



HAWKS ALOFT

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



Meet Matt Mitchell Master Falconer/Conservationist Wildlife Rehabilitator/ Lapidary Artist

**By Gail Garber
Executive Director**

Matt Mitchell, a native New Mexican, has been involved in falconry since 1968. He has flown most species of raptors, starting out with Harris's Hawks before discovering his love for falcons. He has had captive bred raptors since 1989 and continues to breed and hunt with raptors in central New Mexico. [Here is a link](#) to the Falconry Podcast from March 2024 that features Matt and details his history.

Matt is a master falconer and was the president of the NM Falconer's Association for many years. He also is a wildlife rehabilitator for HAI, and our southernmost location in the state for injured or orphaned raptors. He and his wife, Stephanie, live on 18 acres of land alongside the banks of the Rio Grande in Socorro County where both are active in conservation. And, to top all that off, Matt is a lapidary artist, who hand carves intricate bird and animal fetishes from semi-precious materials to create gorgeous necklaces and earrings. Google Matt Mitchell Jewelry to learn more about his artistry.

We are proud to call Matt one of our own at Hawks Aloft! Through our very special field trip, you too will have the opportunity to meet him, see his falcon breeding facility, and watch a falconry demonstration.

Images provided by Matt Mitchell



Salute to Our Volunteers!

A Very Special Opportunity For Volunteers ONLY

Tour of Matt Mitchell's Falcon Breeding Facility and Falconry Demonstration



**Saturday, November 2, 2024
12:30 p.m. Includes lunch
San Antonio, NM (Details TBA)
Cost: Your documented Volunteer Hours
Limited to 15 Participants**

Is this you? Hawks Aloft relies on a small army of volunteers to undertake essential tasks, from large to small, like spending a 10-hour day hiking the rim of the Rio Grande Gorge looking for Golden Eagles to picking up an American Kestrel and driving it to the veterinarian. Perhaps your forte is crocheting the handmade nests essential for the comfort of nestling birds. Maybe you are a carpenter who has helped with one or more of the very long and very hot HAI workdays to bring our flight cages up to speed to pass USDA certification requirements. Or, you are one of our surveyors for the raptor driving routes that have been ongoing since 1995!

We appreciate you and value the time you freely give to us! As of April 2024, the Nonprofit Leadership Center estimated the national value of each volunteer hour is currently \$33.49, a 5.3% increase from 2022. We could never accomplish even a fraction of what we do without you! We rely on the donation of your time and mileage, and we have to document both to use when applying for grants and corporate support! That means, we need your data, or at least your best guess on the number of hours and miles you have donated!

How does this event work? Contact Robert to receive a reporting form. Fill it out and return to the same email. We will compile a list from the responses which will be tabulated by time and date. Once we evaluate your response, we will notify you of the meeting location.

In the event that more people apply than we can take, we will offer this same event in the winter/spring of 2025.



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



Hawks Aloft Volunteer Training Class

When: November 9, 2024

Where: Bachechi Open Space Education Building

9521 Rio Grande Blvd

Time: 9 AM – 12 PM

Cost: \$35 — Includes membership and volunteer manual.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Hawks Aloft (HAI) is unique in that the four pillars of our foundation are quite diverse:

- Conservation Education
- Avian Research
- Raptor Rescue
- Collaboration with Others

Attend our volunteer training to learn more about Hawks Aloft programs and how volunteers are an integral part of all of our programs. Meet current staff and volunteers, including our veterinarians who oversee the raptor rescue program. Meet some of our avian ambassadors and begin to learn about the different species as well as the injuries that cause them to be non-releasable.

Learn how you can get involved! We particularly seek volunteers to help with Raptor Rescue, education programs, and field research. We also seek writers who appreciate crafting a story about a particular species or group of birds, for social media. Also seeking experienced woodworkers and makers to help with various construction projects such as building flight cages, nest boxes, and assisting with maintenance on flight cages.

We look forward to meeting you and beginning to work together.

