

# ALOFT

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THE JOURNAL OF  
HAWKS ALOFT, INC.



SPRING 2024



Northern saw-whet owl / Photo by Kristen Brown

**HAWKS ALOFT, INC.**  
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**ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87184**

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**RAPTOR RESCUE**  
**505-999-7740**

**WEB: HAWKSALOFT.ORG**

Hawks Aloft works to conserve indigenous wild birds through conservation education, avian research, raptor rescue and collaboration with others. Incorporated in February 1994, we will celebrate 30 years in business in 2024. We are a volunteer and membership organization. Our members are a much valued part of our team, and we encourage the participation of our members and volunteers in every aspect of Hawks Aloft.

Hawks Aloft, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A century ago, scientists discovered that human activity has long-term impacts on the environment. Over the last 60 years, a third of North America's bird species have declined and continue to do so at alarming rates. Our mission is to preserve New Mexico's unique landscapes and wildlife populations for future generations by working to conserve indigenous wild birds and their habitats.

Through the four diverse areas of Hawks Aloft, we are building a network that not only conducts research on all species of New Mexico's birds, but that fosters future leaders by providing long-term educational programs for youth of all ages. We incorporated raptor rescue into our mission in 2013 and established the Raptor Rescue Hotline that is operational 24/7 and 365 days a year. Since then, we have become the New Mexico hub for injured and orphaned hawks, eagles, owls, and falcons, as well as roadrunners, corvids and the occasional songbird. We collaborate with others to raise awareness and influence change that might help slow these negative trends. We partner with government agencies, corporations, and other nonprofits to effect positive change at local, regional and national levels.

**FRONT COVER**  
Barn Owl / Photo by Doug Brown

# 30 YEARS OF HAWKS ALOFT, INC.

In February 1994 - 30 years ago - the founders of Hawks Aloft gathered around Gail Garber's kitchen table. There we dreamed about a brand-new organization dedicated to avian conservation in New Mexico. Even through some very tough times, we hung on (sometimes barely!) to our vision that is now reflected in the four arms of our Mission: Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue, and Collaboration with Others.

Our growth is marked by some memorable additions. In 2004 Trevor Fetz joined our team as a songbird biologist, double timing his work here with that of his Ph. D program. Now, Dr. Fetz is our research director. He oversees all HAI studies and collaborates with others in the scientific community to ensure that our work complements other conservation efforts in New Mexico. In this report, we detail three of our active projects: Owl Community Study at the Valles Caldera National preserve, Raptor Productivity in McKinley County and Bosque Nesting Raptors, a citizen science study.

Also in 2004, we finally moved from Gail's home into the office we occupy today. On the bright side, HAI continued to expand! However, our present office is now far too small to support our many projects. Thus, our greatest current need is to find a larger home, one that can include a veterinary clinic and surgical facilities.

In 2013, Lisa Morgan joined our team, and the Raptor Rescue Program was born! We had long worked with volunteer veterinarians Mike Melloy, Ray Hudgell and Kariana Atkinson at their clinics for cost-free medical exams and surgeries. In 2021, we welcomed two new veterinarians, Christine Fiorello and Linda Contos who generously donate their time and expertise. Longtime volunteer, Evelyn McGarry, took on the roles of Rescue Dispatcher and office volunteer, while Chellye Porter and Amelia Thompsom achieved higher levels of certification and increased their efforts in rehabilitation. We now have a dedicated team of rescuers in Albuquerque and afield. Their commitment to the mission has them driving anywhere to capture and transport injured raptors, corvids and roadrunners and to deliver them to a licensed rehabilitation facility.

Devoted educators built our program over the years, with each of them adding their own distinctive ideas and insights. Today, under the guidance of Jenny Sternheim and Liz (Lizzie) Roberts, Living with the Landscape (LWL) has blossomed far beyond our expectations. HAI's specialty is learning through play and intimate, awe-inspiring encounters with our non-releasable Avian Ambassadors. Together, the duo dreams up new games and re-imagines existing ones. Each age-specific activity teaches a concept that leaves a lasting impression, all while children are having fun and using their imaginations. All our games are creatively designed and beautifully constructed by Lizzie, Jenny, and our education volunteers.

Our future is diverse and brightly colored! Please join us as we commence our next 30 years!



