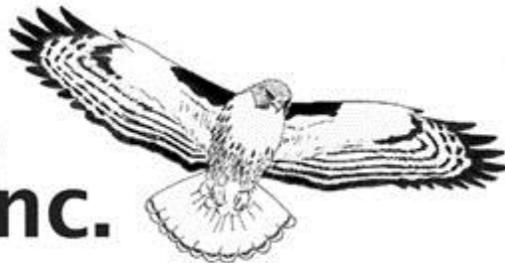


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Hawks Aloft, Inc.

Conservation, Avian Research & Education

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Cooperation with Others, by Gail Garber, Executive Director

Hawks Aloft, Inc. works to conserve indigenous wild birds through conservation education, avian research, raptor rescue, and cooperation with others.

Although “cooperation with others” appears last in our mission statement, it is an important component and driver of all of our actions. Further, this mission statement is nearly identical to the one first written for Hawks Aloft back in 1994, except for Raptor Rescue which was added about 4 years ago, in large part because we were already working in this arena. It became formalized when Lisa Morgan joined Hawks Aloft and worked to develop a strong volunteer team of rescuers. Be sure to look at the side bar of this issue for all the contributors to the rescue program.

In April 2017, we had 28 rescue operations, nearly one per day! This included the removal of seven eggs from the nest of a pair of Common Ravens that had built their nest atop a communication tower owned by American Tower Corporation (ATC) and containing emergency 911 equipment owned and managed by Nexius Solutions. We have partnered with ATC for several years to help with avian issues. This company has one of the strictest compliance regulations for all nesting birds, including unprotected species. Their mantra clearly states, NO Admittance and NO work on sites with active bird nests. However, a complete loss of electricity that resulted in no emergency 911 service to a broad area of eastern New Mexico, near Portales, necessitated extreme measures. There was no way to effect the repairs without causing total nest failure. Thus, a permit was obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and, on April 7, Lisa Morgan and Amanda Schluter traveled to the site to remove the eggs, much to the distress of the parent ravens.



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Who We Are

Gail Garber, Executive
Director

Trevor Fetz, Lead Avian
Biologist

Julia Davis, Education
and Outreach
Coordinator

Angela Green, Office



assist with transporting injured birds.

Collaboration and cooperation are key to the success of this program and all of our programs!

Transported in a portable incubator and returned to Albuquerque, the eggs began hatching on April 13, under the careful care of Lisa. Over that weekend, five of the eggs hatched, and were placed in a larger incubator in small paper-towel lined nest cups, with about 12 feedings per day for each chick. There's probably nothing cuter than freshly hatched nestlings (at least in my opinion), and I was able to film the process. Many thanks to Steve Elkins, our videographer, who merged all the short clips together into one film, "[Common Ravens Hatching](#)".

Click the link above to watch the video. In just two minutes it tells the story of the collaboration among all who worked on this particular rescue. We applaud American Tower and Nexius Solutions for undertaking these measures at great expense to their companies. The nestlings were transferred to our partners in rehabilitation up north—Santa Fe Raptor Center, Dr. Kathleen Ramsay, Cottonwood Rehabilitation Center, and Carol Taschek, for continued care.

We work with other wildlife rehabilitators statewide, making sure that each new rescue bird is in the best facility for its recuperation. In addition to those listed above, other important partners in these rescues include Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, On a Wing and a Prayer (Mikal Deese), Dennis Miller, Jim Battaglia, and others, including the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, who regularly

Manager

Maggie Grimason,
Senior Editor, Educator

Michael Hill, GIS
Mapping and Field
Technician

Jeannine Kinzer,
Raptor Rescue
Dispatcher

Lisa Morgan, Raptor
Rescue Coordinator &
Field Technician

Everett Ogilvie,
Statistician

Amanda Schluter,
Biologist and Educator

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of NM
Eye Care for Animals
Festival of the Cranes -

Navajo Nation Eagle Aviary and Zoological Park - A Guided Tour

Hawks Aloft Member Field Trip
Saturday, June 17, 2017
7 am to ~ 6 pm
\$75.00

Join Gail Garber and Chellye Porter as we travel to the heart of the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, Arizona. There, we will be greeted by David Mikesic, director of the Navajo Nation Zoo and join him on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Eagle Aviary and see other wildlife at this unique facility, where each of the animals present is rescued and non-releasable. Marvel at the million dollar undertaking that currently houses permanently injured Golden Eagles and might house Bald Eagles in the future. Each and every naturally molted feather is carefully collected for use in religious ceremonies.

