



## HAWKS ALOFT, Inc.

Conservation, Avian  
Research & Education



## The Night the Osprey Came to Call

by Gail Garber Executive  
Director

Collaboration is one of the four pillars of our mission statement. We are quite proud of our ability to work with others, particularly when injured raptor calls come into the Raptor Rescue Hotline (505-999-7740). Such was the case earlier this week!

We received a Monday morning call from Darien Hoffmann who found an Osprey in a ditch with a visible wing injury. Hoffman was patrolling his Bloomfield service area near Navajo Lake, one of the largest reservoirs in New Mexico and one of the very few locations where this species breeds. Mr. Hoffmann suspected that the Osprey



might have floated down a canal from Navajo Lake and sent photos of the bedraggled bird with a clearly damaged wing.

Unique among North American raptors for its ability to dive into water to catch its live fish diet, Ospreys are found soaring over New Mexico's larger lakes with their abundant supply of fish. With feet outstretched and yellow eyes sighting straight along their talons, hunting Ospreys are pictures of uncanny concentration. Thus, they fish on the wing with superior angling skills. Studies have shown that Ospreys successfully catch fish on anywhere between 25%-70% of dives with an average hunt time for a catch of only 12 minutes! These unbelievable statistics are certainly something to think about next time you throw your own line in the water!



Another step in avian rehabilitation is the selection of the best facility to care for the animal. The New Mexico Wildlife Center in Espanola (NMWC) was the best equipped to give this Osprey a second chance at life. We reached out to clinic manager Stephanie Lindsell to have some tough discussions that included possible euthanasia by a Farmington area veterinarian. The well-being of the animal is always our number one priority. After careful review, we decided to try for the rescue.

Unparalleled in these emergency rescue situations, Evelyn McGarry began working the phones! After setting

in motion the commitment to rehabilitate, the next objective was to find someone in that remote location to take possession of the bird and administer triage. Brandon Vorquist, a San Juan County falconer and valued rescue team member answered the call that day. Even though he was busy teaching, we met with Mr. Hoffman right after his last class. Problem two: Solved!

Problem three: Finding an emergency ride to Espanola for the Osprey. Evelyn and Lee Hanks both volunteered to drive to Farmington the next day, but that would mean a delay of more than 24 hours before veterinary care. Evelyn sent out a text blast to our rescue team in the off chance that someone might be available to make the long drive to Farmington and then all the way to Espanola that very day.

Amazingly, Mary Bruesch and her partner Eric Nudell, longtime members of our rescue team, accepted the task of collecting and transporting the Osprey. They departed Albuquerque by 2 p.m. Meanwhile, Dr. Avery Berkowitz and Stephanie said they would wait for the Osprey regardless of the time it might arrive in Espanola.

Total drive time from Albuquerque to Farmington to Espanola and back home was 8 hours, 20 minutes, for a total of 506 miles! The dedication of our Rescue Team is incomparable! This is one example of many of the volunteer efforts to protect and save New Mexico's wild birds.

Although the wing looked truly tragic in the original photo, the actual injury was an open

wound but all bones and ligaments appeared intact. They anesthetized the Osprey on Thursday for close examination and everything looked good! Now, we all wait . . . FYI, Ospreys, as mentioned above, only eat fish. We know NMWLC would appreciate donations of fish for our 'shared' Osprey! Indeed, it takes a Village for some of these rescues!

*Photos by [Kristin C. Brown Photography](#), [Darren Hoffmann](#), and NMWLC staff.*



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## **Winter's Gift Wendy Brown**

### **Guest Author Volunteer**

I heard the crows first — an angry din from the barren cottonwood in our neighbor's yard. It was January 12, dawning leaden cold. Suspicions confirmed! Our neighborhood [Great Horned Owl](#) (GHO) pair had appropriated the Cooper's Hawk nest directly across from our second-floor deck.

In the short days of winter, it's a blessing to have nature come to you. I immediately pulled out my journal and began recording the owls' story.

Why nest in the heart of winter? First, GHOWs don't build their own nests, preferring to let another raptor do the work in previous years. Early starts facilitate these thefts! GHOWs also need an extended period of family care to teach their youngsters hunting and survival skills. Young owls remain with their parents well into autumn.

The female owl was my mentor in resilience. On challenging days, I am not immune from occasional self-pity. But watching her sit calmly, day and night, in

rain, snow, and howling winds, beset by a murder of screaming crows and an outraged Cooper's Hawk (the original architect of this nest), was better than any self-help book.

