



# HAWKS ALOFT

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



## **Screaming Hawks & Millions of Bats!**

**By Lars Wells  
Guest Author**

That was the theme of the [Armendaris Ranch](#) Bat Trip. It sounded intriguing, so my wife Stephanie and I signed up. It turned out to be quite spectacular and a truly unique experience.

The Armendaris Ranch is in the Jornada del Muerto area, 315,000 acres nestled west of White Sands Missile Range.

The English translation implies history has not always rewarded explorers here, but we had a leg up – we had air conditioning! Our twelve-person caravan headed east from Truth or Consequences, traversing the Rio Grande and on to the ranch's headquarters in Engle where we began the two-hour drive to our upcoming spectacle.

[Swainson's Hawks](#) and [Mourning Doves](#) shepherded us along the way, and we learned how many birdwatchers it takes to change a flat tire; twelve it turns out, though most of those are supervisory positions. The most important person turned out to be the one who found the manual and determined how to extract the spare tire. After traversing the sandy, lava covered terrain, and concluding Gail Garber's audition for a Hyundai off-road commercial, we arrived.

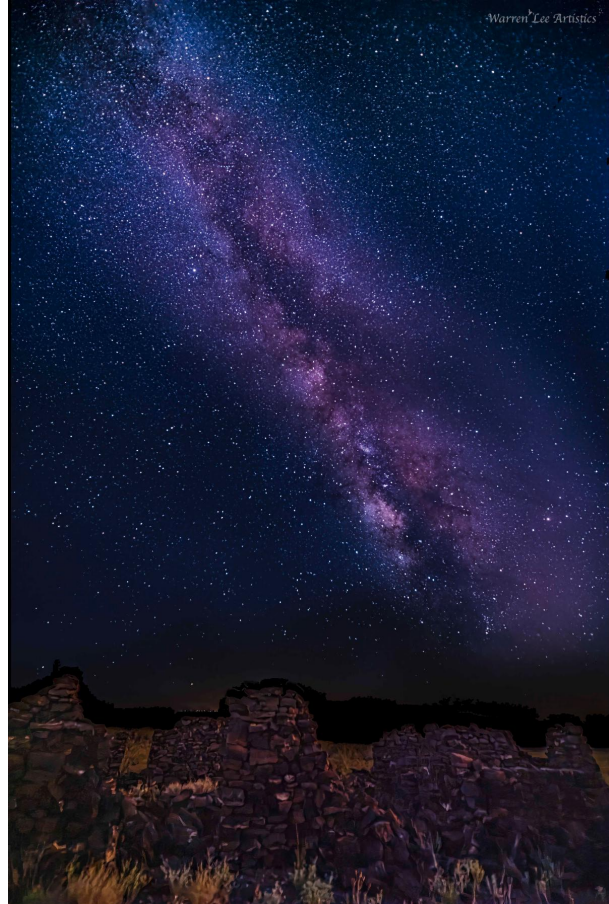
The bats live in a section of lava tube about a quarter mile long and open at both ends. At one, a long roof collapse opens the tube into a short canyon. At the other, a double roof collapse has left a land bridge between two openings in line with the cave mouth. The white poop streaks on the surrounding rocks hinted that, undisturbed, the hawks sit here like bears in a salmon stream awaiting their passing meal.

As with most birdwatching journeys, there were plenty of camera lenses fat and long enough to substitute for a fence post if a rancher was in a pinch – and the photographer was dead. The action started with screams from Swainson's Hawks, just like mom yelling "Dinner!" from the back porch. Official count was twenty Swainson's, initially orbiting vulture-like before swooping down for business. The bats simultaneously emerged from both ends of the tube, massive numbers pouring into the air as a slowly expanding column that looked like smoke from a smoldering brush fire. The Swainson's took advantage of this, plunging in and plucking out a meal, eating on the wing, then circling back for more. The plentiful dining seeming to make the long round-trip journey from Argentina worthwhile.