Our tour includes carpool transportation (or you can drive your own car), lunch at a local Window Rock restaurant, and a donation to the zoo. We also will visit the nearby museum and, depending on time, we might stop for dinner at El Cafécito in Grants on our return.

Register by [emailing Gail](#), or call the Hawks Aloft office at 505-828-9455. This is a members only field trip with limited space.

Golden Eagle and Porcupine images taken at the Navajo Nation Zoo by Larry Rimer.



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Monte Vista Crane Festival, Colorado
Navajo Nation Zoo
Nexus Solutions New Mexico
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USDA Forest Service: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
USDA Forest Service: Santa Fe National Forest
Valles Caldera National Preserve
Ventana Animal Clinic
Wild Birds Unlimited -



Celebrating Earth Day: Past, Present and Future, by Julia Davis, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the idea of Earth Day 47 years ago. He was inspired to activism after the 1969 Santa Barbara, California oil spill. Nelson recruited Denis Hayes, a recent graduate from Stanford, as national coordinator and partnered with U.S. Representative Pete McCloskey. These three and their staff of 85 pulled together the first Earth Day. Held on April 20, 1970, 20 million people gathered at different venues across the United States to participate and brainstorm on how "... to promote environmental citizenship and activism year round." These ideas helped others to later establish the Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air Act, Water Quality Improvement Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

It was in the 1990's that April 22 became officially known as Earth Day, and was celebrated by a global community, with 200 million people from 141 countries participating. In 1995, President Bill Clinton awarded Gaylord Nelson the Presidential Medal for Freedom for founding Earth Day. In 2000, the focus of Earth Day became a means to raise awareness about global warming after scientists discovered that the burning of fossil fuels and CO2 emissions contribute to the warming of the Earth.



Albuquerque
Wild Birds Unlimited -
Las Cruces

Thank You Individual Donors - April 2017

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Wish List

AA Batteries
Coffee (for the office)
Toilet Paper
Paper towels
Bleach for bird laundry
8.5 x 14 copy paper
8.5 x 11 copy paper
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,

Now in 2017, a new layer has been added to Earth Day. This year, the Earth Day Network partnered with the March for Science movement. Worldwide, over one billion people participated! Here is what we got up to with Hawks Aloft during this historical Earth Day and March for Science.

During the week leading up to Earth Day and the March for Science, Hawks Aloft participated in Earth Day events in our community. On Wednesday, Maggie Grimason and I visited Grants, NM for their Agricultural Day, an event geared toward second and sixth graders in the Grants and Milan School Districts. We met with over 300 students, sharing the stories of our avian ambassadors. Thursday, Mary Bruesch and I participated in Manzano Day School's Earth Day event, where we met with all grade levels as they visited our booth set up in the cafeteria. Friday, Anita & Bruce Sisk joined Mary and I at Sandia High School's second annual Earth Day Event, organized by Mackenzie, a senior and Valle de Oro NWR youth employee. Mackenzie's leadership and efforts have made waves of awareness at her high school. I am impressed with this young leader. Finally, Saturday! Earth Day and the March for Science! We went to the Abrazos Environmental Justice event, held for the South Valley Mountain View Community. Ava Gutierrez, Chuck Brandt, Evelyn McGarry, and Rebecca Ezechukwu all showed up to help out. It was the perfect event to participate in and show support for both Earth Day and the March for Science. We enjoyed meeting everyone in the community and listening to wonderful local music and speakers.

Time will tell what the future focus of each annual Earth Day will be, but the initial mission "...to promote environmental citizenship and action year round" will remain. The actions taken in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson and company are a great example of how ideas become words, words become actions, and actions inspire change!

I was pleased to have a successful week and grateful for the work I get to do with Hawks Aloft. Thank you to everyone who supports the mission and work of Hawks Aloft, it is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, the spring education calendar is packed full! If you are interested in booking a summer education program, please fill out our online program request form. I look forward to working with you!

Maggie Grimason teaches students in Grants, NM. Image by Julia Davis.



