



HAWKS ALOFT

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



Kristina Brown
CRISTIN M. C. BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

An Unexpected Swim

**By Gail Garber
Executive Director**

In the wee hours of darkness, when most humans sleep, she fell into a pond. Perhaps she stopped to get a drink and maybe take a bath in the shallow waters along the shore. But the “pond” was actually a holding tank with steep edges and a

precipitous descent into the depths. Last week's [Great Horned Owl](#) was found - mired and tired - by the good folks at the Rio Rancho Wastewater Treatment Plant. Judie Smith, one of our newer rescuer/rehabilitators gathered up the thoroughly soaked bather and took this very cold owl home to warm up and dry off.



From there, Judie transported her patient into the arms of Linda Contos and John

Heidrich, our primary veterinarians, for a medical exam. Could there be another injury that caused the unexpected swim? Dr. John found that the pupils in her eyes were unequal, a sign of head trauma.

Each Raptor Rescue patient at Hawks Aloft is examined by one of our veterinarians, including those that seem to have only a minor problem that can be resolved with a few days of R & R and loads of food. Often, injuries and illnesses can only be determined via X-rays, blood tests, and vision exams.

As you already know, we continue our search for a new location large enough to house all of the equipment necessary to outfit our planned raptor hospital. It is a real challenge, much like the steep-sided tank with the unexpected drop off. Know that we are actively looking for a new location. We thank the generous funding from [Avangrid Foundation](#), [Nusenda Foundation](#), and the [Edward F. Zimmer Community Fund](#) that will cover the cost of the medical equipment. However, rental costs in the metro area often are beyond our means, and the secondary issue of the large, unhoused population makes some sites unsuitable.

We are extremely fortunate to have several veterinarians and clinics that donate their services to provide advanced medical care for our patients. Dr. Kariana Atkinson and the medical staff at [Petroglyph Animal Hospital](#) are generous in providing the use of her time and their clinic for our patients. Normally, I reach out to Kari when we have a patient that needs X-rays as I did two weeks ago, when we had two seemingly recovered and healthy patients ready for release, a Great Horned Owl and an [American Kestrel](#). The kestrel had slammed into a window knocking himself out, and the owl was found in a chicken coop. But in the intervening days, three more patients arrived. All of them were [Cooper's Hawks](#) also needing X-rays, for which we rely on the facilities at Petroglyph. Dr. Kari and her team were ready and waiting when Amelia Thompson, Kristin Brown, and I arrived with five patients! Kari, who is gentle and compassionate with each and every bird and never overlooks the tiniest detail, got to work with Amelia as the 'holder'. Kristin and I photographed the process.

We had high hopes that we could release the chicken coop owl and one of the Cooper's Hawks if they passed their medical exams. Thus, because of the pending afternoon release, Dr. Kari decided not to anesthetize them, so that they would be fully awake and aware of their surroundings. Indeed, both passed with flying colors and were released by Kristin and her friend Kathleen Covalt. Both flew beautifully!

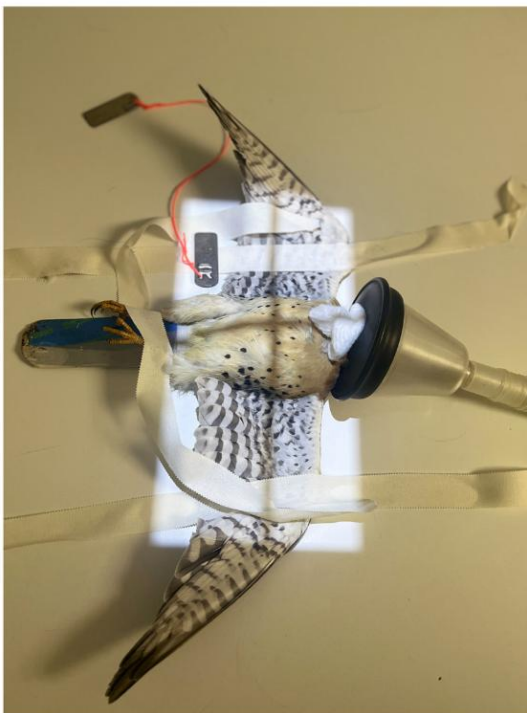
The little kestrel also passed his exam, but because he had not yet been flight tested and a storm was approaching, we placed him in the outdoor flight cage with our foster-parent female kestrel Circe. There he would be safe from the storm, well fed, and could safely test his flight skills.