Remembering Nancy and Bryan Hall

We never know when someone new comes into our lives if it will be a temporary relationship or if it will evolve into something far deeper. Such was the case with Nancy and Bryan Hall.

Most of you may remember them showing up unexpectedly at the office, with a full SUV load of supplies of everything imaginable, from tissues to ink cartridges and specialized avian safe cleaning materials at \$50 a gallon. They kept us fully stocked for all of our needs, from education to raptor rescue. Dedicated to Hawks Aloft for many years, the Halls made sure we were always well supplied.

The Halls loved to travel, and their home was packed full of treasures and memories they collected along the way. Of particular interest to me were the Lone Star quilts created by the Lakota tribe of South Dakota and other indigenous art.



We came to expect visits from them often and were surprised when suddenly there was no contact from them. It was not until estate executors, Tom and Robin Cummings, reached out to us, that we learned both had passed away within months of each other. We were saddened to hear the news of their passing and very moved to find out Hawks Aloft would receive a portion of their estate. The Cummings hand-delivered the check in September: \$66,212. These funds will be invaluable to us as we face a move to a new location and the

purchase of X-ray and anesthesia equipment.

We are forever grateful for Bryan and Nancy's gift. Their passion for nature and Hawks Aloft will always be remembered. And of course, we will always have such fond memories of their visits!

DONATE



Gearing up for Classroom Visits

**By Heather Rissi &
Liz Roberts,
Education Team**

A major pillar of Hawks Aloft is education. Every year we provide different elementary schools in the Albuquerque area with conservation-based educational programs.

Living with the Landscapes is a donor-funded program that focuses on teaching students about raptors and nature through interactive games and visits with our raptor ambassadors.

Every year two to three schools are selected after an application process. The selected schools receive multiple visits to every K-5 class throughout the school year. This year three schools were chosen: Atrisco Elementary, Armijo Elementary, and Hodgkin Elementary.

In addition to the activities mentioned, fifth grade students create a small pollinator garden on their campus that they must help care for throughout the school year. The goal is to increase their knowledge of native plants and pollinators and encourage environmental stewardship.

In the spring, fourth and fifth grade classes also take a field trip to [Old Town Farms](#), a 12-acre farm located in the North Valley, where they get to experience a working urban farm and participate in additional activities and crafts.



We also will visit all Rio Rancho third graders between January and March as part of our Arroyo Classroom program. We bring our ambassador birds and engage the classes in interactive games that teach conservation topics.

One of the joys of being an educator is positively impacting students by giving them the confidence to voice their opinions. Younger students often speak freely without fear of judgment, raising their hands in unison to answer a question or tell us a story. Older students are usually more apprehensive about joining the conversation and answering questions, perhaps fearing judgment. Our programs are designed to encourage students to think for themselves and come up with answers through interactive games. By the time the older students have their field trip at the end of the school year, they have seen us several times and there is a notable difference in their enthusiasm to join our conversations. Witnessing this boost in confidence each year is one of the things that makes being an educator with Hawks Aloft a valuable, joyful profession.

We thank the schools who applied for the Living with the Landscape program but did not get chosen this year. We are only able to offer this extended program to a few schools every year and we try to visit different schools in order to reach the most students. We encourage all schools to apply for future programs.

We could not do this program without the support of our funders. This year, the funders for Living with the Landscape are Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), McCaughin Mountain Foundation, K. Taka Revocable Trust, and private donors, Gerald Swanson and Perrienne Houghton. Arroyo Classrooms are funded by Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation Service. Thank you again so much for your support and funding!

Photos by Gail Garber

Upcoming Events

October 22, 2024 will be a special day for the group who signed up for Gail Garber's lecture, "Raptors of New Mexico". The course is offered by [Albuquerque Oasis](#) at 3301 Menaul Blvd NE at 12:30 pm. Gail will talk about and show photos of the raptors that can be found in our state. Learn fascinating raptor facts while also hearing exciting true stories. Several of our non-releasable raptors will be present. Check to see if there are any cancellations.

