



Hawks Aloft, Inc.
Conservation Education
Avian Research
Raptor Rescue



The Long Road Home

**by Gail Garber
Executive Director**

"FITZ-BEW!" The little guy greeted us as we approached the willow swale that has been occupied by [Willow Flycatchers](#) for the past four years. No need to resort to a tape playback* to entice him to respond! He was already singing his little heart out, hoping to attract a female to share his premium willow patch. To me, he was like an old friend, announcing his return from a long journey.

Willow Flycatchers are long distance migrants. They spend their winters along the southern coast of Central

America, as far south as Colombia and Ecuador. That could be as much as 3,800 miles, flying under their own power. And here he was, back to where his journey first began, likely as a first-year bird!

Flap . . .

It was May 8, 2024, when I was out checking my patch of the bosque for nesting raptors, when I came upon a male [Summer Tanager](#). Summer Tanagers winter as far south as Peru and as far east as Guyana. My previous sighting had been in November 2023 at [Canopy Tower](#) in Soberania National Park, Panama, 3,439 miles southeast. It was a bit early for this long-distance migrant, but there he was, in all his brilliant red finery! His early arrival was undoubtedly him staking out his prime breeding territory in order to attract equally qualified mates. The northern limit of the range for Summer Tanager is south of Colorado so he likely was close to the end of his spring migration journey.

Flap . . . Flap . . .

For the past 4 years, a pair of Swainson's Hawks has raised 2-3 babies annually in a massive nest right beside the levee. Once the cottonwoods leaf out, the huge nest becomes nearly invisible. It is so well hidden that in some years the occupancy becomes apparent only after the nestlings are quite mobile.

Swainson's Hawks are the ultimate long-distance migrant. Nearly the entire world population (estimated to be 800,000+) travels from as far north as the Arctic Circle in Alaska to the pampas in southern Argentina, a roundtrip of more than 12,000 miles for the northernmost breeders. In New Mexico, "swainies" nest in open areas throughout the state with a small number nesting along the edge of the Rio Grande bosque adjacent to open fields.

Their migration path narrows through Central America as the birds follow land masses to avoid flying over open ocean. Exceptional narrowing in Panama creates phenomenal hawk-watching opportunities. It was here, that our team thrilled to see the thousands of Swainson's Hawks and Turkey Vultures heading south, still only about halfway to their wintering grounds.

Flap . . . Flap . . . Flap . . . **BLAM!**

For three Swainson's Hawks, their journey north was cut short in Valencia and Bernalillo counties because they were brought down by a human with a gun! All three birds were brought to Hawks Aloft within days of each other and have been receiving medical treatment ever since. Sadly, it is nearly impossible to find the perpetrators of this illegal activity.

This year, the nest I have watched for the past four years is empty. Was one of the pair a victim of the shooter? Or did something else happen to cause this nest territory to be vacant in 2024? We will never know for sure.