Photo by Doug Brown

# THE EAGLE HAS LANDED!

One of our longtime goals has been to build a flight cage suitable for rehabilitating Bald and Golden Eagles. Now, in 2024, thanks to generous funding from Avangrid Foundation, Nusenda Foundation and The Frost Foundation, that dream is now a reality. We thank all the staff and volunteers that worked together to construct the cage, particularly Larry Rimer, the engineer who designed it, and Linda Contos and John Heidrich who not only provided the property, but also provided support and labor!

We are thrilled to now be permitted to rehabilitate Bald and Golden Eagles by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you, Monique White, for your assistance in processing the permit!

## AVIAN RESEARCH

Birds, like the quintessential “Canary in the Coal Mine” can tell us much about state of the environments they inhabit. Highly mobile, birds are more visible and able to respond to change in their environment more quickly than land-based vertebrates. Hawks Aloft has conducted avian research and monitoring for all species of birds since 1994. Although our name might imply a focus on raptor species, passerines comprise a far larger percentage of our studies and provide valuable data relative to land management practices, recreation, drought, and climate change.



Golden Eagle / Photo by Larry Rimer

# VALLES CALDERA OWL COMMUNITY STUDY

*Trevor Fetz, Ph.D., Research Director*

We initiated the Valles Caldera Owl Community Study in 2020 to document the species, spatial distribution, abundance of owls in the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP). We surveyed 40 nocturnal call points of the Mexican Spotted Owl and five other owl species known to occupy the VCNP. Because the Mexican Spotted Owl is federally listed as “threatened” due to its declining numbers, nocturnal monitoring is followed up by daytime surveys of owl age, reproductive status, and nest fate.

In 2023, we documented eight owl species occupying this expansive landscape. Presented in order of frequency of detection, we recorded Flammulated Owls, Great Horned Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Long-eared Owls, Northern Pygmy-Owls, Western Screech-Owls, Mexican Spotted Owls, and Barn Owls. There appears to be extensive spatial overlap among owl species in the VCNP.

The detections of the Barn Owl and the rare Mexican Spotted Owl in 2021 marked the first confirmed documentation of those species in the VCNP. Mexican Spotted Owls also were documented in 2022 and 2023. Although we have not documented any nesting and reproducing Mexican Spotted Owls, we did find a subadult non-breeding pair in 2021 and remain hopeful that active nesting will be discovered.

We had our most productive survey season for this project in 2023, as we documented owls at all call points. The easing of drought conditions in the VCNP in 2023 was likely a key factor in the high detection rates. Drought conditions were present during all previous years, with the conditions steadily worsening in 2021 and 2022. The wet winter prior to the 2023 breeding season kept VCNP out of drought conditions for most of the breeding season and probably resulted in higher nesting rates among owl species. We are hopeful that 2024 will be another successful survey season for this project!



Northern Pygmy-Owl / Photo by Alan Murphy



Coopers Hawk Nestlings / Photo by Larry Rimer

## BOSQUE NESTING RAPTOR SURVEYS

*Jessalyn Ayars Raptor and Songbird Field Technician*

A crucial part of our mission is the inclusion of our community in avian conservation. One way we do this is by recruiting volunteers as Citizen Scientists for, for example, our annual Bosque Nesting Raptor Survey.

The Bosque Nesting Raptor Survey began in 2004 as a collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE was planning levee work in the bosque and needed to know where raptors were nesting to avoid disturbance. Our data provided real-time information for the USACE to protect active nesting areas.

Hawks Aloft has continued to run the Bosque Nesting Raptor Survey (in a more limited capacity) since our collaboration with USACE paused in 2018. Since then, 14 citizen scientists have walked sections of the bosque each spring to locate raptor nests, note the species, and record how their offspring fare. Since 2004, we have monitored 1202 active nests and watched 4919 baby raptors survive and fledge. Long-term data like the Bosque Nesting Raptor Survey are crucial to our understanding avian ecology in the face of accelerating ecosystem change.

Coopers Hawks are the most prevalent raptor nesting in the bosque, making up about 75% of active nests each year. Next, Great-horned Owls make up around 24% of active nests each year. Rounding out our list are the American Kestrel, Common Black-Hawk, Long-eared Owl, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, and Western Screech-Owl. Finally, we find the American Crow and Common Raven which are not raptors per se but use raptor nests.