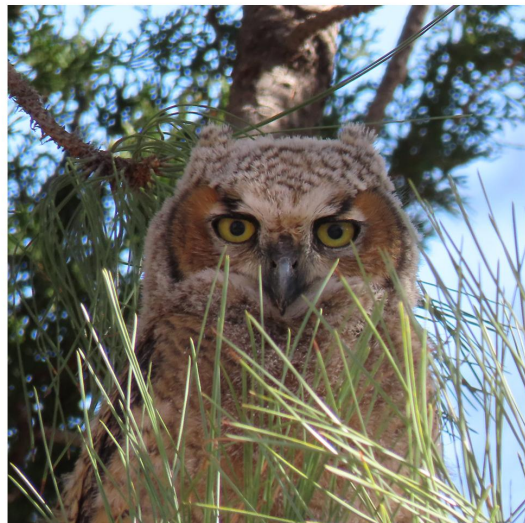
I loved waking before dawn each morning, listening to the pair calling to each other. I'd race upstairs to watch the exchange of some luckless prey between them. On February 18, fuzzy white heads appeared in the nest and I became even more obsessed with watching, worrying about the vagaries of weather and marauding crows. However, the owls prevailed, and to my malicious delight, one day I saw black feathers floating down during feeding time, and found a severed crow's head below. Interestingly, crow harassment tailed off after that.

Great Horned Owls are fierce and formidable predators, but I observed amazing tenderness from the female, watching her gently preening the young, feeding each one and snuggling them under her breast in cold, wet weather. I never saw the nest aggression young raptors may exhibit towards each other in these two owlets; indeed, they cuddled together in treetops even after leaving the nest.

In March, the youngsters branched and soon left the tree. I had a couple of anxious days when one owlet was hopping around the acequia, unsuccessfully attempting to climb a tree and comically falling to the ground where he hid in a pile of leaves. But, soon the young were making their way, albeit unsteadily, around nearby treetops. By mid-April, only the occasional hooting tells us the family is still nearby. Spring is here, and life is blooming.

Owl sits in January.  
Cozy nest awaits her eggs.  
Crows raging above.

*Photos by Wendy Brown*





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## **Owl Surveys Hit Full-Swing**

**by Trevor Fetz, P.D.  
Research Director**

Surveys for the Valles Caldera

Long-term Owl Community Study were in full-swing during April. Owl detection densities have been high so far, and we have documented five species: [Flammulated Owl](#), [Northern Pygmy-Owl](#), [Northern Saw-whet Owl](#), [Long-eared Owl](#), and Great Horned Owl. Northern Pygmy-Owl detections have been particularly high, as we had more detections in April than we did during the entire survey seasons in both 2020 and 2022, and we are rapidly closing in on the total number of detections documented in 2023. Northern Saw-whet Owl numbers also have been strong, as we had detections at 14 of the 15 nocturnal call points we were able to access during the first three weeks of the survey season.



Additional roads in Valles Caldera opened up during the last week of April, which allowed us to access nine of our nocturnal call points earlier in the survey season than any previous year of this study except for 2021. This is important because April through early May is a period when several owl species are particularly vocal, and thus more likely to respond to our nocturnal broadcasts than at other times during the survey season. We set a new study record for the number of owls detected during a single survey at one of the newly accessible points, when we detected 10 individual owls at that point on April 29. The total



included five Flammulated Owls, two Northern Saw-whet Owls, one Northern Pygmy-Owl, one Long-eared Owl, and one Great Horned Owl. At one point during that survey, we heard seven different owls vocalizing at the same time. And, we documented six of the owls during the initial listening period, before we even started broadcasting our own owl calls.

As we continue through May, I'm looking forward to additional roads opening in Valles Caldera that will allow us to access the 16 points we have not yet been able to survey this year. I'm also looking forward to the increased likelihood of detecting [Western Screech-Owl](#) and [Mexican Spotted Owl](#). Our earliest Spotted Owl detection during this study was on May 20 in 2021, and all but one of our Spotted Owl detections have occurred between May 20 and June 30. Exactly 70% of our Western Screech-Owl detection during this study have occurred during May, so I'm hopeful we will start getting responses from that species very soon.

Images: Western Screech-Owl, photo by [Alan Murphy Photography](#); Flammulated Owl and Mexican Spotted Owl, photos by Larry Rimer.

