Hawks Aloft was contracted by BLM to monitor breeding raptors in the Upper Rio Grande gorge 2017-2019. We will be monitoring in the Rio Grande gorge from the Colorado state line to Pilar, NM and approximately 6 miles of the Rio San Antonio Gorge. The project will take place from late February to until all the raptor nests have fledged. The greatest need for help will be from February to April when we will be spending the majority of the time locating the raptor nests.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with this project. Each participant must own a GPS unit and understand how to use the equipment, be comfortable hiking in the backcountry, and able to navigate using a map. We will be camping for periods of 3 to 5 days in cold weather conditions. Volunteers must be prepared with all the camping equipment needed and plenty of food and water.

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in fieldwork. Volunteers will have the opportunity to observe Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Prairie Falcons nests. If you are interested in helping with the project or would like more information, please contact Gail Garber (gail@hawksaloft.org) or Amanda Schluter (amanda@hawksaloft.org).

Take Her for a Spin! by Everett Ogilvie, Statistician

During the past month Emiliano and I have been working on building a new website for NMACP (New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners). This was the first time I had done this kind of thing and, after struggling a bit initially, I think Emiliano and I have both gained some proficiency using WordPress for website construction.

Luckily, we had the bulk of the raw material—images and text—from the first website, so the majority of the work was just filling the new site template with this material, which required creating new pages in the proper hierarchy, converting Word files to PDFs for the new site media library, and inserting these documents, pictures, and multiple links into the various pages. There are extensive species write-ups and getting these in place with updated and working links was a milestone for the new site. We are currently working on additional pictures and graphics, and updating personnel contacts. It is a work in progress, but please [check out the new NMACP site](#).



NMACP Logo designed by Janet Ruth

A New Year, by Julia Davis, Education and Outreach Coordinator

It has been a very nice start to the new year. Over the holiday break, I drove home to Pennsylvania for a week. On the drive back to Albuquerque, my brother, Alex, helped share the driving responsibilities. It was nice getting to spend time with my family, especially with Alex. Upon my return, I got back into the swing of Living with the Landscape programs, raptor handling classes, and public programs at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bear Canyon, and Taylor Ranch Library. I also completed the end of year education report, organized the Hawks Aloft volunteer database, and cleaned a supply cupboard or two at the office.



I have enjoyed working with the volunteers so far this new year. Mary Buesch and Molly Lord have both joined me for Living with the Landscape programs at Lowell and Dolores Gonzales Elementary Schools. The unusually high number of weekend programs in January brought out even more Hawks Aloft volunteers, working folks not available during the week. We had the pleasure of presenting our All About Owls programs several times, where some of our all-star owls made appearances. Owls, like Celeste - the Barn Owl and Aspen - the tiny Saw-whet Owl certainly attracted crowds of people.

Looking ahead to February, the schedule is brimming with school programs, intermediate and beginner raptor handling classes, and our new volunteer orientation. February only has 28 days, but we will be busy taking the Hawks Aloft Avian Ambassadors out to meet students in Albuquerque and Silver City and working with a new group of volunteers. If you are interested in booking a school program please contact Julia, the spring calendar will fill up fast!

Julia "talks falcon", while holding Malary, our female Prairie Falcon.

Congratulations to Mary Bruesch, our 2016 Volunteer of the Year!



We have many outstanding volunteers and each year we honor someone with the "Volunteer of the Year" award. In 2016, it was Mary Bruesch ! Mary works in many aspects on Hawks Aloft, entering data for the raptor surveys, accompanying other volunteers on raptor surveys, cleaning raptor mews, staffing outreach booths, teaching and assisting with education programs, and so much more. Mary is reliable,

dependable, and a pleasure to work with. We are lucky to have such outstanding volunteers and are pleased to honor Mary Bruesch this year's award.

Red-winged Blackbirds Flock (Literally) to New Mexico, by Maggie Grimason, Senior Editor/Educator

In Northern New Mexico, large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds are finding communal roosts for their groups—which sometimes number into the millions. Yes, *millions*. While these birds generally prefer wet, marshy habitat during nesting season, over the course of the fall and winter, they tend to spread their wings and inhabit more varied terrain—that's why they become so noticeable in many parts of New Mexico during this time of year. One of the most abundant birds across North America, it's no wonder that we see such impressive flocks of these birds as at some points in the year. Adding to their numbers, these cold-weather flocks sometimes bring rogue Starlings and other varieties of blackbird into their fold, too.