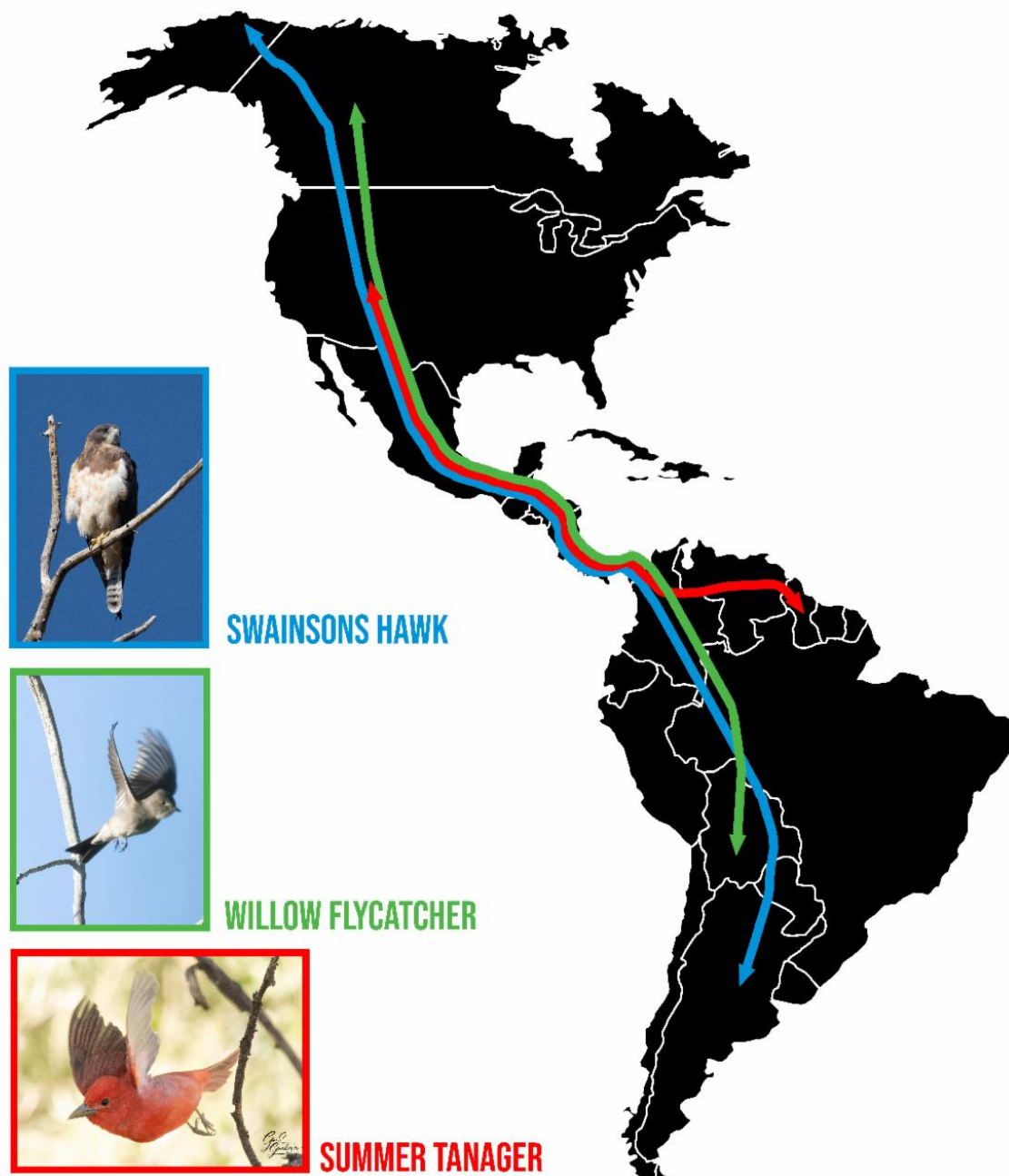
The miracle of bird migration is astounding! Flying alone, under their own power, individuals travel thousands of miles, twice each year, with great unknowns throughout the journey, and at their destinations.

All three Swainson's Hawks remain in the care of Dr. Christine Fiorello and Dr. Linda Contos. Surgeries were performed at [Northwest Animal Hospital](#). They are housed outdoors in our expansive eagle rehabilitation flight cage we built this year where hopefully they will recover to fly some 5,000 miles plus under their own power. Their potential for release is not yet known. Thank you to everyone who has helped in their rehabilitation.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service formal survey protocol for this federally threatened southwestern subspecies of Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii extimus*.*

Swainson's Hawk photo by Larry Rimer; Willow Flycatcher and Summer Tanager photos by Gail Garber. Map graphic by Scott Waters.

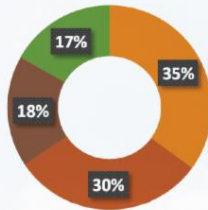
MIGRATION MAP FOR THREE SPECIES



2023 REVENUE & EXPENSES

HAWKS ALOFT INC. (UPDATED 5/30/2024)

REVENUE

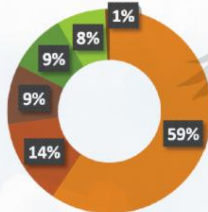


- Donations
- Govt Contracts
- Sales
- Private Contracts

REVENUE

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Grants & Contracts | \$ 231,965.41 |
| Donations | \$ 168,608.99 |
| Sales | \$ 84,483.54 |
| Total | \$ 485,407.94 |