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: EVELYN MCGARRY

We recognize the dedication of our longtime volunteer, Evelyn McGarry. She has been with us since 2016 and we are lucky to have her on our team! Evelyn dedicates so much time to Hawks Aloft and serves as our Office Manager, East Mountain Raptor Rescue Representative, and the Raptor Rescue Dispatcher. If you have ever called our Raptor Rescue Hotline, you've probably spoken to her! One conversation with Evelyn and you can tell how much she cares for the birds we rescue and sharing her knowledge of raptors. She hopes to pass on her love of raptors to her daughter and grandsons.

Thank you, Evelyn, for all that you do for Hawks Aloft. We appreciate you!



## JOIN OUR TEAM! Now Hiring

**RAPTOR RESCUE COORDINATOR & WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR**  
Full time Permanent Position

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

**MARKETING/FUNDRAISING SPECIALIST**  
Part time permanent position

[Click here to view and share](#) the position announcements.

**AND**

**House Sitters Needed!**



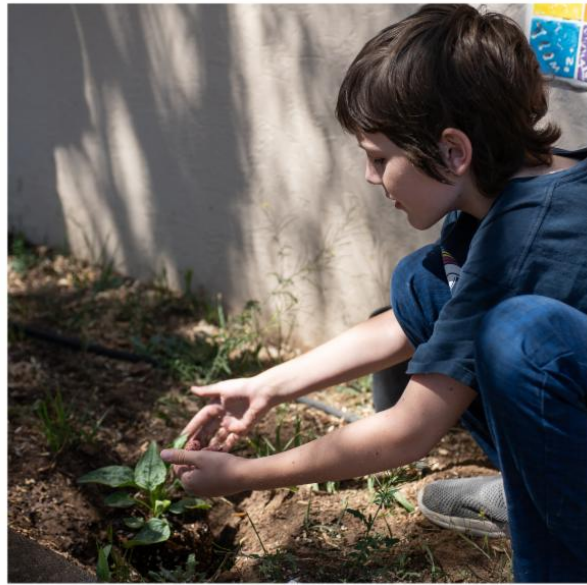
Do you love hawks, falcons and owls? Would you love to provide occasional exceptional care to our avian ambassadors when our primary rehabilitators and caretakers must be out of town. Sitting duration generally ranges from 3-14 nights. Must be over 18 years old. If interested, please [send a message to Gail](#) that details why you would be an excellent addition to our team.



### **Meet Liz (Lizzie) Roberts Educator/Naturalist**

You might know Lizzie as the dynamo that visits your classroom, or speaks with you at one of our outreach events. What you may not know about Liz, is that she is a very talented artist, specializing in clay. Liz hand carves all the stamps for her work, presses them into the clay, and then shapes and fires them. But, she adds a second layer of design by painting the design, glazing and then re-firing each piece. Her pottery features the lifelike birds that are her passion, and possibly yours as well. [Email Liz.](#)

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## Planting New Seeds

by Jenny Sternheim  
Education & Outreach  
Coordinator

Spring marks the wrap up of *Living with the Landscape*, a multi-visit educational program that seeks to enhance school children's experiences with the natural world and to shift them towards a curious and conservationist mindset. As part of the capstone experience designed to show children that they, even as young individuals, have the agency to make a positive impact on wildlife, we had the opportunity to sow a botanical habitat with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders on their very own school grounds. With the avid support of the good folks of [Plants of the Southwest](#), all the classes were able to construct a living outdoor space on their school campus to create a beautiful and functional expanse that will last past their last day of school.



As a small piece of Living with the Landscape program, the goal of this project was to facilitate experiential and hands on connections between the students and wildlife habitats. As we explained to the children, these gardens will benefit birds by providing both food and cover, for them and the insects and small reptiles they eat. Consistent with our classroom lessons, this exercise reminds them that humans have taken space from the natural world, so it is important to give wild animals some of the space back. Importantly, even seemingly small-scale efforts make a difference. In a short time, the students can see their efforts bear fruit with their own eyes.

Watching the students dig their hands in the dirt and actively engage with nature is amazing to see. Naturally, some of them are hesitant at first, especially if they have never done this before or if they think they are not “allowed” to get dirty. But after a short time, their excitement became contagious. There were even disagreements about whose turn it was to dig! At Dolores Gonzales Elementary, the garden area had to be cleared of brush and weeds in preparation. This created quite a sense of accomplishment because the space looked so different from the beginning to the end. When the students saw how much of a change they made *with their own hands*, they were enormously proud of themselves. And rightfully so!