We stood on the land bridge as the bats streamed out of the cave mouth, and rather than flying up and away, they flew *under* us, below the land bridge then up and out through a second opening further away. The continuous stream of bats sailing under our feet were shockingly quiet, no louder than a few aspen trees rustling in a light breeze. Amazing given that, with careful video review, and a lotta hand waving, I arrived at a bat flow rate of 350 per second! Watching the hawks wheeling around and punching holes in the column like sharks in school of herring, while hundreds of thousands of bats flew five feet beneath the soles of our shoes was astounding!

Later, a very tasty meal was delivered by our Ranch Host. My wife Stephanie smacked me upside the head and asked why I had never materialized this service on our camping trips? Tents were pitched on the softest lava rock available, cameras set for star capture, dinner eaten between runs to the cave entrances, and as darkness fell everyone settled into quiet conversation. Unobvious to the casual observer were the bats flying nearby. And I do mean *near*, as many flew at shoulder level *between* people chatting. Folks tapered off to wrestle with their own camper's version of a malfunctioning sleep-number bed and hoped for some shut eye.

In the pre-dawn morning I could hear odd sounds, like the quick, repeated scratch of a tree branch on a nylon tent. Looking out toward the tube, rising above it was an infinitely tall





dust-devil of bats, individuals whirling down toward the cave mouth, twisting, banking, and diving in like teenage jet pilots beating curfew, shredding the air with that sound and disappearing into the cave.

Completely different than the evening's orderly exit, with no easy column to attack, this erratic, one-at-a-time dive bombing called for specialists. Cue the [Peregrine Falcons](#). They flew with fast wingbeats in a wide circle around the base of this bat funnel then made a linear cut through the center, eventually locking onto a bat. With so many bats in random motion the falcons waited until their path crossed naturally with a bat's before selecting it as their target then maneuvering for a grab. Just a slight wiggle of the wings, an excursion from the flight path, indicated an attempt. Not all were successful or without friction, as attested to by the peregrine feather floating down after a collision. Nonetheless, breakfast was served.

Overall, it was an amazing set of sights to witness and a whole lot of fun. The colony of bats was rediscovered in the '80s when ranch hands assumed they were tracking fire smoke but found bats instead. Lucky for us! We would wholeheartedly recommend this trip.

Bat stream departing, Jessalyn Ayars at the bat cave entrance, and breakfast brunch photos by Liz Roberts. Sunset photo by Gail Garber. Milky Way photo by Warren Lee. Peregrine Falcon photo by Larry Rimer.



Larry Rimer©2024

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## Albuquerque Community Foundation: Great Grant Giveaway!

You may remember that,  
way back in May 2023, we  
were one of the eight

recipients of the ACF Great Grant Giveaway, the largest single grant we have received = \$80,097!

It was an unexpected delight. After much consideration, the HAI Board of Directors, opted to invest the full amount in the ACF investments, that average ~7% growth annually - over time. We are thrilled to tell you that our 'Quasi Endowment' has grown to \$84,897! this is a first for Hawks Aloft. It is so exciting to see these funds grow with the help of ACF's wise investments.



## A Day in the Field

**By Heather Rissi  
Educator/Naturalist**

About an hour's drive south from Albuquerque brought us to the South Socorro Route, a dirt road that follows the main drain and weaves through farmlands cultivating green chiles, watermelons, and fields of alfalfa. This is where researchers and volunteers from Hawks Aloft, Inc. have participated in a survey dating back to 1994 documenting the number of birds of prey over a 20-mile stretch and



ending in the heart of [Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge](#). This is one of 8 routes in the Rio Grande and Estancia Valleys.

Along the survey route we came across a large group of [Turkey Vultures](#) (called a kettle) sitting together in some trees with their wings spread, sunning after an earlier drizzle. At that particular spot, we counted approximately 40 vultures in the trees and then an additional 40 when we turned our eyes to the sky. The many dozens of vultures soaring and on the ground are part of an annual migration that expands continents. Each year many types of raptor species make the perilous journey south and back again.