It is difficult to say whether trends in the past 5 years are due to ecological changes or reductions in survey effort after funding was eliminated in 2018. For instance, it would make sense that monitoring fewer areas of the bosque after 2018 would result in the identification of fewer active nests and species. However, other trends are murkier. It appears that variation in nest success rate for Coopers Hawks and Great Horned Owls is greater after 2016. It could be that ecosystem change is destabilizing the conditions surrounding nest success for these species, leading more nests to fail in some years. Alternatively, it could be that we are missing the full picture because we were less able to monitor the bosque in the past five years than previously.

What will the future of raptors in the bosque look like? Will nest success rates continue to fluctuate? How will raptors respond to cottonwood death? These questions are hard to answer, but our long-term monitoring provides key historical information for scientists and conservationists studying raptor communities.

This summer, we have a bevy of volunteers - new and veteran - conducting surveys. Additionally, we have a new staff member (me!) funded by the USACE to survey the regions of the levee projects.

Let's see what we can do together going forward!

## 2023 SURVEY RESULTS FOR MCKINLEY COUNTY

*Larry Rimer, Project Manager*

McKinley County experienced dramatic recovery from the drought of 2022 when counts were extremely low to non-existent. Due to the productive monsoons of fall 2022 and significant winter snowfall, the landscape showed significant recovery in 2023: The rain-fed ponds were at capacity, fresh green grasses covered the landscape, and the fields were filled with insects, prairie dogs, field mice and songbirds. Normally birds migrate through for short periods in the spring and fall. But, in 2023 many stayed and nested because of abundant water in the ponds that lasted until August. In fact, we counted more Northern Harriers and Burrowing Owls in 2023 than all past counts combined. American Kestrels, Ferruginous Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks and Golden Eagles all were thriving. Finally, for the first time, we found a Long-eared Owl nest with 3 young successfully fledged.

**Personal notes:** *Having surveyed this part of the state for 6 years, I have not only become familiar with the flora and fauna but also with the local ranchers and workers. It was good to see the bleakness of 2022, with the lowest counts I have seen, completely turn around in 2023 with the seasonal rains and snows. I am amazed at how nature can turn around under the right conditions! I had never seen the ponds at capacity before and I couldn't believe my eyes at the abundance of songbirds that filled the fields! To top things off, only one other time in all the years that we have monitored this site has a Long-Eared Owl been spotted. In 2023, we found a nest site that successfully raised three fledglings. Our excitement was off the charts on finding this nest!*





Cliff Swallow Drinking / Photo by Kristen Braw

**AVIAN MONITORING, SOUTHWEST JEMEZ WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT.** This long-term monitoring began in 2012 and seeks to improve the resilience of forests and watersheds after wildfires and other natural disturbances HAI documents avian use over time across 210,000 acres as part of the US Forest Service Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

**MIDDLE RIO GRANDE SONGBIRD STUDY** (membership funded). This monitoring project began in 2004 and documents avian use over a 79-mile stretch of the middle Rio Grande bosque between Rio Rancho and the La Joya Waterfowl Management Area. HAI records avian density across habitat types, tracks specific species in the bosque, and documents the impact of restoration work. With no current outside funding, this project is funded by your membership.

**WATERFOWL INVENTORY OF VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE** (funded by the National Park Service). This project documents the use of the streams, ponds, and wetlands of the Valles Caldera National Preserve by waterfowl (e.g., ducks, geese, wading birds, shorebirds). This includes identifying habitat and breeding status of the species under study.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES MONITORING** (funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service). Our team conducts protocol surveys for several federally listed species, including Mexican Spotted Owl, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

**RAPTOR SURVEYS OF THE RIO GRANDE AND ESTANCIA VALLEYS.** Ongoing since January 1995, our trained Citizen Scientists monitor 160 total miles to measure raptor abundance during summer and winter.

**BREEDING RAPTORS OF THE UPPER RIO GRANDE GORGE** (funded by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management). Initiated in 2000, this study documents raptor presence and breeding activity over a 56-mile stretch of the upper Rio Grande in Northern New Mexico. Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Red-tailed Hawk are among the species monitored.



# CONSERVATION EDUCATION

## EDUCATIONAL PLAY IN THE CLASSROOM

*Jenny Sternheim and Liz Roberts, Educators*

What could be more fun than pretending your teacher discovers a pristine mountain lake and then shares photos on social media? Isn't the lake beautiful and perfect for swimming? People see it on Facebook and want to come!