Visit us at other upcoming events!

October 12: [Roswell Museum Science and Art Fair](#)

October 19: [Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR](#)



2024 Raptor Surveys in North-Central New Mexico

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

Since 2000, Hawks Aloft has conducted raptor monitoring surveys for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) during 18 different years in the Upper Rio Grande Gorge, Rio San Antonio Gorge, and Orilla Verde Recreation Area in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. These gorges are relatively undeveloped and are important nesting areas for raptors in north-central New Mexico. The abundance of cliff walls provide an ideal nesting substrate for multiple raptor species, including [Golden Eagle](#), [Prairie Falcon](#), and [Peregrine Falcon](#).



In 2024, Hawks Aloft was subcontracted by Cottonwood Environmental Consulting to conduct raptor surveys in these areas for the BLM. Susan Harrelson has been involved with this project for multiple years, and we are grateful for her service as project manager in 2024. Jessalyn Ayars, Susan Coulter, Roger Grimshaw, and Brian Long also assisted

with surveys this year.

Over the course of this study, nine different raptor species have been documented breeding in the survey areas. [Red-tailed Hawk](#) (94 active nests) has been the most common breeder, followed by Golden Eagle (91 nests), Prairie Falcon (59 nests), and Peregrine Falcon (22 nests). Cumulatively among these four most common breeding raptors, Prairie Falcon has had the highest nest success rate (90%), followed by Red-tailed Hawk (76% successful), Golden Eagle (72%), and Peregrine Falcon (68%). Other breeding raptors include [Great Horned Owl](#), [Ferruginous Hawk](#), American Kestrel, [Swainson's Hawk](#), and [Turkey Vulture](#). Bald Eagle has been documented as a migrant, but not as a breeder.

In 2024, Susan and her survey team documented 11 active nests among five different raptor species. Known outcome was determined at nine of the 11 nests, with seven successes and two failures. Red-tailed Hawk was the most successful nesting species in 2024, with all four documented nests fledging young. Single, successful nests also were documented for Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, and Great Horned Owl. The 11 active nests documented in 2024 tied with 2019 for the fewest among the 15 years of similar survey effort, and 2024 was the first year with no active falcon nests observed among the three regularly occurring falcon species. But, in addition to the 11 active nests, nine occupied raptor territories were observed, including three American Kestrel territories and two Prairie Falcon territories. Peregrine Falcon also was observed on multiple occasions, but not consistently enough in specific locations to be classified as occupying territories.