EXPENSES



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

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Program & Professional Services | \$ 222,229.17 |
| Avian Care & Rescue | \$ 50,965.02 |
| Management & General | \$ 115,617.30 |
| Fundraising & Marketing | \$ 2,569.19 |
| Total | \$ 391,380.68 |

NET REVENUE \$ 54,799.35

ENDOWMENT \$ 76,828.59

OOPS! There was an error in the 2023 Revenue and Expenses graphic in the 2023 Annual Report. The above slide shows the corrected financials. We apologize for the error.



**The Field Season
Intensifies**

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

May 15th brought the beginning of the survey season for the Jemez CFLRP project and Willow Flycatcher surveys in the middle Rio Grande bosque. The addition of these surveys to surveys for the Valles Caldera Owl Community project made for some long days in the field. But this is just the beginning, as we will start summer surveys for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study on June 1st and [Yellow-billed Cuckoo](#) surveys on June 15th. Maintaining a reasonable schedule with all of these projects going on, is a daunting challenge, but it does keep life interesting.

By the end of May, we had documented seven owl species in Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP). Single detections of [Western Screech-Owl](#) and [Barn Owl](#) during May brought us to that total. The Barn Owl detection was a surprise, as it was only our third detection of the species in VCNP since the project started in 2020, and our first detection since 2021.



And we almost missed it. The Barn Owl dove on us from behind (the owls always manage to come in from behind) while Jessalyn and I were broadcasting for Long-eared Owl, but it zoomed away before either of us could get a visual. I heard the owl vocalize as it dove on us, but it took a few seconds before I registered the call and realized what it had been. It didn't give a normal "screaming" call, but instead a "twitter" call as it flew behind us. By the time I realized what was going on, the owl was long gone. [Mexican Spotted Owl](#) (MSO) is now the only owl species we have previously documented at Valles Caldera, but not yet documented in 2024. But I remain confident that we will encounter as surveys continue.

The first round of Willow Flycatcher surveys (occurring between May 15 and May 31) was the most productive we've ever had, as we recorded the species at 10 of the 12 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restoration sites in Albuquerque and Corrales that we are monitoring. It is likely that most of our May detections were not the federally threatened Southwestern subspecies, but other Willow Flycatcher subspecies passing through. Nevertheless, it was exciting to encounter the species at so many of our sites. We won't know until the third survey period, beginning on June 25, whether we have any individuals of the Southwestern subspecies at our sites. By that time, the other subspecies are assumed to be gone, and only the Southwestern subspecies is still present as a potential breeder.

Images: Barn Owl, photo by [Alan Murphy Photography](#); Yellow-billed Cuckoo, photo by [Doug Brown Photography](#).

**REMEMBERING KEN
DUCKERT**

Hawks Aloft



Photographer

We were especially saddened to learn of the passing of Ken Duckert, a valued member of our photography team. He will always be remembered for the kindness and support he provided to all of us at Hawks Aloft. Ken was always willing to help out, and was someone that we could call when we needed that "special" photo. He will be sorely missed. Please enjoy the small collage of his works below.

Ken Duckert, resident of Corrales New Mexico for 12 years, died at his home on May 19 of a rare form of aggressive

leukemia. As a boy in Michigan, he roamed the local fields, woods and streams developing his strong interest in nature. After working as a sports photographer for several Detroit area newspapers, he began combining his love of nature with his photographic skills. Ken extended his photography abilities while living in Walnut Creek California, Singapore and traveling to thirty countries. As a public-school administrator in California, he won several awards for his work with local police departments in their efforts to develop anti-drug and anti-gang programs for middle school and high school students. He also led school advocacy programs for state legislators through his membership in the California School Administrators Association. To share his love of the natural world he developed and directed environmental education programs in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District which enabled 32,000 students a year to go off their campuses for overnight camping experiences in San Francisco Bay area natural settings, in the Sierra Nevada gold country and in the coastal redwoods.