Sadly, the remaining two Cooper's Hawks had injuries that would permanently prevent their release to the wild. One had a fracture in the coracoid and scapular bones. Any hope of full flight recovery would require weeks of confinement to prevent motion, not something compatible with any Cooper's Hawk. The other had a deep wound to its cere but was eating well in captivity in a confined space, unusual for this species. However, X-rays revealed that the wound painfully extended into the bone below the soft tissue. While the hawk might have survived in the wild for a time, she would be severely compromised. For instance, if she produced her own young in the spring, she probably would not have been able to feed the chicks or herself. Ultimately, all would suffer and die.

Such are the complex decisions our veterinarians make in caring for our patients. We also thank Dr. Candace [Auten of Eye Care for Animals](#), who ensures that binocular vision is not compromised in birds that have head trauma and eye injuries.

By the time you read this, the kestrel has been returned to the wild. The swimming owl continues to heal, and its eventual release is yet to be determined. And we will continue with our facility search.

Great Horned Owl release, photo by [Kristin C. Brown Photography](#). American Kestrel release by Debbie Montoya, photo below by Larry Rimer. American Kestrel rescue collage, photos by Gail Garber and Kariana Atkinson-Jones, DVM.



We thank the Avangrid Foundation for their very generous funding in support of our efforts to establish a raptor veterinary hospital in the Albuquerque metro area and Raptor Rescue New Mexico.



Help Us Find A New Home!



HAWKS ALOFT

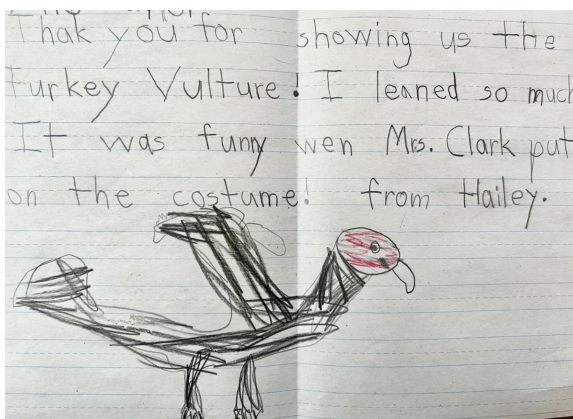
*Conservation Education, Avian Research,
Raptor Rescue & Collaboration with Others*

The office where we have been housed for more than 20 years will be sold next year. Do you know of an available building to rent? We are looking for a space that can house a raptor veterinary clinic and our offices. The location must be in the general vicinity of the Albuquerque and surrounding communities.

Call us! 505-828-9455



We thank the Edward F. Zimmer Community Fund for their very generous funding in support of our efforts to establish a raptor veterinary hospital in the Albuquerque metro area and Raptor Rescue New Mexico.



Dressing a Raptor in Rio Rancho

by Heather Rissi & Liz Roberts
Education Team

In our previous newsletters we discussed our grant-funded educational program for Title 1 elementary schools, Living with the Landscape. But, did you know we are also funded by the [Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District](#) to visit all 3rd grade

classes in the Rio Rancho school district? As part of this program, called Arroyo Classrooms, we visit a total of 36 classes in 8 different schools to deliver educational programs. The participating elementary schools are Sandia Vista, Puesta del Sol, Martin Luther King Jr., Enchanted Hills, Cielo Azul, Maggie Cordova, and Colinas del Norte.

As third graders, most of these students have never participated in our programs, so we are greeted with plenty of excitement and inquisitive questions. After a brief introduction, we proceed as normal by bringing out two of our avian ambassadors, one at a time, and explain species specific adaptations while encouraging students to both ask and answer questions about the bird's diet, habitat, or physical features. Afterwards, we ask for an adult volunteer to help us with a favorite student activity—Dress-a-Raptor. For those of you unfamiliar with our programs, Dress-a-Raptor involves dressing up an adult (usually the class's teacher) in a beautiful human-sized bird costume designed and made by our very creative Liz Roberts.

For young students, Dress-a-Raptor not only is a great time to reiterate facts discussed earlier (e.g the purpose of muted feather coloring for camouflage), but also provides a chance to learn why humans (with solid, heavy bones) cannot fly but birds (with light, hollow bones) can. We can then explain why a broken wing can have devastating consequences: Hollow bones splinter rather than cleanly break and can therefore be harder to fix. Finally, teachers sport a rainbow-colored tail as part of the costume. Third graders are still at the age where they have a good giggle when we explain how boy birds showcase their beautiful colors to gain the attention of a girl bird.