Owls in the Land of Enchantment at New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science

or station wagon
Ink cartridges (920) for
HP Officejet 7000

Veterinarians and Rehabilitators

Kariana Atkinson, DVM

Jim Battaglia

Linda Contos, DVM

Cottonwood
Rehabilitation Center

Mikal Deese

Desert Willow Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center

Eye Care for Animals

Ray Hudgell, DVM

Gavin Kennard, DVM,
DACVO

Daniel Levenson, DVM

Mike Melloy, DVM

New Mexico Wildlife
Center

Bob Peiffer, DVM, PhD

Petroglyph Animal
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Kathleen Ramsay, DVM

Santa Fe Raptor Center

Southwest Veterinary
Medical Center

Sammie Uhrig, DVM

Ventana Animal Clinic

Raptor Rescue Team

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Brek Smith
Mary Smith
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Greg Basco
Keith Bauer
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Doug Brown
Kristin Brown
Tony Giancola
Alan Murphy
David Powell
Larry Rimer

Revered and feared in folklore, owls are found throughout New Mexico. From open desert to mountain forest, these powerful hunters have evolved extraordinary senses to pinpoint their prey. For a limited engagement, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNHS) reveals this world in the Owls in the Land of Enchantment exhibition from **April 15 through September 25, 2017**. Images featured in Owls in the Land of Enchantment were captured by local amateur photographer Dennis Dusenbery.

“Through the ages, people of all cultures have been mystified by owls,” said Margie Marino, Director of the NMMNHS, “This fascinating exhibition explores owl habitats, breeding and feeding habits. It features some specimens that are very old from the Natural History Museum’s Bioscience collection and on loan from the Bird Division at the Museum of Southwestern Biology at the University of New Mexico.”

The photos by Dennis Dusenbery tell us a lot about this owl family, and owls in general. “This is a great example of where art meets science – both require careful observation and the time to look carefully,” said Ayesha Burdett, Bioscience Curator. “It’s wonderful to be able to take a close look at these magnificent birds.”

From the courting that begins in the fall, to spring nesting, hatching, feeding, and development of the chicks, the exhibition tracks one breeding season for a pair of local owls. Visitors can also learn about various species of owls and their habitats in New Mexico, exploring every aspect of this nocturnal, carnivorous hunter.

Photos by Dennis Dusenbery:

Top: One of the owl chicks looks nervously out of the nest.

Bottom: A male Great Horned Owl looks casually at the photographer.

Owls in the Land of Enchantment exhibition: **April 15 through September 25, 2017**

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

1801 Mountain Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

[Phone](tel:5058412800): (505) 841-2800

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is a Division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. The Department of Cultural Affairs is New Mexico’s cultural steward and is charged with preserving and showcasing the state’s cultural riches. With its eight museums, eight historic monuments, arts, archaeology, historic preservation and library programs, the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs is the largest state cultural agency in the nation.

A Glimmer of Hope, by Lisa Morgan, Raptor Rescue Coordinator/Field Technician



April was a particularly gloomy month on the rehabilitation side of things at Hawks Aloft. We experienced a significant amount of loss in cases that initially looked hopeful. We received a call from Santa Fe Raptor Center one Sunday morning asking for assistance in transferring two baby Barn Owls from Desert Willow Rehabilitation Center in Carlsbad to Santa Fe Raptor Center in El Rito. It felt like just any other relay to organize. I was feeling rather sad and hopeless that day as my mind was trying to wrap itself around our recent losses.

Our amazing volunteers immediately stepped up to the task of transporting the young Barn Owls. Mary Smith met a Carlsbad area transporter in Vaughn, NM to relay the owlets to our office in Albuquerque. Arlette Miller then relayed the owlets to Santa Fe, where Dr. Kathleen Ramsay picked them up and took them to Espanola. What a team—everything came off without a hitch!

When Mary brought the owlets to the office, I opened the box to feed them, and questioned why there was only one owlet instead of two. It was then that I discovered a tiny days-old nestling snuggled behind the larger chick. As I picked the tiny, quiet owlet up, our lead biologist, Trevor Fetz, was waiting with outstretched arms and gently cradled the feeble chick in his hands. At first the owlet wouldn't eat the tiny bits of mice that were placed gently inside of its beak. Then, suddenly the chick came to life! Begging loudly and incessantly with mouth wide open, he couldn't be fed fast enough, nor could he get enough food! In that instant life seemed to change, and the sun seemed to come out again. Everyone was smiling and laughing as we watched this tiny chick demanding more. He not only demanded more food, but he demanded life!