While living in Corrales Ken served on a number of village committees, was president of Corrales Society of Artists for several years and directed the Corrales Art Studio Tour various times. He is survived by his wife, Sandy Duckert, his daughter, Amy Bell and his two grandchildren, Clayton, and Maisie Bell. A private family service will be held in the future. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory to Hawks Aloft (hawksaloft.org) or WildEarth Guardians (wildearthguardians.org) would honor his love of the natural world.



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.



Just Passing Through! Western Tanagers

by Nate & Jeanne Gowan
Guest Authors

On May 10th of this year, we were delighted to spot the first [Western Tanager](#) in our back yard. With his bright red head, vibrant yellow body and black wings and tail, he was hard to miss. Like other species, the females are less showy. They have a muted yellow body with black wings and a grey back.



Normally, only a couple of Western Tanagers stop in our yard for a day or two on their way to the mountains. This year, we were treated to a 3 week visit from a minimum of 4 or 5 every day. To encourage their stay, we put out orange halves which also attracted orioles. We were rewarded with an almost constant show of brightly colored birds. We replenished the oranges daily, and one morning we had 5 Western Tanagers, 4 [Bullock's Orioles](#) and 2 [Black-headed Grosbeaks](#) in the yard at the same time! Friends and neighbors reported similar sightings of Western Tanagers in our area. Social media birding groups also reported increased sightings in a large area of central New Mexico. We were thrilled about

the long-lasting visit, but we questioned as to why.

Ordinarily, Western Tanagers migrate from the tropics of Mexico and Central America to the mountains of western North America. During that migration, they can be found in almost any habitat including deserts and grasslands. Like most birds, tanagers are sensitive to barometric pressure and cold weather can cause them to hunker down. This can lead to an aggregation of many birds before they travel to their breeding grounds in coniferous forests. This phenomenon is known as “staging”, and we believe that is what occurred this spring in the Rio Grande Valley. Due to the late snowfall this spring in the mountains and the lingering cold weather, insect emergence was delayed. As the weather warms in the mountains and insects begin hatching, the Western Tanager breeding season begins. They depend on protein-packed insects such as grasshoppers, ants, termites, and beetles. Once there are enough insects to feed their young, the tanagers will complete their usual migration to breeding habitat.

During the tanagers’ stay in our yard, we had an incident when a female flew into our dining room window. It was a hard crash and she landed on a storage bin. We ran out to her rescue only to find her visibly stunned and possibly injured; one of her legs seemed to be painfully outstretched. While Nate went to find a box and clean rags, Jeanne picked her up and stroked her gently. She did not struggle but was still clearly alive. We placed her in the open box surrounded by warm cloths. She moved slowly and finally recovered enough to stand on the edge of the box. Eventually she flew off, and we were relieved to see she appeared only stunned and unhurt. Later she returned to the patio where she had recovered, perched on the back of a chair, and looked into the house. Her return gave us great satisfaction that our interaction with this creature had been a success.

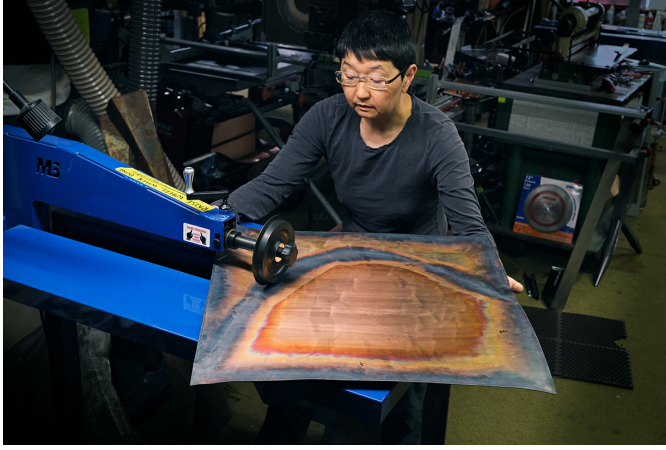
Our last sighting of Western Tanagers in our yard was on Memorial Day. We really enjoyed their prolonged visit in our yard and look forward to their return next spring. In the meantime, House Finches have enjoyed the remaining oranges!