The survey, designed to capture a snapshot of resident birds of prey versus migrating raptors, is completed six times throughout the year, three months in summer (June, July, and August) and three months in the winter (December, January, and February). In August, the survey was conducted by Gail Garber and myself (staff) and two volunteers, Carolyn (Sami) Sanborn and Ruth Latta who counted the number of sighted raptors in a span of three minutes and at 1-mile intervals for a total of 20 miles. Over the 20-mile stretch, we counted a total of 139 raptors, including one [Osprey](#), one [Red-tailed Hawk](#), two Peregrine Falcons, two [Cooper's Hawks](#), three [Greater Roadrunners](#), eight [American Kestrels](#), 15 Swainson's Hawks, 104 Turkey Vultures, and three additional unidentified raptors. This was the highest number of identified raptors ever recorded for this route.

Like Turkey Vultures, many of the sighted birds, including Peregrine Falcons, Swainson's Hawks, Osprey, and even Cooper's Hawks are migratory raptors. Swainson's Hawks in particular can travel 11,000-17,000 round-trip miles stretching from North America to Argentina, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. The peregrine and Osprey sightings were a rare treat.

Bosque del Apache National Refuge is located just south of San Antonio and dedicated to preserve important open space for migratory waterfowl. Of the refuge's 57,000 plus acres, over 30,000 have been set aside for undeveloped wilderness. Areas like this are not only beneficial for migratory waterfowl, but also migratory raptors and wildlife alike. Just take a drive down some back roads, or walk some wild areas and you are sure to see this (and hopefully lots of raptors) in action yourself.

(Data from the survey will be examined and compared with years past, so stay tuned for an update.)

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

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## Wrapping up the Summer Field Season

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

As August ends, so does the 2024 summer field season. It was a long and challenging season, beginning with owl surveys at [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and ending with the last survey for the Middle Rio



Grande Songbird Study (MRGSS) on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Five projects were completed this year during that time frame. In total, we completed 322 owl surveys at Valles Caldera, 360 avian point count surveys for the Jemez CFLRP project, 414 transect surveys for the MRGSS, 38 [Willow Flycatcher](#) surveys in the bosque, and 48 [Yellow-billed Cuckoo](#) surveys. It took a team of surveyors to accomplish all of this. Staff members Jessalyn Ayars, Karl Buermeyer, Gail Garber and Liz Roberts all provided valuable help with these surveys. I am particularly grateful for the help provided by my team of volunteer surveyors on the MRGSS. The contributions of Mark Aspelin, David Buckley, Nate Gowan and Tom Mayer allowed us to survey about 25% more MRGSS transects than would have been possible without their help.

I also am extremely grateful for the help provided by Vicki Dern. Vicki is a long-time volunteer surveyor for the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Nesting Raptors (MRGBNR) project, and she covers a particularly challenging route, access-wise, in the Albuquerque South Valley. Part of her survey area falls within an area of interest to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), where levee reconstruction is scheduled to begin within the next couple of years. As such, Vicki kept me regularly updated on the nesting raptor activity in her survey area so that I could meet USACE update needs.

Vicki's survey area also supported one of the two successful [Common Black Hawk](#) nests that we monitored during MRGBNR surveys this year. Black hawk nests are challenging to

monitor because they tend to be well concealed and the adults are particularly vigilant. Females normally flush and start fussing above an intruder as soon as they detect someone in the area, which is almost always before a surveyor knows they are there. Thus, finding the nest can be difficult. And, because their nests are very large, it can be extremely difficult to figure out what is happening inside.

