



**HAWKS ALOFT, Inc.**

Conservation, Avian  
Research & Education



**A Labor of Love  
The Hawks Aloft Raffle Quilt!**

**by Gail Garber  
Executive Director**

Plans for the 2024-25 quilt were underway months before drawing the winning ticket for the previous quilt! The Covid years upset everyone's plans for the 2020s, including ours! Suddenly, we had a raffle quilt to display and nowhere to display it in public. Outreach began to improve in 2022, and things rebounded with a bang in 2023! During that time, those of us who created the quilt decided it best to only produce one quilt every two years.

Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer, a now retired architect, and I sat down at her computer one day in the summer of 2023. Her computer contains AutoCad, the software that we've used for the first 28 HAI raffle quilts. Formerly, I had AutoCad at home, but the ancient software no longer worked - and it is one pricey piece of software!

We wanted a design that bespoke of New Mexico, and began with a prominent Zia symbol, along with the classic thunderbirds that grace many of my quilt designs and a variety of roughed-out borders. Of course, it wasn't long before this year's design was Gail-icized with the addition of tiny little "Flying Geese" in the outer border that repeated the hand-dyed color gradations in the birds.

Formerly a professional quilt teacher (now mostly retired) throughout the U.S. and abroad, I had amassed an enormous fabric stash! During the Covid-caused home isolation, I busied myself in de-stashing, donating much to the local quilt guild, Thimbleweeds. Much still remains! I am thrilled to announce that everything in this quilt came from my existing stash except for one background fabric!

I knew that my long-time friends and superior quilters in my UFO Group (Unfinished Objects) would help get it done, no matter how challenging the stitching and color placements were. We've been friends for so many years, that I've known some, like Donna Barnitz, since before she had her now 30-something adult children! Donna and I got together over the holiday break to stitch the middle and I passed out individual birds to Barb Deshler, Cynthia, and Carol Meincke. Master appliquer, Pat Drennan, hand stitched all the bird heads. It feels so good to be part of my quilting family!

Finally, we gathered at the home of Mary & Ed Chappelle on January 26 & 27 to stitch the rest of the quilt. Rick Deshler joined Ed at the cutting table that Friday afternoon and together they accurately cut most of the pieces while Mary, Barb and I began assembling sewing kits in preparation for the next morning. The rest of the team arrived bright and early: Vicky Harms, Liz Roberts, and Sami Sanborn. We set to stitching until mid-afternoon, laughing at various foibles, chatting and poking fun as only longtime friends can do! Stephanie Schulz stopped by to take action photos to document the process and we invited Steve Elkins, one of our favorite photographers, to arrive at 3 pm to take the final photo! That was overly optimistic and Steve and his wife, Mary, didn't get the photo until nearly dark, and the quilt still lacked the final outermost border. But we did it! The quilt top has moved on to master long-arm quilter, Tisha Cavanaugh for the next layer. We hope you love it as much as we do. Tickets will be on sale beginning in March!





McCaughin Mountain Foundation  
for Empowerment



Our work is made possible thanks to the support of our donors. This month we recognize: PNM Resources Foundation, The Frost Foundation, Avangrid Foundation, The Edward F. Zimmer Community Fund, and McCaughin Mountain Family Foundation for their generous donations to Hawks Aloft, Inc.

Every dollar donated helps fund Raptor Rescue efforts and keeps education programs like Living with the Landscape free to underserved schools in the Albuquerque community.



## **Fly Proud, Fly Free Little Ms. Owl**

You were hurt and bound by filth, Ms. Owl.  
Until a gentle soul heard your cry,  
'Save me, save me, save me, I have still so much life, for I am, Ms. Owl!'

You were carefully lifted by gentle hands,  
and cared for by the same.

We followed your journey, praying for soon you'd return to flight, Ms. Owl.  
And then those that cared and watched over you, encouraged, "its time to fly away  
Ms. Owl!"

May your journeys carry on Ms. Owl and your family welcome you home.