The children just beam when they realize that they are leaving a lasting mark on their school before they move on. Moreover, this newly renovated space will enrich the lives of future students, birds, and small creatures of all sorts. As a committed educator, I know success can be invisible to adults. Ideally, students leave us with a new connection to the natural world, armed with lessons to take home with them.

Without Mary Harris from Plants of the Southwest, this project would not have been possible. She tirelessly provided invaluable help and advice and selected the plants most appropriate for the habitat.

We also thank the funders of Living with the Landscape, [PNM Resources Foundation](#) and [Albuquerque Community Foundation](#), and you - our members!

*Photos by Stephanie Schulz.  
Co-authored by Pat Hawley, Editor*

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## Mews Moving Miracles

**By Amelia Thompson  
Raptor Rehabilitator, Rescue  
Volunteer, and HAI Avian  
Caretaker**



On Easter weekend, a crew of 10 amazing Hawks Aloft volunteers and staff members assembled at Lisa Morgan's house to take on a very large construction project: Disassembling two mews, transporting them, and reassembling them at Amelia Thompson's house.

I was skeptical that we were going to be able to complete it in one day, but I didn't need to have doubts because this crew was skilled and efficient! Linda Contos, our veterinarian, along with her husband John Heidrich, also a veterinarian, were tasked with loading up a trailer with all of the mews panels and helping Lisa to remove any old mews parts from her yard. Lars Wells and Stephanie Ott helped disassemble and reassemble the mews, Joseph O'Leary who is a fantastic carpenter helped take down and rebuild those mews in record time. Tamryn Weidemann expertly marked each piece of the mews to make reassembly a breeze. Tamryn and I also helped my husband, Ethan Thompson, level the ground and lay out cinder blocks for adequate drainage. Jeanine Kinzer also was a huge help in moving bricks and mews parts and disassembling a large wire cage that Lisa uses to give small owls some outside time.

To say this was a dream team is an understatement! I have been wanting more mews at

my house to prepare for spring and summer, our busiest seasons for rescues. My current mews situation consisted of one large mews that houses Bubba, one of HAI education Great Horned Owls, and a very small mews suitable for smaller very short-term rehab patients. Now Bubba has a female companion, Dulcita, our female Great Horned Owl, and the other mews is home to our Western Screech-Owls, Talon, Ping Pong, and Shadow. This leaves one vacant 8' x 8' mews at the ready for all the rescues that will commence any day now.

A very huge thank you to Joseph, Jeanine, Lars, Stephanie, Tamryn, Linda, John, Lisa and Ethan! Top Photo Collage: Stephanie Otts, Lars Wells, John Heidrich, Jeannine Kinzer. Group Photo (L-R): Tamryn Weidemann, Stephanie Otts, Amelia Thompson, Lars Wells, Joseph O-Leary.

*Photos by Ethan Thompson and HAI Staff*



**Thank you!  
Wingspan 30th Anniversary Gala Sponsors!**

**Thank you for "leafing" us a note!**



**Tom Mayer:** Volunteering for Hawks Aloft is way better than working!

**Joan Hashimoto:** I Love HAI and value their work to protect the Corrales Bosque!

**Chellye Porter:** Enrichment!

Thank you for 'leafing' us a note at our Wingspan 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala!

The Valle Grande. Photo by Tom Mayer

Terry Edwards, MBA/RICP®, Vice President  
Wealth Advisor

**WOMACK**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT



**Chellye & Jeff Porter**

**Claudette & William Horn**



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## Whoooo's Out There?

### **Jessalyn Ayars Raptor and Songbird Field Technician**

Hello Hawks Aloft community! I'm here to tell you about our owl surveys in Valles Caldera National Preserve. Hawks Aloft is contracted by the National Park Service to survey owl communities – especially the rare and endangered Mexican Spotted Owl – which we have done in the caldera since 2020. Maintaining records of owl abundance, diversity, and distribution allows us to track owl activity through time and link community dynamics to climate and habitat changes.



Owls are difficult to see and sighting them is unusual. But they will respond to other owls' calls. We take advantage of this fact in our survey protocol by broadcasting owl calls at each of our survey points and listening for "whoooo" responds. Based on my experiences in the past month, here is a profile of the owl species in the caldera from the smallest to the largest owl:

Flammulated Owls call a low, short hoot in response to broadcasts. They arrived from migration just two weeks ago, and while they are one of the smallest owls, they have no issue responding to larger owls' calls. This may be because they look like tiny eldritch horrors, which scares off predators.