Two of the USACE restoration areas where I conduct MRGSS, Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys were within the immediate vicinity of Vicki's black hawk nest and a Swainson's Hawk nest this year. Had it not been for Vicki's updates, I would not have even known there was a Swainson's Hawk nest in the area until after it successfully fledged. However, once fledged, the female Swainson's Hawk became a holy terror, regularly pursuing me for about a 400 meter stretch in the vicinity of the nest. It was the first time I have ever had a Swainson's Hawk actively dive on me. There also was an American Kestrel nest in the same area that successfully fledged three young. Thus, when the Swainson's Hawk would pursue me, the kestrels would go into a frenzy in pursuit of the Swainson's Hawk. In turn, this would send the resident songbirds, including family groups of [Black-chinned Hummingbird](#), [Black-headed Grosbeak](#), [Eastern Bluebird](#), [Lesser Goldfinch](#), [Summer Tanager](#) and [White-breasted Nuthatch](#) into a frenzy. It all made for some very interesting surveys during July and August.

I also had a black hawk dive on me for the first time, thanks to one of Vicki's adult birds. It happened during an MRGSS survey several weeks after the black hawks had fledged. I walked underneath an adult black hawk and thought it unusual that the bird did not flush or make any sound. But about 30 meters later I heard wingbeats and felt a rush of air as the black hawk swooped in silently from behind me and then landed in a cottonwood just in front of me. This was very uncharacteristic black hawk behavior, based on my experience.

All in all, it was a very productive and exciting field season and we cannot wait to see what the 2025 field season brings.

*Common Black Hawk, photo by [Tony Thomas](#). Female American Kestrel, photo by [Doug Brown Photography](#).*

## Thank you Benevity Fund and Intel Corporation!

We are deeply grateful to Benevity Fund for our recent grant of \$10,000. These funds are dispersed by Benevity on behalf of Intel Corporation. We also especially thank Larry Rimer an Intel retiree, who donates upwards of 1,000 hours to Hawks Aloft each year - that is equal to a halftime job! Larry is the project manager for the raptor population study at Lee Ranch and El Segundo mines, on behalf of Peabody Energy. Larry also helps in innumerable other ways, from designing, building and restoring flight cages, to raptor rescue and, of course, his amazing photography!

We also thank Jeannine Kinzer, a more recent volunteer who works on our construction team and helps with outreach booths. Thanks to both of you, we are overwhelmed with gratitude! We appreciate Intel's commitment to supporting their past and current staff by funding organizations like HAI.

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## The Importance of Collaboration in Wildlife Rehab

By Robert Kasuboski, Outreach Coordinator

Several wildlife rehabilitation centers are located throughout the state, all of which have the same mission: to take care of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of releasing them back into the wild. Although many wildlife rehab centers will accept or assist in rescuing a variety of animal species, many rehab centers have particular areas of coverage. Some areas are based on geography, and some are based on animal types. Hawks Aloft Inc. (HAI) specializes in caring for raptors.

Our Raptor Rescue hotline (505-999-7740) is operational 365 days/year that the public can call to report an injured or sick raptor, but we also field additional calls unrelated to raptors. We offer information on who to contact or reach out to those contacts ourselves when the bird is a non-raptor or is closer to another center. This ensures that the animal gets the best care possible from those who might specialize in that area. This is one of the reasons why it is important for

rehab centers to communicate with each other.

It also enables centers to move animals around based on space or due to medical needs. We recently found ourselves overwhelmed with an abundance of sick or injured juvenile Cooper's Hawks. Due to the lack of space, we could not accept anything new. We placed



a call to Dr. Avery Berkowitz and the rehabilitators at [New Mexico Wildlife Center](#) (NMWC). After a conference between Dr. Linda Contos (HAI veterinarian), and the staff at NMWC, a plan was put into motion and a date for transfer was agreed upon.

We began early in the morning on August 27, boxing up 11 Cooper's Hawks for the journey. The birds were unloaded at NMWC and a processing line was set up. Each bird received a thorough recheck from Dr. Avery Berkowitz that included weight and x-rays to check the status of healing injuries. Each bird received an individual care plan. Heather Rissi and I were privileged to assist, and learned some valuable information throughout the process. Dr. Avery and the staff at NMWC not only explained what they were doing, but answered our questions throughout the exam.