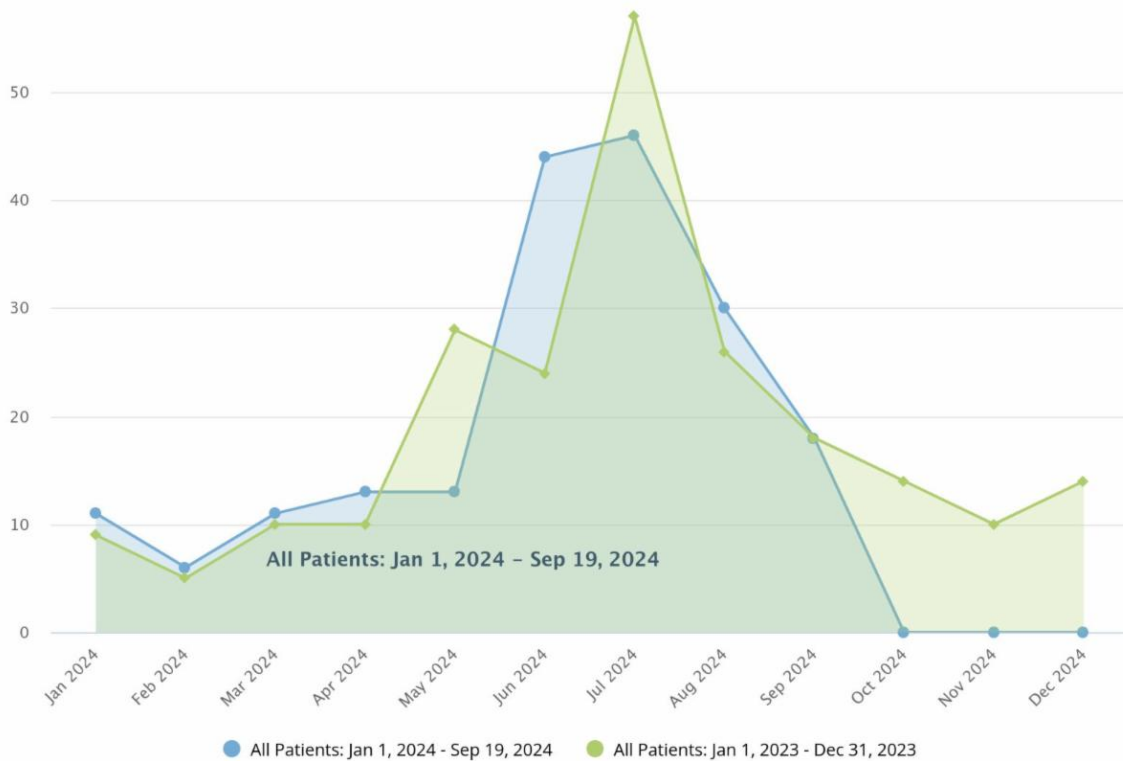
Moderate to severe drought conditions throughout the survey area during the majority of the nesting season was likely a key factor in the low number of active nests and the relatively high number of occupied territories documented in 2024. Drought conditions tend to negatively impact raptor prey species, and poor breeding conditions (i.e. a paucity of prey) can cause raptors to forego breeding. Throughout this study, we have generally observed that the number of active nests is lower and the number of occupied territories is higher during years characterized by drought.

Golden Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk, photos by [Alan Murphy Photography](#).

Raptor Rescue Update

We thank all the funders who support our Raptor Rescue program. The chart below tracks patient intakes through the end of September 2024, compared to intakes in all of 2023. We just received our 200th patient this year. With three months remaining in the year, we are on track to beat the 225 patients we treated in 2023. We recently sent an update to each of the 2024 foundation and corporate funders. This interim report details successes as well as challenges. If you would like to receive a copy of the report, please [contact Gail Garber](#) to request a copy.

Patients Admitted



Help Support ... Fall for Wildlife Auction



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The office where we have been housed for more than 20 years will be sold next year. Of course, we also are crammed into a small space with barely enough room to move around. With the looming possibility of a move, we took stock of our collected treasures. Our auction features jewelry, bird baths, feeders, yard decoration photography and artwork. There is something for everyone!

Check back often as we may add more treasures.

Click here to visit the auction

Hawks-Aloft.betterworld.org



A Young Kite, A Long Drive, and a Second Chance

By Robert Kasuboski, Outreach Coordinator

Evelyn McGarry, our amazingly patient raptor rescue dispatcher was on vacation, so I inherited the hotline phone in her absence. The phone rang at 1 pm on Sunday. It was a pleasant gentleman from Clayton, New Mexico who had found a young bird with an injured wing. I asked him questions and he sent me a photo so I could identify the species.

I then sent a request to our volunteer transport list to see who could pick up the bird in Clayton. After no response, I realized I would be driving to Clayton, 4 hours away. I quickly prepared for the drive, grabbing a transport box, a sheet to cover the box, a towel and leather gloves if I needed to catch the bird. I began in Moriarty, then drove through Galisteo to I-25, then onward through Las Vegas and then Springer. From there, it was a spectacular drive across the eastern plains. Massive clouds loomed over the mountains. There were fields of sunflowers and old buildings along the old Santa Fe Trail! Once in Clayton, the GPS failed, but after a quick call, I arrived at his fence.