In that instant, I was reminded of why we do what we do in the world of rehabilitation. So many times, despite our best efforts, we just can't save our patients. Then, when the world seems its bleakest, we receive a case that refuses to let the sun go down. I am always amazed by the lessons taught by the wildlife we receive. In the brightness of new life, they teach us lessons of strength and resolve in demanding a beautiful and strong existence. Dr. Ramsay reports that the owlets are doing very well, demanding food and getting big. Soon, they will be placed with a foster Barn Owl that will raise them into adulthood. They will be released back to the wild later this summer. What a wonderful blessing that "typical" relay turned out to be!

Image by Everett Ogilvie

Tony Thomas
Steve Vender

Upper Rio Grande Gorge Raptor Survey Team

Amanda Schluter
Jeannine Kinzer
Bob Kipp
Everett Ogilvie
Larry Rimer
Tom Ryan

Bosque Nesting Raptors Study Team

Wendy Brown
Ed Clark
Charles Cummings
Vicki Dern
Trevor Fetz
Gail Garber
Kay Jackson
Bob Kipp
Maurice Mackey
Arlette Miller
Lisa Morgan
Dave Parson
Chellye Porter
Larry Rimer
Renee Robillard
Allison Schacht
Dianne Schlies
Amanda Schluter
Mary Smith
Mary Walsh
Christie Wilcox

Raptor Driving Survey Team

Chuck Brandt
Mary Bruesch
Ed Chappelle
Gill Clarke
Gail Garber
Roger Grimshaw
Jerry Hobart
Bonnie Long

Tempus Fugit, by Angela Green, Office Manager

They say time flies when you're having fun. Well, I looked up from number crunching a few days ago and realized I've been with Hawks Aloft for almost five months already. Although the daily business of payroll and paying bills is enjoyable, the best part of working here at Hawks Aloft is the pleasant surprises that I frequently experience.

For instance, I never know what will come through the front door from one day to the next. The other day it was two baby Barn Owls. Who knew that baby Barn Owls can sound like an espresso machine steaming milk? Their hisses were interspersed with cries for more mice as Lisa Morgan carefully fed them. What a treat to see this happen!

That's just one example. On any other given day there are birds coming through the office—either our avian ambassadors or recently rescued raptors. You never know what you'll encounter during a day at the office at Hawks Aloft.

Baby Barn Owl. Image by Angela Green



Amazon Adventure - With Hawks Aloft and Wildside Nature Tours

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



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,

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

Donna Royer
Susan Russo
Sam Sanborn
Martin Schelble
Diane Schlies
Steve Youtsey

Upcoming Events - Please Help

Thursday, May 4
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Dolores Gonzales 4th
grade field trip to Elena
Gallegos
Living with the
Landscape

Friday, May 5
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Valle de Oro Field Day
School Booth Outreach

Monday, May 8
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wherry Elementary
school 4th grade field
trip to Valle de Oro
Living with the
Landscape

Tuesday, May 9
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Dolores Gonzales 5th
grade field trip to Elena
Gallegos
Living with the
Landscape

Wednesday, May 10
5 - 7 p.m.
Eubank Elementary
School
School Booth Outreach

Friday, May 12
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wherry Elementary
school 5th field trip to
Elena Gallegos
Living with the
Landscape

Tuesday, May 16
10:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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](#)

Suites on the riverboat, above, [Pygmy Marmoset](#), the smallest monkey on Earth, weighing just 100 grams (3.5 ounces). Both images by Kevin Loughlin, Wildside Nature Tours.



**on 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

Wild Friends at 21st
Century Public
Academy
Single Visit Birds of
Prey

Wednesday, May 17
MacArthur Elementary
School
Single Visit Birds of
Prey

Thursday, May 18
1 – 3 p.m.
Alice King Community
School
Single Visit Birds of
Prey

Friday, May 19
6:30 – 10 p.m.
Explora Science Night
Outreach Booth

Wednesday, May 24
1 – 3 p.m.
Jimmy Carter Middle
School
Single Visit Birds of
Prey

April Rescues

Barn Owl nestling -
Human interference -
Relay to Santa Fe
Raptor Center
Barn Owl nestling -
Human interference -
Relay to Santa Fe
Raptor Center
Barn Owl - Hit by car
Barn Owl - Hit by car
7 Common Raven eggs
- Mitigation
Cooper's Hawk - Right
wing fracture
Cooper's Hawk - Pelvic
injury - Released
Cooper's Hawk -
Shoulder girdle injury
Golden Eagle - Hit by
car/septicemia
Great Horned Owl -
Right wing injury -
Transferred to Dr.
Ramsay for continued
care
Great Horned Owl - Fell

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.