Then, as each make-believe visitor leaves their own mark, students learn about people's effects on the environment, in small ways at first. Next, an imagined community springs up, complete with homes, businesses, and factories. Students are guided in adding various items (trash from visitors, illegally dumped industrial waste, pesticides from crops, soap from car-washing, and cow poop) as the lake deteriorates. Yet, it seems that no one is aware of the damage they cause! In the end, the lake water is cloudy with bubbling chemicals and is clearly toxic. "Would you swim in the lake now?", students are asked. Finally, the follow-up discussion encourages students to think through how things might have been done differently to protect the landscape and its wildlife.

Critical to the curriculum, the students are supported in problem solving: How can the people clean up the pollution and help the environment? What can even young people do to protect their local watershed?

Liz Roberts, our longtime educator and resident artist created the educational game. She beautifully constructed a large-scale plasticized mat for the children to gather around, complete with a bin filled with water to look like the fictional lake surrounded by the natural landscape. Liz even built and painted the props that the children are invited to add, such as cabins, stores, a farm with cows, a wool processing factory, and an auto repair shop, each of which adds pollutants to the lake in its own way.

With this activity, children learn some of the downsides to social media, individual visitors' cumulative effects on the environment (even unintentional), and the unseen consequences of community life. Perhaps most importantly, how they – even as children – can help the environment on their own!

This game is so much fun that even our staff enjoyed playing it at our annual kickoff staff/board meeting!  
*Center Right Photo L-R: Trevor Fetz, Jessalyn Ayars, Jenny Sternheim, Evelyn McGarry.*

Thank you PNM Resources Foundation , McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment, K. Taka Revocable Trust, Perrienne Houghton and Gerald Swanson for funding Living with the Landscape.



## MEET FLASH, THE PEREGRINE FALCON

Meet Flash, the Peregrine Falcon! Flash was found in Santa Fe and came to Hawks Aloft with an injured right wing. We transferred Flash to Matt Mitchell, rehabilitator and falconer, with the hope that he might be released back to the wild after he regained strength. Sadly, his wing injury was too severe for the incredible flight skills essential for a circumpolar falcon species that hunts on the wing, even over the open ocean. Flash is now a member of our Avian Ambassador team and has another opportunity at life and to represent his species to the public! Even his name tells you about his species, the fastest animal on Earth.

## CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

**Living with the Landscape (LWL):** Our keystone, year-long education program is delivered free of charge to Title-I elementary schools. For the 2023-24 school year we are serving three Title I elementary schools in Albuquerque: Inez, Longfellow, and Dolores Gonzales. Classroom presentations feature live birds, a carefully crafted curriculum that addresses ecological concepts such as watersheds, migration, adaptations, and fire ecology, and promotes a passion for the outdoors. Younger students receive a minimum of two presentations per year.

The program reaches its apex in the 4th and 5th grades with field trips to natural areas and student led conservation projects. Most of the students in the program have never visited the bosque or other open spaces. Watching the complex interactions among animals and their habitats is life-changing for many and some students go on to pursue the sciences or wildlife careers. At a minimum, the up-close encounter with an avian ambassador certainly changes attitudes.

**SINGLE VISIT PROGRAMS:** These serve students of all ages at public or private schools and community groups. Featuring live birds of prey, the level of presentation is tailored to the audience and their interests.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** HAI participates in events throughout New Mexico and neighboring states. Our outreach booths are designed to engage audiences of all ages and encourage them to make positive choices for the environment.

### RAPTOR RESCUE

We Put Birds First  
505-999-7740

There are many different types of human-caused injury, most of which are unintentional such as vehicle collisions and window strikes. Rodenticides and lead bullets cause secondary poisoning in birds that consume mammals. Also, birds are intentionally shot. The wanton harming of birds of prey suggests a human population with little respect for wildlife and the need for conservation and wildlife education.

We are one of the few rescue organizations that will pick up injured, ill, or orphaned raptors, as well as corvids, roadrunners, and rock pigeons. HAI operates statewide and our volunteers safely transport the birds to the nearest certified facility for triage, stabilization, and evaluation. In Albuquerque, we work with a team of veterinarians with expertise in wildlife, and birds receive professional examinations, radiographs, and surgery. In compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, we are authorized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the NM Department of Game and Fish to perform all rescues and rehabilitations including the rehabilitation of Bald and Golden Eagles.