The gentleman had caught the bird before I arrived, so we took a quick look at it – a juvenile [Mississippi Kite](#). We suspected something was up with a wing, but other than that, it looked to be in good shape. We tucked the kite into a travel box and after a quick dinner, it was time for the long trek back. I took a slightly different route traveling south to Tucumcari where I caught I-40. We arrived at my Edgewood home late, so I put the kite up for the night with electrolytes to drink.

In the morning, I transferred the kite to volunteer raptor rehabber Amelia Thompson. She agreed it needed an x-ray. Fortunately, Dr. Kari Atkinson, another volunteer, was available to see the kite. The x-rays confirmed a minor fracture in one wing bone, but the bone was aligned and otherwise in good shape. We formulated a care plan and Amelia took on that responsibility. The kite continues to do well in her care. It will take at least eight weeks before we could consider releasing it, and by then other kites will have migrated south. That means the kite will spend the winter in New Mexico. We will evaluate her in the spring to determine if it is releasable.

Raptor rescue and rehabilitation take time and coordination. Before a bird can be treated it must first be caught or transported to the right individual for care. Many who help with these rescues are volunteers. Without them, raptor rescue would be a struggle. New Mexico is a large state and we need volunteers who can help, especially those who might be able to pick up and transport a bird to Albuquerque or another designated location. In addition to seeing raptors up close you may also travel to beautiful New Mexico locations. It was a huge undertaking to first transport and now treat the Mississippi Kite, but her potential release will be rewarding.

Would you like to join our team and help rescue raptors? Contact [Robert](#) or [Evelyn](#) for more information.

Photos by Robert Kasuboski, and Kariana Atkinson, DVM.



A Bouquet or a Confusion? [Wilson's Warbler](#)

**By Nate & Jeanne Gowan
Guest Authors**

Wilson's Warbler always seems to be in motion, flicking its wings and wagging its tail in circles. This energetic activity helps



a birder to identify this little warbler, but its bright yellow underside and face, offset by its olive-green back and wings clearly defines this bird. The male Wilson's Warbler also sports a jet-black cap that resembles a beret. Weighing less than half an ounce, the Wilson's is one of the smallest of the warblers.

Wilson's Warblers are named after the Scottish poet and ornithologist, Alexander Wilson. This colorful warbler is found in meadows and forest thickets. Its range covers nearly the entire North American continent. We often see a few Wilson's Warblers in our neighborhood during fall migration, but this year they showed up in large numbers. A group of warblers can be called a "bouquet" or "confusion" which seems appropriate when they arrive in such large numbers.

Wilson's Warbler is a species most often found in thickets along streams and ponds. They also are found in drier habitats such as forests and coastal scrubs. During winter, they are found in densely vegetated habitats. They can be found in the highlands of southern Mexico, choosing alpine grasslands or even coffee plantations.

Breeding takes place from Alaska's Aleutian Islands east to Canada's Atlantic provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. In the West, its range runs from the Rocky Mountains down to the West Coast of southern California where some Wilson's Warblers choose to winter.

Their diet consists mostly of small arthropods including bees, beetles and caterpillars. They also enjoy berries found in forest shrubs, but do not visit feeders with seed. If you want to attract this colorful bird to your yard, provide shrubs, native trees, bushes and a water feature. Keep your binoculars ready. You never know what might show up outside your window or in your neighborhood!

Photos by Nate Gowan.



The Value of a Volunteer

By Robert Kasuboski Outreach Coordinator

Throughout my childhood, my family showed me the importance and value of volunteering. We spent time helping various organizations by cooking dinners for large events and helping as often as we could. We continued to volunteer, and I learned the importance of teamwork through my high school years by raising livestock and helping our friends with their livestock or other projects. I continue those volunteer efforts to this day.