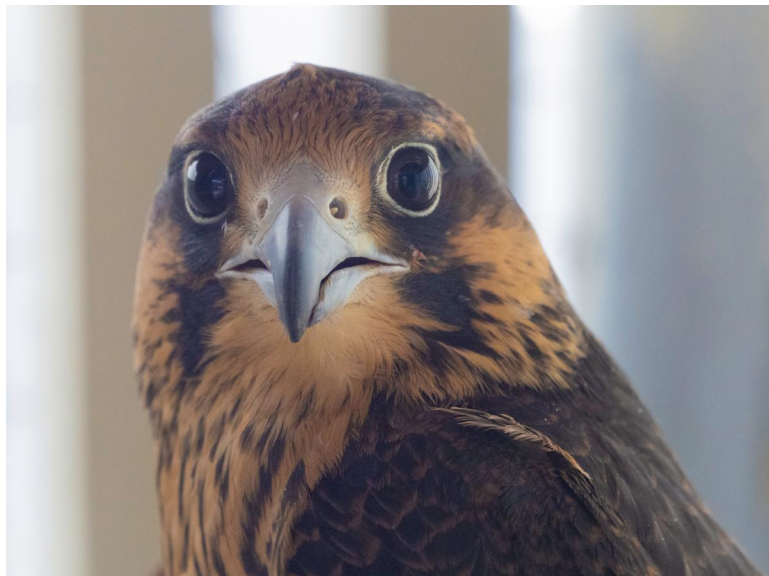
We are always thrilled to see the excitement and interest that our programs bring to the classroom. Our avian ambassadors play a vital role in engaging young students with the natural world around them. These programs, while short, are sure to have a lasting impact on these students for years to come.

**We thank the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District for directly funding our Arroyo Classrooms and we also thank the Edward F. Zimmer Community Fund, [PNM Foundation](#), and Nusenda Federal Credit Union for helping fund Living with the Landscape. We could not do these educational programs without their help.

Photos of Dress-a-Raptor in Arroyo Classroom and student thank-you note.

Meet Cliff! The Peregrine Falcon!

For two months we have been calling this juvenile [Peregrine Falcon](#) "Buddy" or "Little Guy" or a number of other names unbefitting to this magnificent bird of prey who is our newest Avian Ambassador. On January 1, 2025 we decided to ask for name suggestions from all of you. We received dozens of fantastic name suggestions over the course of the month, and we are happy to say based on those suggestions we have chosen a name that we believe is perfect for him.



So without further ado, meet Cliff!

The name "Cliff" was suggested by a couple of individuals, but the first one to suggest the name was none other than one of our current volunteers Allison Schacht! Allison chose Cliff because Peregrine Falcons are known to nest on cliffs. We often bring up this fact in the classroom during our educational programs and we think using this name is a perfect way to tie that back into the lesson. It is also a very easy name for young students to pronounce and understand, which was an important part of our decision process. Thank

you to everyone who participated by submitting names!

Look for Cliff to make his debut in our educational programs later this year!

Photo by Gail Garber.



We especially thank Nusenda Foundation for their very generous funding in support of our efforts to establish a raptor veterinary hospital in the Albuquerque metro area and Raptor Rescue New Mexico AND for our Living with the Landscape conservation education program.



Hawks Aloft Staff and Volunteers at Nusenda Community Rewards Celebration in 2025.



The Winter Field Season Continues

By Trevor Fetz, Ph.D.
Research Director

As January comes to an end, we are now 2/3 of the way through the winter field season for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study (MRGSS). Based on my surveys and the limited data I have seen so far from our other surveyors, overall bird numbers still appear to be somewhat lower than normal. Among the more

common wintering species, [White-crowned Sparrow](#), [Western Bluebird](#) and [Dark-eyed Junco](#) number appear to be higher than normal. But most of the other more common species are at lower than normal numbers, especially [American Robin](#), [Eastern Bluebird](#), [Spotted Towhee](#), and [Yellow-rumped Warbler](#).