Adult males are easy to identify, sporting the red and yellow shoulder patches that are the bird's namesake. Adult females are a bit more drab in coloration; they are brown overall with darker streaks across the chest. Even the behaviors of these common birds differ between the sexes—the males tend to perch high and can be quite vocal (particularly in spring time) and the females tend to stay lower, foraging in low-lying vegetation. This time of year, as the aforementioned massive flocks come together, you may find them in dry meadows, fallow crop fields, and pastures. Their numbers become largest when they come together to roost in the evening, so as the sun goes down, they may be almost impossible to ignore if a flock is in your area. Lovely as they are, you may want to keep your fingers crossed they don't take up shop near your bird feeder this winter—where these massive flocks have been known to decimate seed supplies in just a few hours.

Female Red-winged Blackbird below, and male Red-winged Blackbird bottom. Both images by Keith Bauer.



Birds of a Feather Flock Together, by Amanda Schluter, Biologist and Educator

Much of my time in January was spent in the field completing surveys for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study. During winter, the behavior of many species of bird differs from their summer behavior. In the summer, birds tend to be paired off and spend their time foraging in the general area of their nest. In the winter, however, this behavior shifts and some birds form mixed-species foraging flocks that travel throughout an area searching for food. This can present a few problems for surveyors. Not only is the surveyor trying to determine the different species that make up these flocks, they also must determine numbers. With these flocks moving around frequently, there is potential to encounter them multiple times while surveying the same transect. The surveyor must determine if the flock they are currently seeing is one previously recorded or a new flock of birds altogether.

Not all bird species form these mixed-species foraging flocks, so it is important to know the habits of the different species located in the Middle Rio Grande. For example, Spotted Towhees tend to not move large distances. So, if you come across one at the beginning of the survey and then another later on, it is likely to be a different bird. White-breasted Nuthatches, on the other hand, will join flocks with other birds such as chickadees and Bushtits, traveling along the bosque corridor, sometimes chattering away or silently. Thus, if you come across a flock of White-breasted Nuthatches early in the survey and then again later in the survey, it could be the same flock seen earlier.

At times, surveyors will walk a considerable distance on their route without any birds, and then come across a large flock and spend a great deal of time determining the group composition and numbers. Because these mixed-species flocks sometimes travel silently, it is possible for them to jump in front of the surveyor without the surveyor even noticing. This is why it is so important to always be paying attention during the entire survey route, even when there appears to be no bird activity. Considering this complex bird behavior, my mind stays active throughout the surveys. It has been a great way to spend most of my mornings this past month. I am looking forward to spending the month of February finishing up my remaining surveys.

Spotted Towhee, image by David Powell.



**Looking For a Needle in a Haystack, by Lisa Morgan,
Mitigation
Specialist/Field
Technician**

Recently, we received a call from a woman in Rio Rancho that had a “baby owl” in her garage, and was looking for advice on what to do. Erroneously, removed it and put it back outside.

The “baby owl” turned out to be a 7” adult Northern Saw-whet Owl. For unknown reasons, Northern Saw-whet Owls and Mexican Spotted Owls are coming out of their normal habitat range high in the mountains to the lowlands of Albuquerque in record numbers this winter. We are finding that these owls are



weak, emaciated, and dehydrated.

Upon talking with the caller, we learned that the owl did not want to leave her garage, and landed on the ground in her front yard when she chased it out with a broom—a sign that the owl was probably very weak. Frantically, we put together a team of our best volunteers and headed out to the caller's home to try to find the owl. All of this occurred about an hour after it was chased out of her garage. By this time the owl could be anywhere, very weak and suffering from starvation.

Jeannine Kinzer, Larry and Kim Rimer, and I converged on the caller's home and began the nerve-wracking task of trying to find our little winged needle in a haystack of houses and yards. Picking through shrubbery, scouring rocks, and checking out every little crevice, we desperately searched for the owl. Neighbors scoured their yards, as well. Across the street was a large yard with substantial evergreens of all sizes owned by a sweet elderly lady—what a great place for a weak little owl to hide. We explained the situation to her and asked if we could search her yard. Now worried about the little owl, too, she eagerly agreed. After much digging around, Larry spotted the owl about 7' up in a tree! With a net, we were able to get the owl down. It was a hair-raising task as we didn't want to lose the owl again, but we also didn't want to injure it getting it out of the tree.