For you are in our hearts days forward.

Now my dear Ms. Owl, we must say goodbye and wish you well.  
Fly proud, fly free Little Ms. Owl.

Dedicated to all those that took such loving care of Little Ms. Owl.

*We thank all of you who passionately followed the saga of the Barn Owl that was trapped in the cesspool beneath the outdoor toilet at the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex. The ode to Ms. Owl was written by longtime volunteer, Ava Gutierrez.*

*Photo by Doug Brown Photography later in the evening following her release.*



## **Sandhill Cranes Keep Things Interesting**

**Dr. Trevor Fetz  
Research Director**

During winter surveys for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study (MRGSS), the most ubiquitous bird

species is one that we generally don't even document within the survey areas--[Sandhill Crane](#). Cranes usually don't hang out in the more densely vegetated bosque habitats where most of our surveys are located. I've only recorded cranes on two of my transects this winter.



But they are constantly either flying over or making their presence known beyond our survey areas either from the Rio Grande or agricultural area outside the bosque. I consistently see them flying over and/or hear them in the river on all 29 of the transects

I'm surveying this winter. Often, I have to stop and wait for flocks to pass over before continuing to survey, as their noise drowns out the vocalizations of the bosque birds.

At most of my transects, the number of flyover cranes is usually between 50 to 100 per visit. But at some sites the numbers are much higher. When surveying in Bosque Farms, I regularly record 1000 to 2000 cranes as flyovers. But that is a conservative estimate, because often I either can't see all the flyover cranes through the trees or am too focused on bird detections on the transect to get accurate crane estimates.

During one of my January visits to the Bosque Farms transects I was running a little later than normal and ended up driving through Isleta Pueblo just as it was getting light enough to see what was happening in the sky. And it was an impressive site! Flock after flock of cranes in "v" formations (some of which included 100 or more birds) flying south from their roost locations on the Rio Grande in Isleta Pueblo and the Albuquerque South Valley to their foraging grounds somewhere south of Bosque Farms. They weren't quite moving at the speed limit through the Pueblo, but they were close.

After tracking cranes for about 10 minutes as I drove south through the Pueblo and reached my parking spot in Bosque Farms, I continued to see and hear cranes during my surveys for at least another hour. I have no idea how many cranes there were, but it was definitely in the multiple thousands. And every one of them was flying from somewhere north of Bosque Farms to somewhere south of Bosque Farms. Of course, there are huge numbers of cranes that don't make that flight every morning and hang out in other parts of the Middle Rio Grande Valley. It was kind of overwhelming thinking about just how many cranes there are in the Middle Rio Grande Valley during the winter and how lucky we are to live in a place with such an impressive avian spectacle.

Based on the data I've seen so far, bird numbers on our MRGSS surveys during January seemed to be fairly similar to what we documented in December. Overall, winter bird numbers in the bosque seem to be slightly above normal. Individual species trends also seemed to be similar to December. We have been documenting much higher than normal numbers of [Northern Flicker](#) and [Western Bluebird](#), and much stronger numbers of [Yellow-rumped Warbler](#) than we've documented for at least the past six years or so.

In contrast, [Cedar Waxwing](#) numbers have been extremely low. In fact, I've only encountered a single flock during my surveys so far this winter. I didn't have any particularly notable sightings during January. The most interesting detection reported to me by any of our surveyors in January was a [House Wren](#) documented by Brian Dykstra on one of our Albuquerque South Valley transects. Not the most exciting species, but a species that we rarely detect during winter MRGSS surveys. Over the 21 years of winter surveys for the MRGSS, we've documented House Wren fewer than 10 times. It will be interesting to see what February has in store as we wrap up the winter field season.

*Sandhill Cranes in flight. Top photo by Dennis Chamberlain, lower photo by Gail Garber*

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**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**WINGSPAN - Celebration of Flight  
April 6, 2024**

To ring in 30 years of Hawks Aloft, Inc., we invite you to join us for an evening of dinner, drinks, and fun! We will have entertainment and hold both a silent and live auction. Tickets are on sale now!