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[Click Here for full details.](#)

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

from nest - Renested
Great Horned Owl - Internal issues
Great Horned Owl - Fell from nest - Renested
Great Horned Owl - Hit by car
Great Horned Owl - Missing right primary feathers
Red-tailed Hawk - Gunshot - Pending
Turkey Vulture - Gunshot - Pending
Swainson's Hawk - Hit by car - Pending



>>



**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



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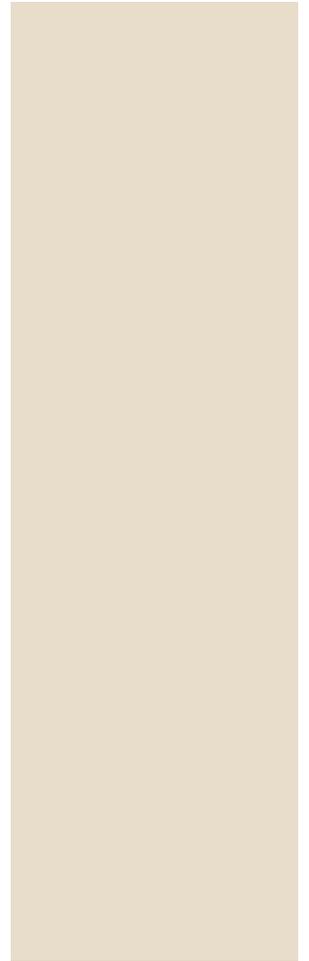
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[Click Here for full details.](#)

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





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Building a Bird Garden, by Maggie Grimason, Senior Editor/Educator

In the last weeks of April, I was lucky enough to spend an afternoon at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, a good 6.5 hours from Albuquerque in our neighboring westerly state. Doves, sparrows, finches and Gambel's Quail all ambled around the expansive gardens and I was even lucky enough to spot a (vacant) hummingbird nest constructed in a low-hanging bough. While birds found space to roost, nest and bathe all over the 5.5 acre gardens, there was one specific, small plot called "The Backyard Bird Garden." The concept struck me. While flower gardens, vegetable gardens and butterfly gardens are quite common, a bird garden—designed specifically to attract feathered friends—seems to be less so. As such, I set out to discover the specific elements that make a garden particularly bird friendly in the hopes that more of us will transform our outdoor spaces into devoted bird gardens.

1) Provide a water source

Perhaps the most obvious first step to creating a bird



garden is providing a water source for the birds you hope to attract. Many songbirds get the moisture they need from their food, but they will also readily bathe and drink from more substantial water sources. Particularly during migration, a water source can be a god-send. A simple bird bath will do the trick!

2) Plant native plant species and remove invasive ones

Non-native species of plant are widely available at nurseries in our area, but they can out-compete the native plants in your garden that are often favored by local birds. When it comes to planting a garden that bird species will enjoy, keep an eye out for native species that will additionally provide a food source. As you select plants, keep in mind that Albuquerque is in Zone 7, and that we also have wonderful nurseries like [Plants of the Southwest](#) that specialize in growing plants that make sense in the high desert.

3) Provide birdhouses or nest boxes

Times are hard for cavity nesters, but you can help by providing a nest box near your bird garden. In total, about 48 different species of bird are known to utilize nest boxes and raise their young there. Boxes can be made of any kind of wood, but avoid using any wood preservatives or paint on the interior of the boxes. Also, make sure that the box you build or buy has a sloping roof to disperse monsoon season rains and drainage holes in the bottom.

4) Avoid using pesticides and other chemicals

If you want birds to thrive in your garden, it is vital that you avoid using or severely limit your use of your chemical pesticides and herbicides. Some pesticides directly harm birds, while others contaminate their food supply.