While it may seem small, volunteering is vital to the operation of most nonprofits. Organizations benefit from volunteers in a number of ways. Volunteers bring a variety of useful skills and experiences that support the organization's mission. They also help raise awareness that ultimately increases the impact. The current national average value for a volunteer hour is \$33.50 per hour. Nonprofits tally volunteer hours and multiply them by the current value rate to calculate financial contributions from volunteers. These hours help show community support for a program, an important factor when securing grants that assist an organization's mission.

Tracking volunteer hours and mileage is also a way to match funds. For example, a \$10,000 grant might require 1:1 matching funds, so the organization must front \$10,000 to receive an additional \$10,000. In that case, an organization can show they are contributing \$10,000 through volunteer contributions (time/mileage).

There also are numerous perks for volunteers beyond the satisfaction of helping, such as tax benefits. Some companies encourage volunteer participation and some even give employees time off for volunteer efforts in the community. Some companies, like Intel, donate \$10 for every hour that an employee or retiree works. For example, Hawks Aloft received \$10,000 based on the volunteer hours of Larry Rimer, an Intel retiree, and Jeanine Kinzer, a current employee.

Other benefits include: stress relief and mindfulness, building a sense of purpose, learning new skills, creating social connections, and an overall boost to your mental health. Interestingly, while many volunteer in their career field, often the opposite is true where individuals pursue their own interests.

Overall, the value of the volunteer is far more than the \$33.50 national average. The hard truth is most non-profit organizations could not exist without the help of their volunteers!

*Lead photo: Larry Rimer, Joseph O'Leary, Lars Wells. Inset photo: Amelia Thompson.
Photos by Gail Garber.*



Meet Heather Rissi

Educator/Naturalist Writer

Heather grew up enjoying the beautiful Arizona desert. She worked as a veterinary technician and graduated with bachelor degrees in journalism and veterinary science. During that time, she also volunteered

and worked for a program called [Raptor Free Flight](#) at the [Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum](#). It was there that Heather discovered her passion for conservation education and birds of prey. This led her to pursue graduate work that included several classes abroad. She studied Buddhism and conservation in Thailand and human and wildlife conflicts in Kenya. She completed a master's in zoology with a focus on Mexican gray wolf conservation education.

Along the way she met her husband in Northern Arizona and then moved to Oregon where they started a family. She recently moved back to the southwest to enjoy the warmer weather and be closer to her extended family. After returning to the southwest, and prior to starting at Hawks Aloft, she volunteered for another free-flight raptor program, [Birds on Sky](#), in Lakeside, Arizona. Here at Hawks Aloft, Heather enjoys sharing her passion for raptors and conservation in the classroom and at other outreach events. In her spare time, Heather enjoys writing, photography, gardening, and learning skills needed to develop her family's homestead.

You might have noticed the many social media posts Heather has created for both Facebook and Instagram! [Check them out!](#)



**Presenting
The Hawks Aloft
2024-25 Raffle Quilt!
By Gail Garber, Executive Director**

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!
Wingspan 30th Anniversary Gala Sponsors!**

Terry Edwards, MBA/RICP®, Vice President
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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-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

**Birding Costa Rica
with
Hawks Aloft &
Holbrook Travel
February 9 - 19, 2025
From \$3,625.00**



[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.

Keel-billed Toucan

Photos by [Kristin C. Brown Photography](#)

Brazil!
Natural Wonders of



Pelin Karaca.

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

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,



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.

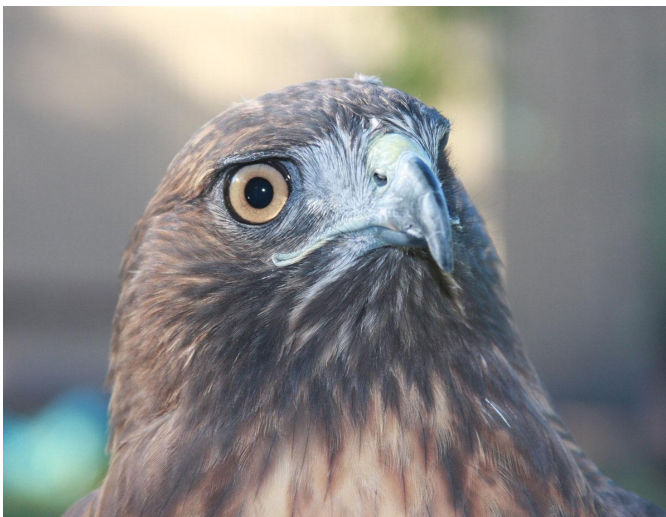


The company recently changed their policies regarding the program; so even if you've signed up in the past, you may need to do it again! The good news is that it is easy to do so.