HAWKS ALOFT, INC.

# WINGSPAN

*Celebration of Flight*



[BUY TICKETS](#)

Become a sponsor! Or, if you have auction items to donate, [email Stephanie](#). We appreciate everyone that has already reached out to donate items so far!

## THANK YOU TO OUR JANUARY DONORS!

We were truly blown away by the increased donations in 2023 and we simply could not have done it without you! Thank you to our team of volunteers that make our Raptor Rescue successful. It isn't easy work and we appreciate every single person that has donated time to us. We thank you for your generosity and appreciate you following along with our monthly newsletters and social media.

We recognize the following January donors:

- Fiore Bran Aragon
- Mark Aspelin
- Sky Atkins
- Avangrid Foundation
- Damean Bazan
- Kate Cadwell
- Niels Chapman & Ruth Burstrom \*
- Linda Contos & John Heidrich
- Shannon Cooley
- Susan Coulter
- Kat Cuadros
- Carl Cunningham
- The Frost Foundation
- Teresa Garcia \*
- Nancy Guinn
- Laura Harper
- Pat Hawley
- Carole & Chuck Heimann
- Perrienne Houghton
- Dana Howard
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- Diana Kelleher
- Jeannine Kinzer
- Kroger/Smith's Inspiring Donations
- LANL Employee Contributions
- Wayne London
- Sue Lyons \*
- Lois Manno
- Linda A. McCaughin/McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment
- Jessica Metz
- Michael Milone
- John & Mary Mims \*
- Samantha Molineaux
- Liana Morales
- Shawn Oakley
- Stephanie Otts
- Dave Parsons \*
- Sara Renals
- Rhonda R. Rivera ESQ
- Stephanie Reutner for Geri Soukop
- Laura Scalesse
- Allison Schacht \*
- Steven Siegel
- Lewis Suber
- Gerald Swanson
- K. Taka Revocable Trust
- April Taylor
- Ivan White
- Vicki Wilmarth
- Elizabeth Woodard
- Kathryn M. Zimmer/The Edward F. Zimmer Community Fund

\* indicates recurring monthly donors



## **Proof of Guardian Angels**

**Lisa Morgan  
Raptor Rescue  
Coordinator**

Have you ever pondered if Guardian Angels exist? If they exist for us, do they exist for animals? We, at Hawks Aloft, may have proof!

On a cold, stormy evening in early January, we received a text from Evelyn: travelers passing through the state had witnessed a tiny male American Kestrel get hit by a semi-truck! The good Samaritans stopped their vehicle on the freeway and searched in the blustery dark to find the tiny bird. Luckily, they were able to locate him on the edge of the freeway. They picked up his limp body and called our Hotline number (505-999-7740).



We always ask rescuers for photographs so that we can identify the species and to get an idea of what might be wrong. I saw the photograph of his tiny, crumpled body and groaned. Everything seemed out of place - nothing was lying as it should on his body. His eyes were pleading and terrified and that sinking feeling settled upon me: no tiny falcon can be hit by a semi and live through it.

Rehabber, Amelia Thompson, took him in late that night after his hour-long trip from Wagon Wheel. Luckily, his body was in good condition, but he showed signs of head trauma and internal injuries: there was blood in his mouth and nose, and he had difficulty breathing. Unbelievably, there were no fractures to be felt! All Amelia could do was support him with fluids, give medication for pain and swelling, and hope he would make it through the night.

Amazingly, he was standing and rather perky the next morning! He could move his legs, feet, and wings. We could not believe this tiny kestrel did not have any broken bones after being hit by a semi. Clearly, someone was looking out for him! However, he would not eat. For four long days, Amelia supported him by giving him fluids, medications and a liquid diet. On the fifth day he finally began self-feeding. After about five more days of replenishing his diet, it was time to see what he could do in a mews. He was transferred to our executive director, Gail Garber, who had just the right amount of space.