Northern Pygmy Owls give a high, metronomic hoot. These small owls are active during both the day and night and have eye spots on the back of their head to avoid predation.

Northern Saw-whet Owls also emit a high, metronomic hoot, but at a faster rate of repetition than the Northern Pygmy Owl. These small owls are so cute that they look like they could be stuffed and sold at toy stores for great profit.

Western Screech-Owls give an accelerating hoot. These owls do not usually respond to conspecific calls (calls of their own species). I can only imagine how boring a Western Screech-Owl party must be. Talk to your friends, folks! Or at least your territorial rivals!

Long-eared Owls emit a low, long hoot. These knock-off Great Horned Owls prefer dense forest, unlike actual Great Horned Owls, which are generalists.

Mexican Spotted Owls give several complex calls, but the 4-note hoot is the most characteristic. This subspecies is listed as threatened at the federal level which makes them deserving of a special separate survey protocol. Mexican Spotted Owls have been detected a few times since we began monitoring in 2020, but we haven't seen any nesting or resident birds, just subadult owls likely dispersing from their natal territories.

Great Horned Owls give a complex 6-note call. This is the largest owl present in the caldera. Great horns will predate other owls. Consequently, we do not broadcast their calls. However, they regularly respond to other owls' calls, so we have a good idea about their distribution.

I'm still learning so much about owls (thanks, Trevor!) and it's been fun to spend time in the preserve after dark, especially the with the new moon this week. Thank you for your support!

*Flammulated Owl, photo by Gail Garber, Long-eared Owl, photo by Larry Rimer*

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## The Elusive Yellow-breasted Chat!

by Nate & Jeanne Gowan  
Guest Authors

When our dog Kenzie was young, we would often take her to the many trails along the Rio Grande River. We all enjoyed the exercise while birding, and Kenzie's acute hearing would often alert us to bird sightings before either of us spotted one. One day while walking along a particularly dense area of vegetation, Kenzie stopped us mid-walk. We heard a bizarre mix of cackles, clucks, whistles, and hoots. We were not familiar with these chattering noises when, suddenly, a large songbird flew out of the brush to perch above us. Its bright yellow throat and breast, contrasting white eye spectacles, clean white underbelly and dull olive-green upper parts helped us to identify our first [Yellow-breasted Chat](#).



Most non-birding folks have probably never heard of this species and would not recognize this bird's habitat or unusual calls. Yellow-breasted Chats can be challenging even when experienced birders search for them because of their preference for dense vegetation or what appears to be nearly impenetrable tangles of brush.

The Yellow-breasted Chat resembles the size and stout bill of a tanager and its complex songs sound similar to that of a thrasher or mockingbird. Once thought to be part of the

warbler family, the American Ornithologists' Union gave this bird its own family, *Icteridae*, based on its physical and genetic characteristics.

This bird is known for its skulking habits, keeping to the cover of shrubs and trees which makes it challenging to spot despite its bright colors. Primarily they feed on bees, wasps, beetles, and grasshoppers found in the foliage. In the Spring, the male becomes more conspicuous than usual while establishing his mating territory. Exposing himself, often in trees, he will vocalize before launching into flight. This eye-catching display includes bouncing through the air with slow wingbeats with his head raised and legs dangling. In the Summer, Yellow-breasted Chats are widespread from southern U.S. north to the Great Lakes region and southwestern Canada. Most will migrate to Mexico or Central America to spend the winter.

To find this elusive bird, we suggest you learn their calls and look in their preferred habitats. With patience you might finally view a Yellow-breasted Chat. Or, you can bring your own "bird dog" to help point them out to you.

*All Photos by Nate Gowan*

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## Hawks Aloft Tours

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

**From \$3,625.00**

**2 Spots Left!**

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 Spectacled Owl  
Photos by [Doug Brown Photography](#).*

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## **Brazil! Natural Wonders of the Pantanal**

**With Hawks Aloft, Inc. & Holbrook  
Travel  
Oct 15, 2025 - Oct 29, 2025**

**From \$12,450**

**4 Spots Left!**

Join Hawks Aloft for the expedition of a lifetime! The Pantanal in central-western Brazil is the world's largest freshwater wetland and one of the most biodiverse habitats on the South American continent.