These are just a few of the basics that boost the likelihood that your backyard will become great habitat for local birds. Other actions you can take to make a bird-friendly garden include mimicking the layers of growth found in local natural areas, leaving dead trees, and providing conifers and shrubs. As the warmer months are already upon us, now is the time to start perfecting your garden for yourself and for the birds.

Gambel's Quail. Image by Doug Brown.



A Busy April Leads to a Busy May by Amanda Schluter, Biologist and

Educator

The Upper Rio Grande Gorge Raptor Study near Taos, NM is starting to pick up with more raptor activity observed each time the group makes a trip up to the study area. The Red-Tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcons and Peregrine Falcons are establishing territories and beginning to nest. Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks are incubating eggs or, in some cases, feeding nestlings.

On a trip in mid-April, Tom Ryan, a volunteer, and I were able to observe two Golden Eaglets at one of the nests - two small fluff balls visible with the naked eye. When we finally got spotting scopes on the nest, we were able to confirm that there were two small nestlings. It was very exciting to be able to watch them for some time before the weather turned bad and we had to leave the area. It was exciting to see our first baby eagles for this project.



Along with monitoring raptors in the Upper Rio Grande Gorge, I have been monitoring nests for the Middle Rio Grande bosque nesting raptors study and at the El Segundo Mine near Grants, NM. All three of these projects have kept me very busy juggling nest visits for the owlets that are just beginning to fledge and beginning to monitor the hawks, falcons and ravens that are just incubating and building nests this month. In May, I will continue to monitor any active nests until the young fledge.

Songbird surveys begin for the Southwest Jemez CFLRP (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project) taking place in the Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Jemez National Forest. Hawks Aloft has been conducting summer songbird surveys for the Jemez CFLRP since 2012. With the data we have collected over the years, we now are able to complete a statistically sound analysis and form conclusions about how the Los Conchas, and Thompson Ridge fires affected bird densities within the different habitat types. The data that we collect this summer will then be added to the cumulative data and analyzed for the final report this winter.

With the three projects monitoring raptor nests and the addition of Jemez songbird monitoring in May, I expect that my month will be very busy running from one project to the next. Although my schedule can get hectic, I really enjoy seeing the young raptors at their nests and spending time in gorgeous places like Jemez, NM and the Upper Rio Grande Gorge.

Ferruginous Hawk, above. Golden Eagle below. Both images by Tony Thomas.



You Never Know Where a Literature Search Might Take You ... by Everett Ogilvie, Statistician

On our last trip to do nesting raptor surveys in the Rio Grande Gorge, we camped at the Wild Rivers Recreation Area that encompasses the confluence of the Red River and the Rio Grande. This is a very nice BLM-managed park, and our group camped for two nights very near the rim of the gorge. During our first night, we experienced a rather severe wind event. The wind came up about 10 p.m., and it blew hard until about 3 a.m. My estimate is that there were steady winds of 45mph with gusts approaching 70mph. The winds were so violent that, at several times, I felt our camping rig was going to be blown over the edge of the gorge.

Large geographical features can be their own weather makers, and this wind event got me thinking about cold air drainage. In particular, I wondered how severe that might be in such a place as the Rio Grande Gorge, so I did a tiny bit of research to see if I could find anything on the subject. I am sure cold air drainage can be significant at times throughout the gorge, but my current answer is that I did not really find much on the topic. While looking into the subject I came across a very interesting paper regarding a climate assessment of this very area. The paper is titled "West-wide Climate Risk Assessment: Upper Rio Grande Impact Assessment" (You can follow [this link](#) if you are interested in reading it). The paper is a collaboration among the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, and the Sandia National Laboratories' Climate program. I won't begin to try to summarize this very extensive paper, but I would like to highlight a few items that really caught my attention.

First, the paper indicates that over the 40-year period from 1971 to 2011, average temperatures collected from 35 climate stations within the Upper Rio Grande Basin rose at a rate of nearly 0.7 degrees Fahrenheit, which is almost double the rate of global temperature rise. On a personal level I found this profoundly significant and

rather shocking, probably more so due to our recent survey work in this area.

Second, the paper states that climate modeling indicates the area may experience temperature increases of 4 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the 21st century, and that precipitation and water inflows into this area may become highly variable.