Our little semi-guy whipped around the mews at Gail's for a week. Clearly, he put his brush with death far behind was ready to go! On January 28, our longtime volunteer, Chellye Porter, released the kestrel in a field in Peralta with his Guardian Angel not far behind him. [Click Here](#) to see the release video.



## **Kraimers to the Rescue!**

**by Stephanie Schulz,  
Marketing/Fundraising  
Specialist**

Last month, we received not one, but two calls after 4 pm on our Raptor Rescue hotline about injured birds in the Las Cruces area. The first was an American Kestrel, follow by an injured Cooper's Hawk both suffering from wing injuries the very next

day. It is difficult to call upon folks after dark, but some of our newest volunteers in the area, Rebecca and Robert Kraimer, were kind enough to pick up both birds and make two separate trips to the El Paso Zoo for further evaluation by their raptor intake staff. We are so grateful for their efforts to save these birds and hope for positive outcomes! Thank you, Rebecca and Robert Kraimer!

## **Call for volunteers in southern New Mexico!**

We always seek more volunteers to add to our Raptor Rescue network in southern New Mexico. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please reach out to [Evelyn McGarry](#) about how to get involved. Thank you to our small, but mighty group of volunteers in the Las Cruces area: Jenee Moore, Sherry McDaniel, Jann & Ken Trudell, and Terry & Cindy Buttram. We greatly appreciate your support!

*HAI Stock Photo, photographer unknown*



## NOW HIRING

### (1) SONGBIRD AND RAPTOR FIELD TECHNICIAN: May 1 – July 30 (Start and End Dates Are Flexible)

[Click here to view and share](#) the Field Tech position(s) announcement.

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### The Butcher Bird

by Nate & Jeanne Gowan  
Guest Authors

The Loggerhead Shrike is a distinctive songbird found throughout North America, migrating as far as northern Canada in summer. “Loggerhead” describes this shrike’s large head in comparison the rest of its body; sometimes described as a bull-headed bird. It is roughly the same size as a

Northern Cardinal with gray plumage that is set off with a black mask and a stout, crooked bill. Its wings have white patches that flash while in flight similar to a Northern Mockingbird. Males and females have similar plumage.

The Loggerhead Shrike is considered a perching songbird (passerine), but its behavior is raptor-like. This bird hunts from elevated perches, scanning the ground for prey which includes large insects, snakes, lizards, small mammals and even other birds. They hunt similarly to the American Kestrel, sometimes hovering over their prey before striking. They also flash their wing patches to startle prey out of hiding. This bird is known for its incredible ability to take down prey as large as itself and sometimes even larger with the help of its distinctive hooked bill. The upper edge of the Loggerhead Shrike’s bill is comprised of a pair of pointy projections called “tomial teeth”. Like a falcon, a shrike will take down its prey with a precise attack to the nape of the neck, using these “teeth” to jab

at the spinal cord, paralyzing the prey. Unlike raptors, shrikes lack strong feet and talons. To compensate, they have developed the unique behavior of impaling their prey on sharp projections such as thorns or barbed wire making feeding easier. This behavior has earned Loggerhead Shrikes the nickname “Butcher Bird”.

There are two shrike species in North America, the Loggerhead and the Northern. Both are known for “caching” their kills. They accumulate “larders” of prey to provide security against lean times. Males also appear to cache prey to impress prospective mates. This macabre behavior leads to images of multiple bugs, small animals and birds impaled on thorns and branches. Young Loggerhead Shrikes have been observed imitating adult hunting behavior during play. Impalement seems to be an innate behavior for both species of shrikes.

This bird whose size is deceiving is truly unique in looks and behavior. Its mask and beak create a sort of “tough guy” appearance. It makes one wonder, if it could, would the “Butcher Bird” join a motorcycle gang?