The star residents are jaguars that roam, hunt, and lounge on the forested riverbanks. [Hyacinth Macaw](#), the world's largest parrot, is abundant in the Pantanal with about

3,000 individuals that dine on fruits and nuts and nest in naturally hollow manduvi trees.

Our exceptional 15-day adventure also includes close range views of ocelot, giant anteater, maned wolf, capybara, tamandua, giant otters and more. Birdlife is extraordinary with species like the [Jabiru](#), [Greater Rhea](#), and [Toco Toucan](#). We will explore on foot and small-boat excursions, with several nights aboard comfortable floating accommodations that put us in the heart of the action.

This trip was developed especially for Hawks Aloft based on your member requests. It has been four years in the planning and included a personal visit by Pelin Karaca, vice-president of Holbrook who has traveled the world. Her words to Gail Garber, following her visit were, "It WAS the trip of a lifetime!"

## 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!*

## Adopt A Raptor



### Meet Sunny Prairie Falcon

Using the juvenile field mark, we believe our [Prairie Falcon](#), "Sunny", was hatched in 2012. He was found with a dangling wing by hikers in southern New Mexico. Fortunately, one of the hikers was a vet tech who brought him safely to Hawks Aloft. Sunny's wingtip was severely injured and had to be amputated.

When nesting, Prairie Falcons are tolerant of neighboring ravens, kestrels, and Turkey Vultures, but will show aggression towards Great Horned Owls, Golden Eagles, and other

Prairie Falcons. They will also become tolerant of loud noises, such as low-flying aircraft, but nests near military grounds can be disrupted by missile or gun fire.

### **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 [Kristin C. Brown Photography](#)*

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## **Photographer's Monthly Gallery**

### **Mike Rieman**

Mike Rieman fell in love with the wildlife and scenery of New Mexico from the back of a band van while touring the state as bassist with Grammy-winner Rick Trevino. He and his wife Martha Hallman decided to escape crowded Austin, Texas to a wide-open space near Mountainair, where the prairie tucks against the Manzano Mountains and the hawks are plentiful.

When not photographing wildlife all over New Mexico, recent expeditions have included Antarctica, the Peruvian Amazon, and he is just back from photographing Bengal Tigers in India.

Image 1: [Northern Mockingbird](#) versus [Swainson's Hawk](#), Estancia Valley, NM