There can be little doubt that these changes will impact pretty much everything in the Upper Rio Grande Basin, including the raptors we currently study. I won't be around long enough to see these changes or the degree to which they occur, but it makes me wonder what lies ahead for the area.

Reference: U.S. Department of the Interior. 2013. West-Wide Climate Risk Assessment: Upper Rio Grande Impact Assessment.

Prepping for the Summer Field Season, by Trevor Fetz, Lead Avian Biologist

As April came to a close in central New Mexico, bosque vegetation had fully leafed out and the Neotropical migrants had started showing up in force. It is always a joy to see Summer Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow-breasted Chats and other neotrops return to the bosque, and these sure signs of spring also are sure signs that the summer field season is near. But, with only four of us on staff to cover all songbird-related surveys, careful planning is necessary to make sure we have everything covered. In addition to the 81 transects of the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study (each of which has to be surveyed 3 times per month), we also have around 120 point count locations and 149 Breeding Bird Survey points to cover as part of the Jemez CFLRP, Willow Flycatcher surveys and Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys. Mixed in around the songbird surveys, all four of us have bosque nesting raptor routes to cover and Amanda has additional raptor monitoring duties in the Rio Grande gorge and at El Segundo Mine. The songbird survey season will begin in mid-May, when surveys for the Jemez CFLRP and Willow Flycatcher surveys commence. But, it is the beginning of June and the summer field season for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study when everything will hit warp speed. It is safe to say that we will all be busy this summer. But, after several detailed meetings, we seem to have our schedules set and all surveys covered. Now we just hope that we all stay healthy, because we don't have much margin for error.

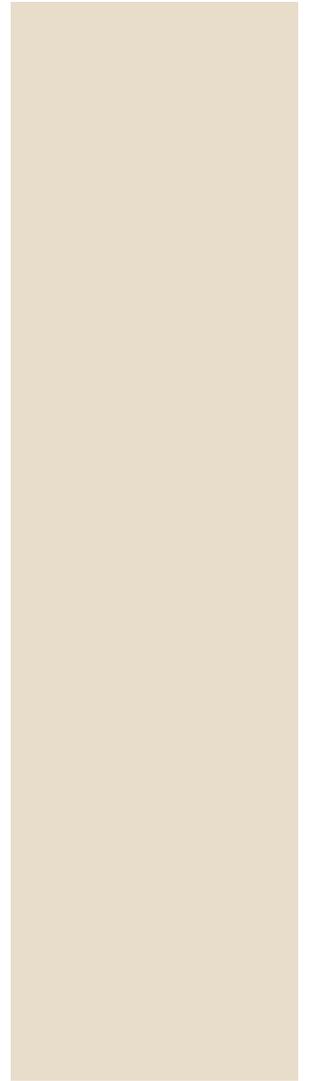


Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Image by Alan Murphy.

Hawks Aloft 2017 Raffle Quilt - Tickets Available Now

Get your tickets now! They are \$1 each or 6/\$5. You can purchase them [on our website](#). We will draw the winning ticket on December 2, 2017, at our annual Holiday Party.

Image by Steve Elkins.



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.



Support Hawks Aloft by Shopping at Smith's!

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Did you know there are plenty of ways to support Hawks Aloft without spending a single extra dime or changing any little thing about your daily schedule? In addition to registering to support Hawks Aloft with your Amazon purchases via smile.amazon.com (you've already done that, right?), now you can kick back a few extra dollars to Hawks Aloft just by shopping at your local Smith's.

We recently enrolled in [Smith's Community Rewards Program](#), a program that allows individuals to enroll online and support their favorite nonprofit with their purchases. At the end of each quarter, Hawks Aloft will receive a percentage of the total dollar amount spent by shoppers who have selected us as their preferred local nonprofit.

Signing up is easy and makes a big difference in our budget.

Signing up is a simple, three-step process:

- 1). With your Smith's Reward Card handy, log on to [Smiths Community Rewards](#)
- 2). Enter your rewards card number and your preferred Smith's shopping location
- 3). Search for Hawks Aloft by entering our name or our Community Rewards ID number: 16635

It's as easy as that! Then, next time you buy your groceries, all you have to do is use your Rewards Card for discounts, fuel points, and to provide additional revenue to Hawks Aloft!

Thank you for supporting us so we can continue to care for injured wild birds, educate the community about raptors, and conduct research that provides meaningful insights about the health of our local ecosystem.