*All Photos by Nate Gowan*



## **Partnering with PNM**

**by Stephanie Schulz  
Marketing/Fundraising Specialist**

A huge point of pride for Hawks Aloft, Inc. is our collaboration with others to further our mission of protecting wild birds and the environment around us. We are happy to have a long-standing partnership with PNM Resources and a growing network of volunteers that support our efforts. A kind volunteer, Joseph O’Leary, constructed three kestrel nest boxes for us last year, and in mid-January PNM crews were able to install them on the grounds of Dolores Gonzales Elementary, Inez Elementary, and Longfellow Elementary. It was such a joy seeing the students so excited about this conservation effort and talking with PNM crew members. We look forward to updates when birds begin to nest in them! We are so appreciative of everyone involved in making this happen.



*All Photos by Stephanie Schulz*



## **It's About the Journey**

**by Jenny Sternheim  
Education Coordinator**

Last month I was lucky to attend a career fair at Madison Middle School for seventh and eighth graders. I was excited to accept this opportunity because the most rewarding part of being an educator is inspiring the next generation. The best part of my day was talking to children and seeing their eyes light up as I explained how animals.

For this event, I took along Talon, the Western Screech-Owl. He was rescued in 2021 after being hit by a car and has head trauma with blindness in one eye. An Avian Ambassador always grabs attention and Talon was a big draw to my table. While telling his story to all the students there were gasps and words of concern for such a small bird who went through such a harrowing event. As always, having a physical representation of the consequences of human and

animal interaction helps the kids understand how important it is to treat the natural world with respect.

Not only was I able to educate the students about birds, but I was also able to tell them about my career background and how I ended up in my current position. Some students had prepared questions about my motivations for going into my job and the path that led me there. My path has been full of twists and turns, from animal shelters to zoos and finally, Hawks Aloft, so I have a more diverse background than most. In explaining this, I was able to impress upon students that even if you don't end up where you imagined at the beginning of your journey, all the experiences build upon each other to put you in a place where you will succeed. I was glad that I could be a part of these students' lives, even in a small way.

Thank you [PNM Resources Foundation](#) , McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment, K. Taka Revocable Trust, Perriane Houghton and Gerald Swanson for funding Living with the Landscape.

*Photo by Larry Rimer*



## **Volunteer Training Recap Stephanie Schulz Marketing/Fundraising Specialist**

We kicked off February with our volunteer training class with 34 attendees! We were blown away by the turnout and are excited to gain some new supporters that are eager to get involved.

Gail overviewed the mission and work of Hawks Aloft, Inc. emphasizing the importance of collaboration with our community and talked about the different ways folks can be a part of our organization.

I talked about social media and writing opportunities; Jenny and Liz discussed ways to be involved with education programs; Lisa and Evelyn talked about the importance of Raptor Rescue and safety measures and our resident veterinarians and board members, Dr.

Linda Contos and Dr. Chris Fiorello went over common ailments and injuries we see from our rescued birds. It was a great morning and we're excited to get to work with our new volunteers!

*All Photos by Stephanie Schulz*



### **Meet Jessalyn Ayars Songbird/ Raptor Field Technician**

Jessalyn is our newest songbird/raptor technician. She graduated from Carleton College in 2021 with a degree in biology and worked as a post-baccalaureate research fellow conducting independent research with Dr. Gavin M. Jones at the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station/University of New Mexico from 2021 - 2023. She is interested in avian conservation in changing landscapes, as well as modeling animal space use.

## Hawks Aloft Tours



### Hawks Aloft & Holbrook Travel

### Ecuadorian Cloud Forest and the Galapagos Islands

**June 18-29, 2024**

**\$7495 per person**

**\*includes land cost only**

**Only 2 spots left!**

Join Gail Garber and Hawks

Aloft as we return to one of our favorite places on Planet Earth – the Galapagos Archipelago! After our first magical trip there in 2018, everyone agreed it was the trip of a lifetime!

Before we head off to the Galapagos Archipelago, we will begin our adventure by exploring [Sachatamia Reserve](#) as well as the [Yanacocha Reserve](#), home to the critically endangered endemic [Black-breasted Puffleg](#). We thank MacCauley Library for the above photo of the puffleg.