At transects that incorporate open water, the numbers of most duck species are far below normal. [Northern Shoveler](#) numbers have actually been above normal, and [Wood Duck](#) numbers have been close to normal. I've also had a handful of [Mexican Duck](#) detections, which is somewhat unusual. But the numbers of nearly all other duck species are much lower than normal. [American Wigeon](#), [Bufflehead](#), [Gadwall](#), [Green-winged Teal](#), [Hooded Merganser](#), [Lesser Scaup](#), and [Ring-necked Duck](#) numbers are all far below normal. Even [Mallard](#), although still common, has been documented at much lower than normal numbers—approximately 25% of normal. And, some species that are usually relatively common, such as [Canvasback](#), [Northern Pintail](#) and [Redhead](#), have been completely absent.

Raptor detections are usually pretty low during MRGSS surveys. But I have had even fewer than normal so far this winter—only 20 total detections over 293 surveys. And, nine of those detections occurred during a single survey in Corrales in late January. During that survey, I recorded one American Kestrel, three [Bald Eagles](#), one Cooper's Hawk, one

[Northern Harrier](#), one dark morph [Red-tailed Hawk](#), and one [Sharp-shinned Hawk](#). That survey included all diurnal raptor species I've documented so far this winter and 45% of my total diurnal raptor detections for the season. I have no idea why all of those raptors were moving through the same transect during that survey (all separately over the course of about 30 minutes), but it was a nice surprise. I'm hoping to have more pleasant surprises during the final month of the MRGSS winter survey season.

Male Bufflehead in flight, photo by Kristin C. Brown Photography, Yellow-rumped Warbler, photo by Gail Garber.

Seeking a GIS Contractor

Hawks Aloft seeks a contractor with extensive mapmaking experience using ArcGIS to create maps for our various research projects, as needed. If you have the capability and are interested, please contact [Gail Garber](#).



Where are They Now?

Corrie Borgman
Former Mexican Spotted Owl
Project Manager

This month we feature Corrie Borgman who worked for Hawks Aloft from 2003 to 2005. She was a fairly recent graduate from the biology department at the [University of New Mexico](#) and was interested in birds and particularly raptors. She found opportunity with Hawks Aloft and joined our team to manage a [Mexican Spotted Owl](#) monitoring project in the [Lincoln National Forest](#).

From there, Corrie went on to work numerous field positions across the west before returning to the University of New Mexico for a master's degree in biology. Currently, Corrie is the regional landbird biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Division of Migratory Birds](#). She is involved in numerous projects and groups to address conservation concerns for priority species in the Southwest United States, such as [Bendire's Thrasher](#), [Pinyon Jay](#), and [Brown-capped Rosy Finch](#).

We are so proud of all that she has accomplished in the past 20+ years! Corrie says that she is grateful for the experience she gained with us and excited to be working toward bird conservation with many enthusiastic partners across the west.



This 2025 special series features individuals that contributed greatly to the success of Hawks Aloft.

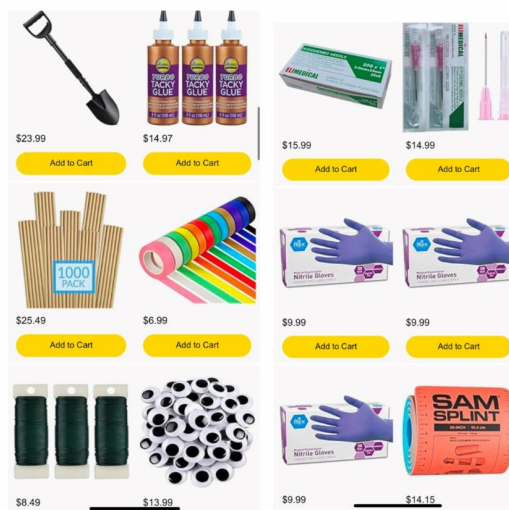
Bendire's Thrasher photo by Gail Garber.

We thank McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment for their ongoing support of Living with the Landscape conservation education program. This school-year-long program serves every student at selected Title 1 schools in the Albuquerque area. For the 2024-25 school year, we are serving Hodgin, Atriso, and Armijo elementary schools.

DONATE

Check Out Our Amazon Wishlist!