Photos by Nate Gowan.



Meet Ema Tanigaki Marketing/Fundraising Specialist

I am the new Marketing and Fundraising Specialist at Hawks Aloft. I was born in Japan but came to the US when I was only a year



old. I returned to Japan for high school. I spent my childhood in gray and snowy Western NY and my adolescence in gray and cold Kushiro, a small city on the island of Hokkaido. I returned to the US for college and have a BS in Biophysics which is the application of math and physics to biological systems. My interest in biology started from my childhood desire to be a zoo veterinarian. While working in a zoo as an adolescent, I discovered I am allergic to many fur bearing animals! That does not

work for veterinary medicine, so I set that dream aside. Fortunately I am not allergic to canines, so I refocused my attention onto dogs.

I still love animals, especially raptors. They have everything I don't: Keen eyesight, speed and grace, lightening reflexes, and flight! In fact, the physics of flight enthalls me. From a birding perspective, I am a novice as my experience is limited to my yard. But I am very much looking forward to learning from everyone at Hawks Aloft!

I will be mostly managing social media and the Hawks Aloft website. I am also very much looking forward to meeting our members, so in my marketing and fundraising position, I will strive to help make enjoyable events.

When I am not working at Hawks Aloft, I am an artist. I am a multi-media sculptor, jewelry maker, and photographer. You can see some of my work at the Albuquerque Museum and the public collections of the city of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. My studio, Healey Studio LLC, is just north of downtown Albuquerque. My husband and business partner, John Healey, is also a sculptor and works mostly with glass. He is also an excellent photographer. We moved our studio to Albuquerque from Buffalo NY in late 1999. Yes, the weather was a big factor! If you are interested in seeing our artwork, please visit www.healeystudio.com.

Photos by Ema Tanigaki



Another Successful Year for Living with the Landscape

by Jenny Sternheim
Education & Outreach
Coordinator

On a rainy day in May, we concluded this year's Living with the Landscape program. This year, we were able to introduce the children to more of our Avian Ambassadors. Our capstone fieldtrip was also a roaring success. The owners of [Old Town Farm](#), Lanny Tanning and Linda Thorne, graciously let us visit their property again to allow the students to experience nature firsthand. Their daughter, Libby, explained the rich history of the farm and how important it was to the neighborhood and the local ecology. We took the students on a scavenger hunt around the property to look for evidence that birds lived there and that they had the resources to survive. That is, we put into practice all that the kids had learned over the year.



To measure our impact on the students, we had them complete a survey that showed us how much they had learned and how their attitudes changed. After having three in-class visits with the Avian Ambassadors over the course of a year, playing games designed to address the ecology and how to support it, seeing a birdhouse put up at their school by PNM workers to promote nesting, planting a garden to enhance the school's habitat, and attending this field trip, most children reported that seeing the Avian Ambassadors and learning about them was their favorite part of the program. Most of these students would never have been able to experience nature as they did or learn about these majestic birds without Hawks Aloft programming. We feel fortunate to be able to affect them in these

ways.

As the education team at Hawks Aloft, Liz Roberts and I worked hard to take the lessons we learned last year to develop an improved curriculum for this year. Liz worked tirelessly enhancing the visuals of our games as she is an artist and shines in the creative world. I worked on the logistics and streamlined the scheduling and communication with the teachers. Together, we figured out what topics to cover with our Avian Ambassadors and how we could make our games even more engaging. Working together and playing to our strengths helped us progress as a team so that we can continue to make improvements and ensure our program is a success.

Thank you again to Lanny Toning, Linda Thorne, and their daughter Libby for hosting our exploration of Old Town Farm. Thank you also to the donors who make Living with the Landscape and affecting change in children possible - [PNM Resources Foundation](#) and [Albuquerque Community Foundation](#), and you - our members!

If you know of a Title I school that could benefit from Living with the Landscape, please reach out to education@hawksaloft.org for an application. We are now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year until June 15, 2024.