Combining a wild array of endemic species like the giant tortoises, albatross, Sally Lightfoot crabs, flamingos, marine iguanas, penguins and Blue-footed Boobies, several of these unique volcanic islands will be ours to explore. Our home will be a luxury yacht, the

Tip Top 5. Swimming and snorkeling will be available nearly every day, along with panga rides, and both dry and wet landings. Access to each of the islands is carefully controlled by the Ecuadorian government, so crowds will not be a part of this excursion.

- Visit the [Alambi Cloud Forest Reserve](#), where 250 species-including 32 varieties of hummingbirds-have been recorded.
- Venture to Milpe Bird Sanctuary, a 250 acre subtropical rainforest reserve and ecoregion and biodiversity hotspot that supports 62 restricted-range species, the largest of any Endemic Bird Area in the Americas.
- See [North Seymour Island](#) and observe [Blue-footed Boobies](#), marine iguanas, pelicans, frigatebirds, shorebirds, sea lions, and endemic Palo Santo trees.
- Land at Punta Espinosa to observe a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, Flightless Cormorants, and clumps of lava cactus.
- Witness the native forests and [Los Gemelos](#), a pair of sinkholes created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers, on Santa Cruz Island.

[Click here for more details and a complete itinerary.](#)

*Red-footed Booby Photo by Gail Garber.  
Black-breasted Puffleg, photo by MacCauley Library.*



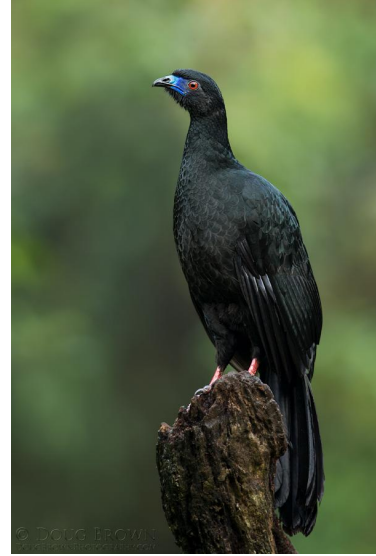
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**Birding Costa Rica**  
with  
**Hawks Aloft & Holbrook Travel**  
**February 9 - 19, 2025**

**From \$3625.00**

It will have been 10 years since our inaugural visit to the wonders of Costa Rica, with its incredible biodiversity found in 12 different climate zones and numerous ecosystems packed into a small country. We are excited to return again!

We will begin our journey with a stay at Selva Verde Lodge, owned by Holbrook Travel since the mid-1980s. The lodge protects 500 acres of primary forest in the Sarapiquí region. It was after a visit to explore Costa Rica that Andrea Holbrook wanted to take an active part in preserving the country's natural resources. As a result, visitors might view some of the country's 900-plus bird species, including toucans, macaws, motmots, quetzals and trogons. Our journey will take us to the cloud forest, Caribbean lowland rainforest, arid mountain peaks, and dry Pacific forests.



Costa Rica's natural wealth is no accident. In the mid-20th century, leadership determined that conservation was the future of the nation. Now, 23 percent of Costa Rica's land mass is under preservation. Rather than developing a military, officials instead built educational and social security programs. Despite the ensuing growth of tourism, the country remains peaceful, friendly and open. Costa Ricans continue to exude appreciation and joy for the treasures of their country.