Want to give to Hawks Aloft, but also know exactly where your money is going? Consider buying something off our Amazon Wish List at:

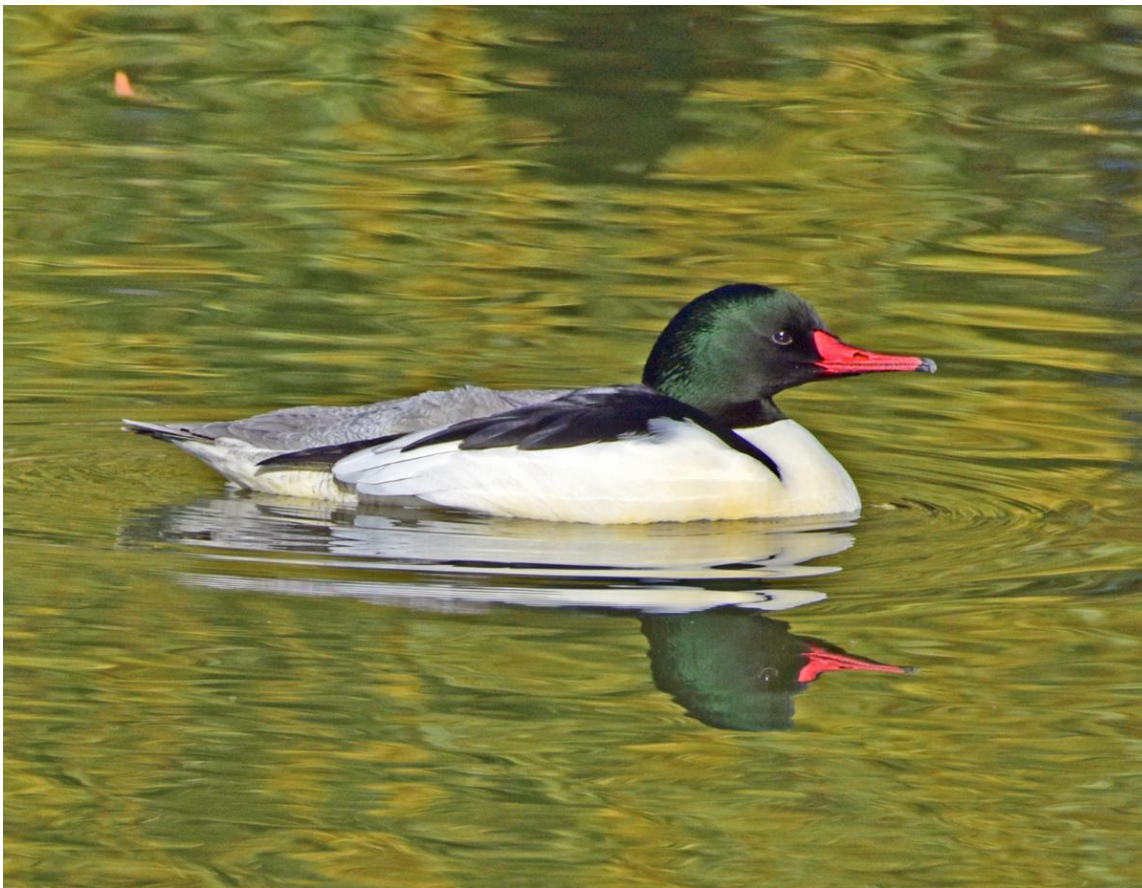


https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2RKBK1WZR458Y?ref_=wl_share

Everything on our list will be used for either office work, raptor rescue, or education. Our education department uses gardening tools, crafts, and art supplies for various school programs and to develop new interactive and engaging games.

Big or small, we are extremely grateful if you are able to support us in any way possible!
Thank you for considering us!

The image is an example of some of the items found on our wishlist.



A New Meaning to the Word "Hoodie"

**By Nate & Jeanne Gowan
Guest Authors**

The Hooded Merganser is one of the most interesting ducks found in North America. It is striking not only because of its unique "head dress", but also for its unique call. This bird does

not quack; rather it makes a number of hoarse sounding calls much like a croak. That is why it is sometimes called the "frog duck". We prefer to call them "Hoodies".

Like a Wood Duck, the Hooded Merganser is frequently found in forested wetlands. This bird is an expert fisher-bird, using its narrow, serrated bill to grasp its prey. They feed primarily on fish, but are also known to eat insects, frogs, tadpoles and crustaceans like crayfish. Its strong thick-walled gizzard efficiently grinds up the hard shells of crustaceans.

Like the [Common Loon](#) and the [Atlantic Puffin](#), the Hooded Merganser is a "sight-feeder" in that it detects its prey with eyes that are specially adapted for keen underwater vision. Research shows that their eyes change shape to correct for light refraction beneath the water's surface. Their powerful eye muscles allow them to control the curvature of their eyes' corneas and lenses thus allowing accurate vision both below and above the water. Their third eyelids, known as nictitating membranes, protect their eyes like swim goggles. And they can remain submerged for up to 2 minutes. They will then resurface to swallow their prey, turning it headfirst in order to avoid any injury from the spiny fins of a fish.