Photos by HAI Staff



Meet Lorraine Montez

Marketing/Fundraising Specialist

I'm excited to be a new member of the Hawks Aloft team! Over the next few months, my focus will be on writing for our diverse audiences, improving fundraising strategies and tools to increase donations, pitching our stories to the media, and creating videos for our various marketing channels. I'm eager to contribute my skills and experiences to further our mission.

I have a great love for storytelling, primarily through the camera lens. When I'm not supporting the Hawks Aloft mission, you'll find me managing a film set, creating film budgets, writing screenplays, or acting. You may have seen me in TV shows like Z-Nation

(in one episode) or acting alongside Carey Elwes (from Princess Bride) in the independent dark comedy film "A Bit of Bad Luck." For Carey Elwes fans, I can confirm that he is as genuine and kind in real life as he is in his films.

An encounter with a hawk happened at the tender age of six. While biking with my older brother, we spotted movement in a bush. Upon investigation, we found a wounded hawk, shot twice through a wing. We carefully wrapped a jacket around the hawk's head and body, then biked it back to our home, where we called a hawk rescue team who picked the bird up. We were fortunate to visit it frequently during its rehabilitation. We were there to witness its release back into the wild. This experience solidified my profound love for the environment and all the species within it. The magnificence and beauty of the bird have stayed with me my entire life.

My favorite bird is the hummingbird. Its beauty captivates me, and we share several commonalities—small, fast, and fearless. Returning to this beautiful landscape, I noticed the different colors of hummingbirds here compared to those in the Pacific Northwest. While not a bird, our pollinator plants introduced me to the hummingbird moth this past spring.

Other favorite activities include biking with my husband and cuddling with our dogs – Rango, Roxy, and Leeloo. Combined, they weigh less than some large birds. We affectionately call them our perpetual puppies.

My deepest gratitude to Gail for this opportunity to work with such a talented team. I can't wait to learn more about the work each of you do and to capture you in action! Together, I believe we can achieve great things for Hawks Aloft.

Thank you! Wingspan 30th Anniversary Gala Sponsors!

Terry Edwards, MBA/RICP®, Vice President
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Wild Birds Unlimited
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 **NUSENDA**
CREDIT UNION

— The Power of WE —





V
I do not know which to prefer,
The beauty of inflections
or the beauty of innuendos,
The blackbird whistling,
Or just after.

© Larry Rimer 2017

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird

by Jessalyn Ayars
Raptor and Songbird Field Technician

It feels like summer in Albuquerque already, especially since the bosque is full of summer birds! In honor of these beautiful and noisy migrants to our forest, I'd like to share a piece of one of my favorite poems:

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird
By Wallace Stevens

Wallace Stevens, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" from *The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens*. Copyright 1954 by Wallace Stevens.

Brewer's Blackbird photo by Larry Rimer

Hawks Aloft Tours



**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](#).*



Brazil! Natural Wonders of the Pantanal

**With Hawks Aloft, Inc. & Holbrook
Travel**

Oct 15, 2025 - Oct 29, 2025

From \$12,450

3 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!"

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

Jaguar and Giant River Otter - 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*.

[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 Turbo The Burrowing Owl

It was a dark and stormy night in 2019, when this little Burrowing Owl took shelter from the storm on someone's roof in Rio Rancho. Unfortunately, that roof had a rotating rooftop wind turbine, in which she got trapped. She was caught by her neck and was hanging on the spinning structure that repeatedly hit her left wing during the long and windy night. She was rescued by Lisa Morgan, our then Raptor Rescue Coordinator, who responded to the call from the concerned homeowners who heard "something" flapping on their roof overnight. Turbo suffered trauma to her neck and also a fracture of the left wing, rendering her unflighted. She was named Turbo to honor her incredible survival story.

Turbo has been fully retired for the last two years, after superbly fostering baby Burrowing Owlets. She now lives with Chellye Porter, where she particularly enjoys soaking ups the rays on sunny afternoons.