Adopt an Educational Ambassador



Help support our non-releasable raptors through our Adopt-a-Raptor program. Hawks Aloft houses and cares for 25 permanently disabled raptors (and one corvid!). Our Avian Ambassadors travel throughout the Southwest, helping us to educate the public about how to help protect these beautiful animals. We provide them with top-quality housing, food, and medical care for their entire lives. It costs an average of \$2000/mo. just for their food. When you adopt a raptor, you help feed our birds, make home improvements, and provide veterinary care for one avian ambassador of your choice. Prices range from \$35-\$100 depending on the species.

[Click here to Adopt a Raptor](#) - such as Aspen, our Northern Saw-whet Owl, photographed by Doug Brown.

When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you will receive:

- A one-year Hawks Aloft membership
- An Adoption Certificate
- An information sheet about the individual bird you have adopted
- Exclusive access to video updates about your bird
- Your choice of:
 - A professional 8x10 photo of your bird, or
 - A stuffed Audubon Bird with realistic vocalizations

[Click here to learn more about our Avian Ambassadors](#)

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Thank You to Our April Volunteers

- Chuck Brandt - Outreach
- Mary Bruesch - Data entry, mews cleaning, outreach
- David Buckley - Raptor care
- Ed Chappelle - Raptor care
- Mary Chappelle - Raptor care
- Debbie Delozier - Outreach
- Brigitte de Saint Phalle - Raptor mews cleaning
- Steve Elkins - Videography editing
- Rebecca Ezechukwu - Outreach
- Maggie Grimason - Outreach
- Ava Gutierrez - Outreach
- Jerry Hobart - Project management
- Bill Houston - Outreach
- Ryanne Hoogeboom - Outreach
- Molly Lord - Outreach
- Maurice Mackey - Outreach
- Evelyn McGarry - Data entry, Outreach
- Jeff Porter - Raptor care
- Chellye Porter - Raptor care, outreach
- Rail Runner - Raptor transport
- Larry Rimer - Raptor Rescue, Taos Gorge raptor surveys
- Lizzie Roberts - Raptor care, raptor handling class
- Allison Schacht - Outreach
- Anita Sisk - Outreach
- Bruce Sisk - Outreach
- Rebecca Szymanski - Raptor and corvid care



- Katie Wade-Matthews - Education bird permits
- Christie Wilcox - Liaison with UNM

Photo Above: Larry Rimer and our most recent rescue - a Great Horned Owl. Image by Jim Battaglia.

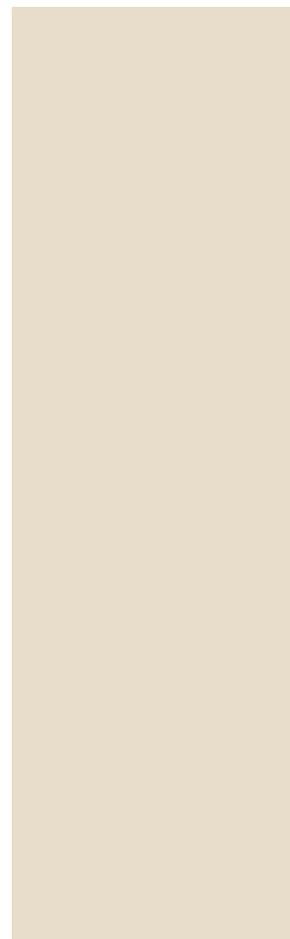
Photographers Monthly Gallery - Doug Brown, In Search of Grouse and Chickens

This month, we feature four images by Doug Brown, whose images appear in all of our publications, on our website and on our Facebook pages. Doug undertook an epic journey to the far corners of Colorado this past month, searching for the elusive and even more difficult to photograph Greater Prairie Chicken, Dusky Grouse and Greater Sage Grouse. After piling the miles on his car, we were thrilled to see some of the best images ever

of these birds, all notoriously hard to find except during the spring breeding season when the males gather at lek sites to display for the females. Look for more of Doug's images and information about his upcoming photography workshops on his website, [Doug Brown Photography](#). Thank you, Doug!



Greater Sage Grouse





Greater Prairie Chicken



Dusky Grouse



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Agnostic interaction by two male Greater Prairie Chickens

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