The Hooded Merganser is the smallest of the three North American merganser species (the other two are the [Common](#) and [Red-breasted Mergansers](#)). The male “Hoodie” in breeding plumage has a striking snow-white, fan-shaped crest bordered in black. Its chest is black and white striped with rust-colored sides. Its eyes are bright yellow. The female and immatures are brown with a tawny hood and dark eyes.

During mating season, several males may display to a single female. This ritual includes showing off their flashy crest while vocalizing and tossing their heads. The male can also rear its crest so far back that it will touch his back in order to win his mate. Once they pair off, the male stays with the female until she selects a nesting spot and lays her eggs over several days. After the last egg is laid, she alone begins to incubate. The synchronizing of the incubation times the hatching on the same day.

Females will often choose a tree cavity close to water for a nest. Usually, they nest about 15 feet or less above ground, but one nest cavity was recorded over 80 feet high! The only material that is added to the nest cavity is the down plucked from her belly. A clutch is usually nine to eleven eggs, but the female does not begin incubating until the final egg is laid. Usually within 24 hours after hatching, the chicks leap out of the cavity one after another and tumble to the ground. Their mother will lead the ducklings safely to water. They often gather in a tight group, resembling a swimming muskrat that we like to call, “The Rat Pack”. This behavior may be used to deceive predators.

Hooded Mergansers are common this time of year in New Mexico in many spots including [Cochiti Lake](#), [Rio Grande Nature Center](#), [Tingley Beach](#), [Isleta Lakes](#), [Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge](#) and [Elephant Butte Lake](#). Every winter we look forward to seeing the return of the “Hoodies”.

Photos by Nate Gowan.



**Hawks Aloft and Cultural
Conservation: How we Support
Indigenous Nations**

Pat Hawley and Robert Kasuboski

Most people are astonished when they learn that the feathers of native North American birds are protected by law. In fact, you may not legally pick up a feather you find on your walk. This restriction applies to feathers of cardinals, bluebirds, crows, and over 1,000 other species. [House Sparrow](#) and [European Starling](#) feathers are up for grabs; however, because they are non-native species, having originally been “imported”. Many named game species are also exceptions. The list is extensive and detailed.



Even if initially irritated, many people soften when they learn why: Native bird populations were being decimated in the late 19th and early 20th century for, of all things, upscale women's hats. We enjoy these birds today as a consequence of the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act \(MBTA\)](#) implemented in 1918. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) was additionally enacted in 1940 and expressly prohibits “taking”, without a permit, any part of these birds including bodies, nests, eggs and feathers, no matter the circumstance of procurement. That is to say, “a found carcass” is not a pass.

Yet, all of us in NM enjoy when Indigenous Nations share their ceremonial regalia and dances with us. How do they procure these feathers? Are they breaking the law?

Absolutely not! In 1962 the strict protection of native birds and eagles was relaxed for federally recognized tribes. Without prosecution, tribal members may pick up found feathers, lend or exchange them with other federally recognized tribes, and forward them to craftspeople who are also tribal members, all in the service of supporting and preserving tribal religious and ceremonial sovereignty. Even still, they cannot be legally bought or sold.

In this complex web of federal law and exceptions, Hawks Aloft, Inc. actually plays an important role! We, of course are permitted to collect, treat, and rehabilitate native species, including eagles. Sadly, not all of our patients survive. Their feathers are precious and sacred. Accordingly, we convey them to Indigenous Nations.

In 2010, [Liberty Wildlife](#) in Phoenix began a feather repository for native species (e.g., owls, ravens, jays, condors) except for eagles ([Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Feather Repository](#)). Eagle feathers are collected, stored, and maintained by the [National Eagle Repository](#), a branch of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services. Liberty is permitted by the USFWS to redistribute non-eagle feathers to Native Americans who are part of federally recognized tribes for use in ceremonial and religious programs. These programs are unique as they have both wildlife conservation and cultural conservation goals. Liberty, for example, has two major goals: The first is to support the Native American community in obtaining the items needed for their dance regalia and ceremonies. The second is to discourage the purchase of illegally harvested birds by providing these items at little or no cost to the tribal members.

What does our important role look like? When raptors come into our facility there are three possible outcomes. Ideally, we rehabilitate the raptor and then release it back into the wild. However, if it is determined the bird is not able to be released, the second possibility is to place the bird into an education program so it may live out its life, even if disabled, in captivity. Sadly, when an animal cannot be saved, despite the miracles of modern veterinary medicine, it must be euthanized to ease its suffering.