When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you receive

- A one-year Hawks Aloft membership
- An adoption certificate
- An information sheet about the individual bird you have adopted
- Exclusive access to video updates about your bird
- Your choice of:
 1. A professional 8×10 photo of your bird, or
 2. A stuffed Audubon Bird with realistic vocalizations (if available for that species)

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

Photo by Larry Rimer

Photographer's Monthly Gallery

Rob Palmer



Rob has been involved with animals since he was very young. He always has had a passion for birds of prey, and has pursued that passion throughout his adult life. In college, he spent numerous hours studying the nesting territories of Prairie Falcons in northeastern Colorado, and additional time researching Western Screech-Owls nesting along Boulder Creek trail in the center of Boulder. Rob taught life science and biology for several years in the late eighties and early nineties. Since that time, he has spent most of his time studying raptors and refining his photography techniques.

Photography has always been a part of Rob's life. He began taking pictures with a Polaroid black and white camera when he was twelve, then quickly moved on to a 35mm SLR. His first SLR was a Kowa. In high school, he became the school's photographer and was able to use the school's Pentax camera. The basics of photography have stuck with him.

Rob spent the last half of 2007 and early 2008, traveling the globe to photograph the book, *"Sky Hunters, The Passion of Falconry"*, which was published in 2008. Edited and written by Hossein Amirsadeghi, this book set the standard for falconry for years to come. Rob has been published in the following magazines and journals: Audubon, Nature's Best, National Wildlife, Wild Bird, Birder's World, BBC Wildlife, Living Bird, American Falconry, Defenders of Wildlife and the North American Falconers Journal. Some of his photos have been used in Business Week, Fortune, The Wall Street Journal, and Sotheby's Auction House.

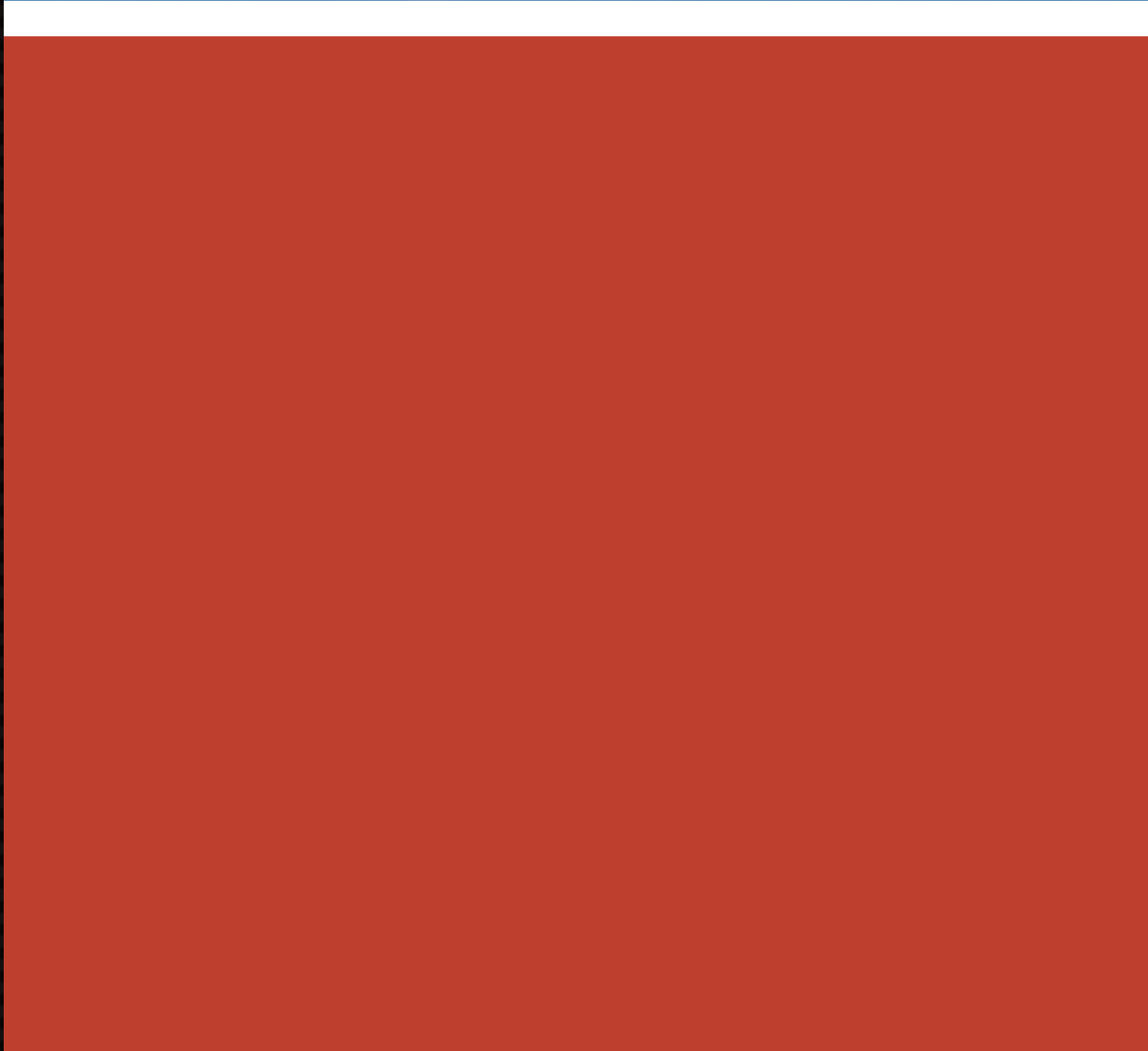
Image 1: [Snowy Owl](#)