### Highlights include:

- Take guided hikes in the private rainforest reserve at [Selva Verde Lodge](#), home to more than 350 bird species, including the endangered [Great Green Macaw](#).
- Ascend the 328-foot suspended walkway at [Tirimbina Biological Reserve](#) for the chance to see species that spend their time high within the forest canopy layer. Enjoy an evening talk about the lives of bats!
- Bird the trails of the world-renowned [La Selva Biological Station](#), where more than half of Costa Rica's species have been recorded, including the [Great Tinamou](#), [Ornate Hawk-eagle](#), [Pied Puffbird](#), and [Spectacled Owl](#).
- Spend a full day in [Carara National Park](#), an ecologically diverse hotspot due to its location at the convergence of northwestern tropical dry forest and humid southern Pacific rainforest with perhaps its most famous inhabitants, not birds, the enormous American crocodiles that lounge on the banks.
- Search for the [Resplendent Quetzal](#), [Slaty Flowerpiercer](#), [Ruddy Treerunner](#), and other high-elevation species in the cloud forests of the [Talamanca Mountains](#).

[Click here for more details and a complete itinerary.](#)

*We want to thank Doug Brown and Kristin Brown for providing numerous bird photos from their previous trips to Costa Rica.*

*Resplendent Quetzal and Black Guan  
photos by [Doug Brown Photography](#).*

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**Hawks Aloft Merchandise**





T-shirts (both long and short-sleeved) are \$30 and can be ordered on our website or can be picked up at the office. Ladies sizes are available in short sleeves; all long-sleeved shirts are unisex, and we also have youth sizes in short sleeves available for \$25.

[Order yours today!](#)



## Donate Your Old Car to Hawks Aloft!

Your old car might just be taking up space in your garage--but it could make a huge difference in the lives of New Mexico's native birds, natural landscapes, and the many people who delight in these things.

Car donation is simple. And in fact, it might just make your life *easier*.

[Here's the link to donate your old vehicle!](#)

Call our office if you still have questions: **505-828-9455**.

**Thank you,  
One Community Auto!**



*Where Everybody Wins!*

## Support Hawks Aloft by Shopping at Smith's

Many of you have long been Hawks Aloft supporters, and a good number of you have also been longtime Smith's shoppers. For those not in the know, the grocery chain has a program that provides a small kick-back quarterly to nonprofits when their supporters link their shopper's cards to the organization.

The company recently changed their policies regarding the program—so even if you've signed up in the past, you may need to do it again! The good news is that it is easy to do so.



1. Go to [Smith's Foods](#)
2. Either create an account or sign-in to an existing one
3. Once logged in, click on “**Account Summary**” on the left sidebar
4. From there, scroll down to “**Inspiring Donations Program**” and click “**Enroll**”
5. A searchable list will come up, you can either search for “**Hawks Aloft**” or enter our ID number for the program, “**GL430**”
6. Shop using your card and know that every time you do, you help out Hawks Aloft!

*We appreciate your ongoing support in this, and so many other capacities!*



## Meet Turbo! Best Foster Mom!

One night in 2019, Turbo took shelter from the storm on someone's roof. Unfortunately, that roof had a rotating rooftop wind turbine that trapped her. She was caught by her neck and was hanging on the spinning structure that repeatedly hit her left wing during the long and windy night. She was rescued by Lisa Morgan, our Raptor Rescue Coordinator, who responded to the call from the concerned homeowners who heard “something” flapping on their roof overnight. Turbo suffered trauma to her neck and also a fracture of the left wing, rendering her unable to fly. She was named Turbo to honor her incredible survival story.

### When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you 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:
  1. A professional 8×10 photo of your bird, or
  2. A stuffed Audubon Bird with realistic vocalizations (if available for that species)

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

*Photo by Larry Rimer*

**Adopt A Raptor**

## Robert Christner



In high school, I was awestruck by a photo story in National Geographic that featured amazing shots of nesting eagles and their nestlings, igniting a lifelong passion for photography. While my career took a different path, my love for photography, wildlife, conservation, and the beauty of nature never waned. Since retiring from UNM, I can usually be found hiking mountain trails sporting long lenses with my eyes in the trees scanning for wildlife. I share my images hoping to encourage wilderness and conservation awareness, through my business: [NM Wildwolf](#)

### [Photography.](#)

Some technical details: I am member of the Sierra Club, and Greenpeace, my education includes master's degrees in Biology, and Exercise Science, along with PhD in Education, and, of course, I am a volunteer with Hawks Aloft.