Image 2: Greater [One-horned Rhinoceros](#), Kaziranga National Park, India

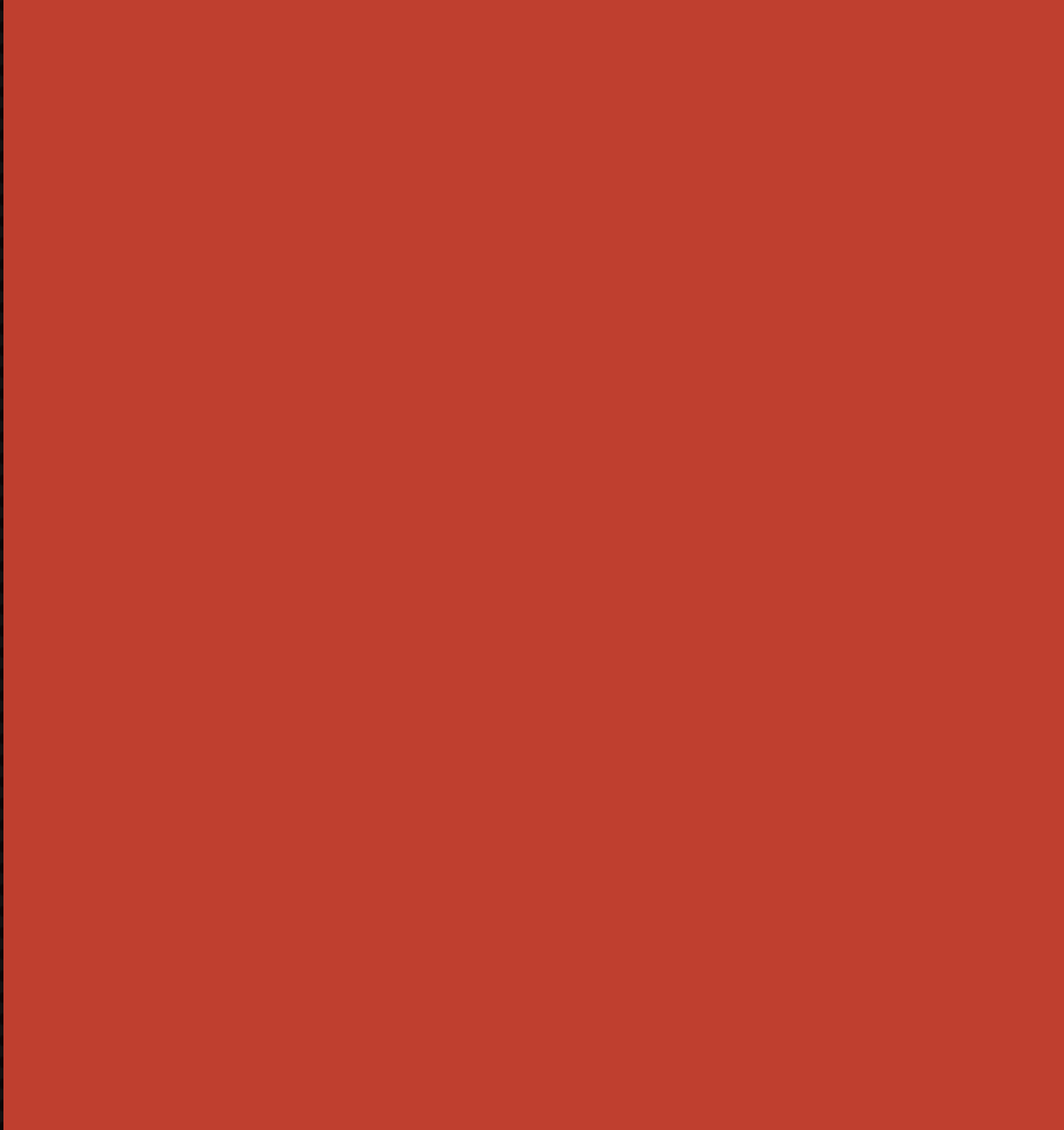
Image 3: [Indian Roller](#), Bandhavgar National Park, India

Image 4: [Bengal Tiger](#), Kanha National Park, India

Image 5: [Alaskan Brown Bear](#), Katmai, Alaska







rieman  
2024





## DONORS, SUPPORTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS

[Donate to Hawks Aloft](#)

[Become a Hawks Aloft Member](#)

### Thank You to our April Donors, Members, and new Volunteers!

Kathleen Casey  
Niels Chapman & Ruth Burstrom \*  
Teresa Garcia \*  
Gathering of Nations  
Sue Lyons \*  
John & Mary Mims \*  
Dennis & Kristina Nicolaus  
Dave Parsons \*  
Jaye Pearson "The Ranch"  
c/o National Philanthropic Trust  
Susan Ritchie Voegtly

### Our Veterinarians and Rehabilitators

Kariana Atkinson, DVM  
Candace Auten, DVM  
Avery Berkowitz, DVM  
Hannah & Dalton Bridgers  
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

### April Calls and Intakes

**Total Calls: 25**

**Total Cases: 6**

- Flammulated Owl, head trauma (released)
- Common Poorwill, wing injury
- Common Poorwill, wing injury
- Flammulated Owl, DOA
- Swainson's Hawk, suspected hit by car
- Turkey Vulture, DOA

Tammy Rourke  
Allison Schacht \*  
Dallas Steele  
Dorothy Stermer \*  
United Way of North Central  
New Mexico

\* indicates recurring monthly  
donors

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

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Jim Taulman  
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Amelia Thompson  
Wildlife Rescue of New  
Mexico

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Mary Bruesch  
Ed Chappelle  
Mary Chappelle  
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Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue  
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Gail Garber, *Executive Director*  
Jessalyn Ayars, *Field Technician*  
Wendy Brown, *Guest Author*  
David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*  
Linda Contos, *DVM, Triage  
Veterinarian*  
Susan Coulter, *Raptor Field  
Technician*  
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Trevor Fetz, *Research Director*  
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Nate Gowan, *Surveyor*  
Roger Grimshaw, *Raptor Surveys*  
Sue Harrelson, *Project Manager*  
Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager,  
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Tom Mayer, *Project Manager &  
Avian Surveyor*  
Evelyn McGarry, *Office Manager,  
East Mountain Representative,  
Raptor Rescue Dispatcher*  
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Dallas Steele, *Bookkeeper*  
Jenny Sternheim, *Education  
Coordinator*

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