Image 2: [Bald Eagle](#)

Image 3: [Prairie Falcon](#) and [Great Horned Owl](#)

Image 4: [Aplomado Falcon](#)

Image 5: [Ferruginous Pygmy Owl](#)





Rob Palmer
www.falconphotos.com





Rob Palmer
www.falconphotos.com

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**Become a Hawks Aloft
Member**

Thank You to our May Donors, Members, and new Volunteers!

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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

May Calls and Intakes

Total Calls: 63

Total Cases: 14

- Swainson's Hawk, gunshot
- Western Screech Owl, orphaned fledgling
- Swainson's Hawk, gunshot
- Great Horned Owl, nestling failure to thrive
- Western Screech Owl, nestling failure to thrive
- Great Horned Owl, head trauma
- Cooper's Hawk, open wing fracture
- Western Screech Owl,

Placitas Animal Rescue,
Gary Miles
David & Tracey Raymo
Carolyn Sanborn
Allison Schacht *
Heather Sieblods
Dallas Steele *
Dorothy Stermer *
Elisa Taylor-Godwin
Ivan White

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ALL of your support!**

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Santa Fe Raptor Center
Southwest Veterinary
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Justin Stevenson
Samantha Uhrig, DVM
Amelia Thompson
Wildlife Rescue of New
Mexico

- fledgling head trauma
- Western Screech Owl, nestling neurological
- Common Poorwill, window strike
- Western Screech Owl, orphaned fledgling
- Western Screech Owl, orphaned fledgling
- Cooper's Hawk, nestling trauma
- Cooper's Hawk, DOA window strike

Raptor Rescue Team

Michael Balassone
Wendy Brown
Mary Bruesch
Ed Chappelle
Mary Chappelle
Charles Cummings
Chris Gibson
Lee Hanks
Carole Heimann
Denise Inight
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Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue
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Jessalyn Ayars, *Field Technician*
Wendy Brown, *Guest Author*
David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*
Linda Contos, *DVM, Attending & Triage Veterinarian*
Susan Coulter, *Raptor Field Technician*
Brian Dykstra, *Surveyor*
Trevor Fetz, *Research Director*
Jeanne Gowan, *Guest Author*
Nate Gowan, *Surveyor*
Roger Grimshaw, *Raptor Surveys*
Sue Harrelson, *Project Manager*
Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager, Raptor Driving Surveys*
Tom Mayer, *Project Manager & Avian Surveyor*
Evelyn McGarry, *Office Manager, East Mountain Representative, Raptor Rescue Dispatcher*
Lorraine Montez, *Marketing/Fundraising Specialist*
Calle Poindexter, *Marketing Coordinator*
Larry Rimer, *Project Manager*
Liz Roberts, *Educator/Naturalist*
Dallas Steele, *Bookkeeper*
Jenny Sternheim, *Education Coordinator*
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