Upon exam, the owl was extremely dehydrated and bordering on emaciation. After treating the owl with fluids, chopped pinky mice, and meds for pain after being chased with a broom and caught with a net, I placed it in a large crate with lots of evergreen cuttings for its comfort. The little owl is tired, and still a little dehydrated, but is otherwise doing well, eating on its own and gaining weight!

Northern Saw-whet Owl above, image by Lisa Morgan, "Can you see the Owl?", image below by Larry Rimer.



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Thank You to Our December Volunteers

Kariana Atkinson, DVM - Veterinary care
Greg Basco - Photographs
Keith Bauer - Photographs
Jim Battaglia - Raptor rehabilitation, raptor handling class
Emmitt Booher - Photographs
Doug Brown - Photographs
Kristin Brown - Photographs
Mary Bruesch - Data entry, mews cleaning, outreach
David Buckley - Raptor care
Linda Chandler - Outreach
Ed Chappelle - Raptor care
Mary Chappelle - Raptor care, desktop scanner
Linda Contos, DVM - Veterinary care
Dagny Cosby - Outreach
Cottonwood Rehabilitation Center - Raptor rehabilitation
Mikal Deese - Raptor rehabilitation
Brigitte de Saint Phalle - Raptor mews cleaning
Debbie Delozier – Outreach
Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center - Raptor rehabilitation
Steve Elkins - Graphic design, Quilt Photo
Eye Care for Animals - Veterinary care
Rebecca Ezechukwu – Outreach
Tony Giancola - Photographs
Ava Gutierrez – Outreach
Jerry Hobart - Project management
Ray Hudgell, DVM - Veterinary care
Ryenne Hoogeboom – Outreach
Jennifer Jeffery - Data entry
Karen Jeffery - Data entry
Gavin Kennard - DVM, DACVO - Ophthalmic veterinary care
Jeannine Kinzer - Raptor mews cleaning
Bob Kipp – Education Outreach
Daniel Levenson, DVM - Veterinary care
Molly Lord - Outreach
Evelyn McGarry - Data entry
Mike Melloy, DVM - Veterinary care

Alan Murphy - Photographs
New Mexico Wildlife Center - Raptor rehabilitation
Bob Peiffer, DVM, PhD - Ophthalmologic veterinary care
Petroglyph Animal Hospital - Veterinary care
Jeff Porter - Raptor care
Chellye Porter - Raptor care
David Powell - Photographs
Rail Runner - Raptor transport
Kathleen Ramsay, DVM - Rehab bird care
Kim Rimer - Raptor Rescue
Larry Rimer - Photographs, Raptor Rescue, Taos BLM raptor surveys
Lizzie Roberts - Raptor care, raptor handling class
Santa Fe Raptor Center - Raptor rehabilitation
Allison Schacht - Outreach
Anita Sisk - Data entry
Bruce Sisk - Data entry
Southwest Veterinary Medical Center - Veterinary care
Rebecca Szymanski - Raptor and corvid care
Tony Thomas - Photographs
Sammie Uhrig, DVM - Rehab bird care
Steve Vender - Photographs
Ventana Animal Clinic - Veterinary care
Katie Wade-Matthews - Education bird permits
Christie Wilcox - Liaison with UNM

Photographers Monthly Gallery - Chasing Rarities with Tony Giancola

With a focus on rarities, this month's featured photographer, Tony Giancola traveled far and wide within New Mexico to capture the seldom seen and rarely documented birds that occasionally land in our state during the winter months. [Visit Tony's website](#) to view more of his amazing images.



Red-breasted Merganser: Found at Isleta Lakes on his first trip to that site! Luck was with him that day.



Snow Bunting: Tony drove six hours round trip to Stubblefield Reservoir, but fortunately, the bird was within 100 yards of the GPS coordinates provided.



Common Goldeneye: This individual was found at Tingley Ponds by chance, but Tony visited the ponds weekly. By the following day, the Goldeneye had departed.



Pacific Loon: Tony took a three hour round trip to Espanola to find a road that's not marked on Google Maps in order to track down this bird.

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