Image 1: [Great Horned Owl](#)

Image 2: [Bathing Bushtits](#)

Image 3: [Greater Roadrunner](#)

Image 4: [American Kestrel Pair](#)

Image 5: [Western Cattle Egret](#)



© NM Wildwolf Photography





**DONORS, SUPPORTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS**

**[Donate to Hawks Aloft](#)**

**[Become a Hawks Aloft](#)**

**Thank You to our  
January  
Donors, Members, and  
new Volunteers!**

Look for the full article above that recognizes all the generous year-end donations by our members, corporations and foundations.

**We really appreciate  
ALL of your support!**

**Our Veterinarians and  
Rehabilitators**

Kariana Atkinson, DVM  
Candace Auten, DVM  
Avery Berkowitz, DVM  
Calista Veterinary Hospital  
Mary & Ed Chappelle  
Linda Contos, DVM  
Coronado Animal Hospital  
Desert Willow Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Center  
Eye Care for Animals  
Christine Fiorello, DVM  
Tim Fitzpatrick, DVM  
High Desert Veterinary Care  
Rebecca & Robert Kraimer  
Daniel Levenson, DVM  
Stephanie Lindsell  
(NMWLC)  
Sherry McDaniel  
Mike Melloy, DVM  
Matt Mitchell  
Lisa Morgan  
New Mexico Wildlife Center  
On a Wing and a Prayer  
Petroglyph Animal Hospital  
Chellye Porter  
Sandia Animal Clinic  
Santa Fe Raptor Center  
Southwest Veterinary  
Medical Center  
Samantha Uhrig, DVM  
Amelia Thompson  
Wildlife Rescue of New  
Mexico

**January Calls and  
Intakes**

**Total Calls:** 28

**Total Cases:** 11

- Red-tailed Hawk: Hit by car; emaciated
- American Kestrel: R wing injury
- Rough-legged Hawk: Hit by car; R wing & leg injuries
- American Kestrel: Hit by semi; head trauma
- Rock Dove: R wing injury
- Red-tailed Hawk: L wing injury
- Cooper's Hawk: R wing injury
- Great Horned Owl: Window strike; spinal trauma
- American Kestrel: Window strike; head trauma
- Western Screech Owl: Hit by car; head trauma; internal injuries
- Barn Owl: Entangled in barbed wire; severe injuries

**Raptor Rescue Team**

Wendy Brown  
Mary Bruesch  
Ed Chappelle  
Mary Chappelle  
Charles Cummings  
Chris Gibson  
Lee Hanks

Ruth Latta  
Evelyn McGarry  
Sherry McDaniel  
Matt Mitchell  
Jenee Moore  
Eliane & Johnny Notah  
Chellye Porter

Carole Heimann  
Chuck Heimann  
Denise Inight  
Devona Jensen

Dianne Rossbach  
Susan Shook  
Davedda & Tony Thomas  
Amelia Thomspen

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Valles Caldera National Preserve

Wild Bird Seed Trading Company

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## Hawks Aloft, Inc.



Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue  
& Collaboration with Others

Contact Us



### Who We Are

Gail Garber, *Executive Director*  
Jessalyn Ayars, *Field Technician*  
David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*  
Linda Contos, *DVM, Consulting  
Veterinarian*  
Brian Dykstra, *Surveyor*  
Trevor Fetz, *Research Director*  
Jeanne Gowan, *Guest Author*  
Nate Gowan, *Surveyor*  
Roger Grimshaw, *Raptor Surveys*  
Sue Harrelson, *Project Manager*  
Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager,  
Raptor Driving Surveys*  
Brian Jay Long, *Raptor Surveys*  
Evelyn McGarry, *Office Manager,  
East Mountain Representative,*

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Nate Gowan, *Director*  
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*Raptor Rescue Dispatcher*  
Lisa Morgan, *Raptor Rescue*  
*Coordinator*  
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