Peregrine Falcon / "Flash"

## HOW WE HELP THE PUBLIC

Part of our mission is to improve human-avian relations. Thus, our organization is a visible and accessible to the public so they can ask questions and get reliable answers or assistance.

Each year we receive hundreds of phone calls. Some of the most frequent include:

- Does a young bird on the ground require human intervention?
- Request for skilled intervention for injured, ill, or orphaned birds of prey.
- How can we live with our feathered neighbors when aggression occurs during the nesting season?

We have helped hundreds of ordinary people make a difference in the life of an injured bird. Rehabilitation always has the intent of releasing the bird back to the wild. If you have an injured bird, please call us! (505-999-7740) Together we will work to get it healthy and flying free. For those that, sadly, cannot be released, we make every effort to ensure that they have quality of life in captivity, or are humanely euthanized.

Long-eared Owl / Photo by Larry Rimer



## BEHOLD! THE 2024-25 RAFFLE QUILT

Retired architect Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer and Executive Director Gail Garber designed our newest quilt in the summer of 2023 with the help of AutoCad software as they have done before. We wanted a design that speaks of New Mexico! You will see a prominent Zia symbol, a variety of roughed-out borders, and the classic thunderbirds that have graced many of our quilts in the past. This year's design was "Gail-icized" with the addition of tiny flying geese in the outer border that repeated the hand-dyed color gradations in the birds.



Gail's long-time friends and superior quilters have always teamed up to complete the raffle quilt regardless of the challenging design or complex stitching methods. Gail and Donna Barnitz met over the holiday break to stitch the middle section, while Barb Deshler, Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer, and Carol Meincke tackled the pieced together thunderbirds. Master appliquer, Pat Drennan, hand stitched all the bird heads.

We gathered at the home of Mary and Ed Chappelle on January 26th and 27th to assemble the quilt. Rick Deshler joined Ed at the cutting table that Friday afternoon, and together they expertly cut the pieces while Mary, Barb and Gail began assembling sewing kits in preparation for the next morning. The rest of the team (Vicky Harms, Liz Roberts, and Sami Sanborn) arrived bright and early Saturday morning. We set to stitching, laughing at various foibles, chatting, and poking fun as only long-time friends can do! Stephanie Schulz stopped by to take action photos to document the process. 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, did not get the photo until nearly dark! Even still, the quilt lacked the final outermost border. But we did it!

Then, the quilt top moved on to master long-arm quilter, Tisha Cavanaugh, to add another beautiful layer of design to the pieced quilt top. Finally, our team reassembled the week of March 2 to stitch the binding. From there it was back to master photographer, Bob McInteer, to take that final photo so that you could see it in all its glory!

The quilt is set to be raffled with the proceeds to fund the educational and research programs of Hawks Aloft. We'll draw the winning ticket on December 6, 2025. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00.



# TRAPPED! IN A TOILET! A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

*Gail Garber, Executive Director*

Was it a good day or a bad day for her? Maybe both. But sometimes all the pieces fall into place to create special memories during the holiday season.

On December 22, 2023, the alert son of a Leslie Harrington Duffey, a local birder, noticed a female Barn Owl trapped in the cesspool beneath an outdoor toilet at Ladd S. Gordon Wildlife Refuge during a peaceful holiday excursion. Mother and son immediately sprang into action and called the refuge management, NM Department of Game and Fish, who in turn called our Raptor Rescue Hotline. Chellye Porter, rehabilitator extraordinaire, jumped in the car immediately, thinking “what a terrible way to die for the owl, suffering a cold, slow, filthy death”.



Chellye arrived in short order and immediately began to stabilize the severely emaciated owl after consulting with Dr. Christine Fiorello about how best to proceed. Stabilization is the first step for survival, over and above cleaning or attending to injury. Ms. Barn Owl lovingly received clear fluids every 3 hours, essential for rehydration. Normally, rehydration would continue for 24 hours, but in her case, she had lost so many calories that Dr. Fiorello recommended, and Chellye began to administer liquid food as well. Generally, it is standard practice to put such a bird in an incubator. But in Ms. Barn Owl's case, the warm circulating air would expose her to additional toxins from the sewage still in her feathers. So, she rested in a heated towel donut for the first 24 hours, too weak to lift her head or take notice of her human caretaker.