Importantly, as a part of our state and federal permits, we have a strict plan for dealing with euthanized animals. At Hawks Aloft, we transport our animals to Arizona for use by the Non-Eagle Feather Repository program.

Since the program's inception, Liberty has shipped thousands of feather orders comprising tens of thousands of feathers to 253 tribes across 46 states. In 2024 alone, Liberty received donations from 24 states and 62 different donors. Donations represented 124

different species of birds. The program has shown to be very successful and we at Hawks Aloft are proud to play an important role.

For more information on the Non-Eagle Feather Repository program and Liberty Wildlife you may go to www.libertywildlife.org.

Photos by Doug Berenson



Presenting The Hawks Aloft 2024-25 Raffle Quilt!

We are super proud that we again present our newest raffle quilt. Designed by Gail Garber and Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer, our quilt team stitched up this New Mexico themed quilt over the course of a few weeks. It was machine quilted by Tisha Cavanaugh.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's raffle quilt a reality: Tisha Cavanaugh, Ed Chappelle, Mary Chappelle, Barbara Deshler, Rick Deshler, Vicky Harms, Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer, Carol Meincke, Liz Roberts, and Carolyn Sanborn.

[Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

The drawing will take place on the first Saturday of December 2025 !

Photo by Bob McInteer.

Thank you! January 2025 Donors and Member Renewals

Joan Barbier
Charles Buxbaum & Sandia Prep 7th Grade
Leadership
Niels Chapman & Ruth Burstrom *
Gail Garber *
Teresa Garcia *
Heather Ginn (vehicle donation)
Patricia Hawley *
Linda Hunter, LPH Voice
Kris Karsteadt
Kroger/Smith's Inspiring Donations
Sue Lyons *
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Hildy Reiser
Stephanie Reutner
Mary Rhodes & Bari Silver
Lee Rottler *
Allison Schacht *
Dorothy Stermer *
Barbara Stewart

* indicates recurring monthly donor

*Artwork by 5th grade Hodgkin Elementary
student (right)*



Thank you!

We especially thank Heather Roderick Ginn and her mom, Judith Roderick, who donated this 2004 Honda Element. It's our new Bird Mobile for our education programs!



Hawks Aloft Upcoming Tours



Cuba A Journey to the Extraordinary

**January 31 – February 9,
2026**

From \$4,295/person

At long last we can finally offer you a special 10-day tour that not only appeals to the bird lover in you, but also satisfies your curiosity about the culture and history of this singular country that consists of over 4,000 islands and cays in the northern Caribbean Sea. First inhabited by the

Guanahatabey and Taino peoples, Cuba was colonized (and named) by the Spaniards after the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1542. Even still, the people embody a mix of Indigenous, Spanish, and African heritage. Did you know mambo was created here? Also, ever since the 1959 revolution, Cuba is still under Communist party rule. That will certainly add an interesting layer.

Aside from Cuba's unique cultural history, its biodiversity is astonishing. There are 6 terrestrial ecoregions (moist forests, dry forests, pine forests, wetlands, cactus scrub, and mangroves) that are home to over 17,000 animal species and over 9,000 species of plants.

Highlights for bird fans include the Cuban Trogon—Cuba's national bird, known locally as the Toco-ro—and the world's smallest bird, the Bee Hummingbird. We will visit prime birding hotspots and encounter the lively spirit of the Cuban people as we learn from residents. Reptile lovers will enjoy looking for turtles on both land and sea and catching a glimpse of the Cuban crocodile. We may even see manatees and cabybara!

We have partnered with Holbrook Travel, to create a very special adventure to Cuba, a land where time seems to stand still amidst a vibrant cultural tapestry from its stunning natural

beauty to its diverse ecosystems. It's a place where every moment is a new discovery.

[Click Here for complete details and for registration information.](#)

Featured: [Cuban Emerald](#), and [Cuban Trogon](#), images courtesy of Holbrook Travel.

Hawks Aloft Waitlisted Tours

Please visit our website for details and to be added to the waitlist



Brazil! Natural Wonders of the Pantanal

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

From \$12,450

[Click here for full details and for registration information.](#)

[Hyacinth Macaws](#) - photos by Pelin Karaca.

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*.