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 Aguillilla The Red-tailed Hawk

Aguillilla, called Lilla by her caretaker Chellye Porter, was found as a juvenile in the backyard of a local falconer. She had suffered severe trauma to her left eye, along with glaucoma. Veterinarians made the difficult, but essential, decision to surgically remove her eye in order to avoid further complications. She has no problems flying, but would have trouble hunting prey in the wild because hawks depend heavily on

their binocular vision. Lilla is a *big* girl and she is often mistaken for a Golden Eagle when attending outreach events. Her name, Aguillilla, translates from Spanish to mean *Little Eagle*. She lives with Harlan, the Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk.

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 Gail Garber.

Photographer's Monthly Gallery

Kristin Brown

Kristin's love for photographing nature and wildlife (birds in particular) have led her to remote corners of North America, Central and South America, and even twice to the Arctic Circle. After recently retiring from a 36-year career in nursing, she hopes to expand her portfolio with trips to Asia, Africa and Australia.



The beauty in her images comes from a combination of sharply honed technical knowledge and sense of aesthetics – capturing not only the most minute details of her subjects but also their very essence.

She has donated many of her personal images to Hawks Aloft and other charities. Her photos are featured in iBird, a handheld interactive field guide to the Birds of North America. Kristin lives with her husband, Doug Brown, and two parrots in Albuquerque where she is an active and vital member of the local birding and photography communities.

View her work on her [website](#). Follow her on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Image 1: [Long-billed Dowitcher](#), photographed in Utqiavik, Alaska

Image 2: [King Eider](#), photographed in Utqiavik, Alaska

Image 3: [Sword-billed Hummingbird](#), photographed in Yanacocha Preserve Ecuador

Image 4: [Cackling Goose](#), photographed in Anchorage, Alaska

Image 5: [Redhead](#) with the classic head throw pose, photographed in Tingley Ponds, Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Kristin Brown
KRISTIN C. BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY





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Thank to our September Donors

* indicates recurring monthly donors

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

September Raptor Rescue

Hotline Calls: 70

Patient intakes: 26

- Cooper's Hawk, elbow fracture with necrotic tissue (juvenile)
- Mississippi Kite, fractured tibiotarsus
- Cooper's Hawk, compound fracture of tibiotarsus (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, DOA
- Mississippi Kite, open fracture distal humerus, bone exposed, wing rotated
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis (juvenile)
- Mississippi Kite, fractured radius (juvenile)
- Mississippi Kite, wing injury
- Pied-billed Grebe, both wings injured (fledgling)
- Long-eared Owl, fractured humerus (adult)
- Swainson's Hawk, hit by car (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, proximal humeral fracture (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, part of wing amputated at carpometacarpus and distal (adult)
- Swainson's Hawk, open fracture, no metallic shrapnel noted (adult)
- Common Nighthawk, swollen eye & possible shoulder injury
- Cooper's Hawk, window strike (juvenile)
- Western Screech Owl, DOA
- Mississippi Kite,

Thank you all for your support!

- failure to thrive (juvenile)
- Osprey, wing injury
- Greater Roadrunner, wound to body (fledgling)
- Great Horned Owl, failure to thrive
- Long-eared Owl, wing closed fracture of radius/ulna
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis
- Cooper's Hawk, emaciation (juvenile)
- Long-eared Owl, fractured humerus (adult)
- Long-eared Owl, possible electrocution

Raptor Rescue Team

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