Later the following day, it was time for washing. Fortunately, by then she had begun to improve, standing weakly and responding to Chellye's presence. Dr. Christine Fiorello, despite having a wealth of experience washing birds caught in oil spills, had never cleaned a bird rescued from a latrine. Fortunately, the cleaning principles are the same, and even if unpleasant, sewage is actually less toxic than oil. By then everything was ready: basins, dishwashing soap, gloves, water thermometers, and most importantly, a facility! The Albuquerque Equine Clinic donated long plastic exam gloves and, even though Sandia Animal Clinic was closed, their practice manager, Dorothy Newbill, opened their veterinary hospital for us.

The wash took less than five minutes. It turns out, sewage is easier to clean than crude oil! Drying, however, is another critical step. She was so cold that her body did not nudge the thermometer. We had to get her dry ASAP!

Once her body temperature reached 90 degrees, she became more responsive. One could even say downright feisty as she now made threat displays towards her savior Chellye. Dr. Chris wrapped her up in a towel, and we placed the precious bundle on Amelia Thompson's electric car blanket for the long drive home.

Why does Chellye love this work? “It gives me joy when a bird thrives. When we lose a bird, we help it in another way, giving it a safe, warm place to pass.”





For all the indignities suffered, Ms. Barn Owl was stoic throughout. She was released back at the refuge right before dusk on January 19, 2024. Doug Brown, our featured photographer, was there to capture the joyous moment. This was truly among the happiest of endings and the absolute best our whole team could hope for.

*Barn Owls and other cavity nesting birds can become trapped in the uncovered vents of vault toilets because they look like inviting nesting sites. It happens more than you might think! Please visit Teton Raptor Center's Poo-Poo Project for more information: <https://tetonraptorcenter.org/poo-poo-project/>*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CHELLYE PORTER

Volunteers are vital to Hawks Aloft, Inc. and we are so grateful to have had Chellye Porter on our raptor rescue team since 2005! She has helped with various education programs and research projects as well.

Chellye considers the most rewarding part of her work is “being able to have a positive impact on the raptors of New Mexico through research and rehabilitation and being able share [her] knowledge with others.” She also treasures the close bonds she has formed with the birds in her care.

We recognize her commitment to saving birds of New Mexico and thank her for all that she does!

## DOUG AND KRISTIN BROWN VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

*We greatly appreciate our team of photographers! They generously donate the amazing photos that grace our publications and social media. In this issue, we recognize Doug Brown and Kristin Brown, the dynamic duo who have been active volunteers since our early years.*

Doug has always been a photo buff! He learned how to develop photos already in grade school. A point and shoot camera was his entre into avian photography in the early 2000s. Then, with his first DSLR and a long(ish) lens, his new hobby took off.

Doug is passionate about photography because it combines his love for the outdoors, his interest in the beauty and behavior of birds, and the development of hand/eye coordination. He appreciates the artistry that embodies a dramatic image and the technical side of post processing. Travel is part of his grand photographic journey, and he looks forward to his first trip to the northernmost lands of Alaska, 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle. There, Doug will face multiple challenges in his pursuit the perfect photo of eiders, northern duck species along with trudging through the tundra, and extreme Arctic weather and light conditions.

Kristin has been birding since she was a child in Alamogordo. In college, she began taking pictures at the UNM duck pond and reports that looking back, her images were awful. Eighteen years ago, Kristin traveled to Costa Rica with Doug where they began taking photos together. She still saves those photos from her early years because they remind her of just how far she has come. She says, “Everybody grows. Be patient and keep trying.” Kristin’s current photography presents the bird and its essence in tender moments, in a celebration of that individual. Kristin now teaches photography, where her challenge is to communicate the art and techniques to her students, something that requires understanding all aspects of photography.

[dougbrownphotography.com](http://dougbrownphotography.com) | [kristincbrownphotography.com](http://kristincbrownphotography.com)



## BECOME A MEMBER

Your membership and contributions help to make it possible to rescue and rehabilitate birds of prey, house Avian Ambassadors, provide education programs to schools throughout New Mexico, and conduct research on local ecologies and avian populations. As a member, you become a member of the avian conservation community.