[Donate your old vehicle](#)

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

**Thank you,
One Community Auto!**



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 Circe



The American Kestrel

Not all of our birds attend educational programs. Some are what we call 'fosters' which means they play a very important part in caring for the many orphaned chicks we rescue in the spring. Circe, one of our female American Kestrels is one of these foster parents! Her name comes from the fierce sorceress from Greek mythology, and it fits her well, as she fiercely protects her foster

chicks!

Like our other educational birds, Circe has a permeant disability that keeps her from being released into the wild. She came to us in 2023 after a permanent wing injury, and although she cannot be released, we are thrilled that she can play a valuable role in supporting her species. Please consider sponsoring her!

When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you receive:

- A one-year Hawks Aloft membership
- An adoption certificate
- An information booklet about the individual bird you have adopted
- Exclusive access to video updates about your bird
- Your choice of:

A professional 8×10 photo of your bird, or

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.



Photographer's Monthly Gallery

Warren Lee

Warren Lee has shared a few moments from the [Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve](#) (HBVP). The next time you visit Las Vegas, Nevada plan to spend a few golden morning hours at this amazing wetland. It is located at 350 E. Galleria Dr., Henderson, NV 89011.

The HBVP has been voted the "Best Place to Birdwatch" in the KNPR Best of the City 2024 awards. There is no entry fee and the best time to visit is during the

golden morning light. It is open most days from 7 am to 2 pm. During June through August, the hours shift for morning light without the blistering heat (6 am to noon).

With over 140 acres of 5 miles of trails (including a ¾ mile paved path), the HBVP is always a delight and is never the same experience twice. The nine tranquil water reclamation ponds are the third largest body of water in Southern Nevada! They attract a wide variety of native and migratory birds: from hummingbirds to raptors to waterfowl and shorebirds.

Warren Lee is an award-winning, internationally published artist and speaker. From the tiny to the vast, he specializes in finding and sharing, through fine art prints, portions of the amazing wonder and joy around us. He is entranced by wildlife—especially critters in motion and landscapes.

[Click here](#) to visit Warren's website and [here to visit his Facebook page](#).

1. Cooper's Hawk
2. [Snowy Egret](#)
3. [Glossy Ibis](#)
4. [Greater Roadrunner](#)
5. [Great Blue Heron](#)





Warren Lee Artistics



Warren⁺Lee Artistics⁺



Warren Lee Artistics



DONORS, SUPPORTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS

[Donate to Hawks Aloft](#)

[Become a Hawks Aloft](#)

Thanks to our Hard-working Volunteers!

We appreciate all the work our volunteers do to help Hawks Aloft meet the goals of our mission.

January 2025

Michael Balassone
Amy Brenneman
Kristin Brown
Mary Bruesch
Susan Coulter
Kathleen Covalt
Trixy Duke
Tara Dulaney
Deney-Rae Evans
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New Mexico Wildlife
Center
On a Wing and a Prayer
Petroglyph Animal
Hospital
Santa Fe Raptor Center
Samantha Holeck, DVM
Amelia Thompson
Wildlife Rescue of New
Mexico

Raptor Rescue Calls and Patient Intakes January 2025

Hotline Calls: 32
Patient intakes: 17

- Great Horned Owl, Open Fracture of Left Humerus
- Sharp-shinned Hawk, DOA
- Great Horned Owl, Open Fracture of Left Humerus
- Cooper's Hawk, Cere Deep Wound
- Red-tailed Hawk, Trauma to Wing (juvenile)
- Great Horned Owl, Abrasions & Broken Toenail
- Red-tailed Hawk, Spinal Trauma
- Cooper's Hawk, DOA
- American Kestrel, Head Trauma
- American Kestrel, Physical Injury
- Cooper's Hawk, Chest & Wing Injuries (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, Clinically Healthy (juvenile)
- Western Screech Owl, DOA
- Cooper's Hawk, Neurological Disease & Physical Injury
- Western Screech Owl, Neurological Disease & Physical Injury
- Great Horned Owl, Hypothermia with Suspected Head Trauma
- Great Horned Owl, Degloving Injury of Left Wing

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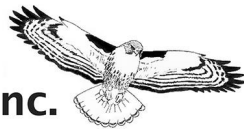
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Linda Contos, *DVM, Consulting Veterinarian*
Trevor Fetz, *Research Director*
Jeanne Gowan, *Guest Author*
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Pat Hawley, *Editor*
John Heidrich, *DVM, Triage Veterinarian*
Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager, Raptor Driving Surveys*
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