### MEMBER BENEFITS:

- HAI Flyer: The monthly e-newsletter with current news and updates
- Special Events: Exclusive access to special events and U.S. field trips
- Discounts: Selected Hawks Aloft merchandise
- International Tours: June 2024 – Ecuador and the Galapagos Archipelago. February 2025 – Costa Rica and October 2025, Pantanal, Brazil.
- Pure Satisfaction: Knowing that you are supporting avian conservation, research, and education!

## HELP US SUPPORT NEW MEXICO'S BIRDS!

VISIT US ONLINE: [HTTP://HAWKSALOFT.ORG](http://hawksaloft.org)

CAREERS: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/careers/>

VOLUNTEER: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/volunteer/>

RAPTOR RESCUE: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/rescue/>

BECOME A MEMBER: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/membership/>

TRAVEL: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/events/>

EDUCATION PROGRAMS: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/education/>

VISIT OUR SHOP: <https://www.hawksaloft.org/shop/>

BUY QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS:

<https://www.hawksaloft.org/product-category/raffle/>

SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

<https://www.hawksaloft.org/about/newsletters/#request>

## 2023 METRICS

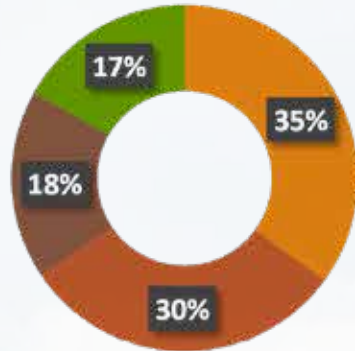
- 1 First documented Turkey Vulture nest with 2 fledglings
- 1 Long-eared Owl nest with three fledglings
- 10 Waterfowl species documented at the Valles Caldera NP
- 10 Volunteer Veterinarians
- 12 Research Projects
- 22 Volunteer Photographers
- 28 Permanently injured birds in our care
- 225 Patient Intakes (Birds Rescued)
- 243 Education Programs
- 352 Detections of 7 species of owls in the Valles Caldera NP
- 550 Hours with live bird presentations
- 660 Raptor Rescue Hotline calls resolved
- 745 Hours programming with 18 Avian Ambassadors
- 1637 Raptors documented during driving surveys
- 11,184 Miles driven by volunteer, Evelyn McGarry
- 11,583 driving miles over 924 miles – Raptor Driving Surveys
- 17,248 Students and adults reached with programming



# 2023 REVENUE & EXPENSES

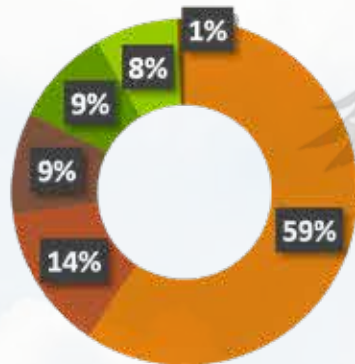
## HAWKS ALOFT INC. (UPDATED 6/6/2024)

### REVENUE



- Donations
- Govt Contracts
- Sales
- Private Contracts

### EXPENSES



- Program & Prof Services
- Avian Care & Rescue
- Merchandise
- Facility Operations
- Transportation
- Fundraising

### REVENUE

Grants & Contracts	\$ 231,965.41
Donations (cash & in-kind)	\$ 168,609.35
Other	\$ 84,833.18
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 485,407.94</b>

### EXPENSES

Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 35,471.01
Operating Expenditures	\$ 391,380.68
Other	\$ 3,756.90
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 430,608.59</b>

**NET INCOME** **\$ 54,799.35**

# WHO WE ARE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Fiorello, DVM, Chair  
Terry Edwards, Treasurer  
Linda Contos, DVM, Director  
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Trevor Fetz, Ph.D. Research Director  
Jessalyn Ayers, Songbird/ Raptor Field Technician  
David Buckley, Avian Surveyor  
Jeanne Gowan, Guest Author  
Nate Gowan, Avian Surveyor  
Roger Grimshaw, Raptor Surveyor  
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Patricia Hawley, Editor  
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Tom Mayer, Avian Surveyor  
Evelyn McGarry, Office Manager/East Mountain  
Representative/Raptor Rescue Dispatcher  
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Larry Rimer, Project Manager  
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