This type of inter-center cooperation is extremely valuable for the centers. It enables all of us to provide the best treatment possible for the birds that come into our care. As for our staff, we get exposure to the ways of other centers, and it all helps us stay current on the continually changing practices associated with wildlife rehabilitation.

There are plenty of times when we lend a hand, but there are also times when we need a helping hand ourselves. It is nice to know there are other rehabs out there willing to cooperate with each other in order to service all of New Mexico's wildlife.

*Photos: Heather Rissi assisting Dr. Berkowitz with an exam on a Cooper's Hawk, by Robert Kasuboski and Robert Kasuboski with juvenile Cooper's Hawk, by Heather Rissi.*

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## **What's in a Name? Green Heron**

**By Nate & Jeanne Gowan  
Guest Authors**

The [Green Heron](#) is one of the smallest heron species in North America. They are

wading birds typically found in ponds, swamps or marshes as well as freshwater lakes and streams and along the coasts. These birds are hard to spot because they often remain still along the edge of a wetland, blending into their surroundings. They are so adept at concealing themselves, you might only discover them as they flush from their hiding spots with a loud squawk. The stream of white excrement that accompanies them has resulted in several colorful nicknames such as “skeow,” “fly-up-the-creek,” “chalk-line,” and “shite-polk.”



The Green Heron is small and stocky with a greenish black cap on its head and a rufous neck. Its crest can be raised on the back of its head; its eyes can be either orange or yellow. Its wings are dark with a green or blue gloss, giving it its name. Its legs are yellow or yellow orange, changing to a bright orange during breeding season. In the right light, its plumage can look iridescent. Both the male and the female are similarly marked, but the female is slightly duller colored and smaller.

Most times the Green Heron appears to be stout and compact. They tuck their neck into the contour of their body, appearing quite small while perched. When they are threatened or when stalking prey, the true length of their neck is revealed. A special vertebra in its neck enables the Green Heron to strike at its prey with a tremendous amount of force. Some scientists even compare their neck structure to that of dinosaurs, from which they are thought to have evolved.

The Green Heron is found in North and South America, and the West Indies. Some migrate and others do not as they are year-round residents in the southern coastal parts of their range. Others migrate from their northern nesting grounds for a short distance south during the winter.

Heron's are excellent fishermen. They use their long legs to wade into the water and their long necks and dagger-like beaks to snatch fish and frogs. After catching a fish, they toss it into the air snatching it head first so that the fish scales and fins don't catch in the heron's throat. They sometimes dive into deeper water to hunt, and then swim back to shore with the help of webs between their middle and outer toes. Green Herons, aka "little green herons," "green-backed herons," or "chuckleheads" are also very crafty fishermen. They drop food, insects, twigs or other objects on the water's surface as bait to attract prey making them one of the few tool-using species! Whatever name given, their method of fishing labels them as one of the world's most intelligent birds.

*Photos by Nate Gowan.*

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## Hawk, Interrupted! The Wet One!

### Juvenile Swainson's Hawk

Perhaps he leaned over too far in his attempt to get a sip of water. Perhaps he misjudged the green slimy surface as a grassy field.

We will never know what caused this hatch year Swainson's Hawk

to take a swim in an unkempt, algae-filled pool on August 12, 2024. We greatly appreciate Brittany Gomez who called in the rescue. If you look closely, you can see the nictitans (third eyelid) that is closed on both eyes, little wonder that a swim of this sort might be hard for his vision. He seemed healthy, body-wise, but still had to endure a full round of antibiotics, plus veterinary exams and x-rays. We also examined his eyes to ensure that no damage occurred.

Initially, he was confined to a very small space, but once medications were completed, he moved to a small outdoor flight and then later into our eagle aviary (sans eagles) where he spread his wings, likely luxuriating the freedom of flight.

This past weekend, Doug and Kristin Brown released him at Bernardo Wildlife Area, where he exploded out of the box, apparently anxious to begin his inaugural migration to Argentina. He circled above Kristin three times before taking off, almost as if saying "thank you for setting me free".

We thank Doug, Kristin and all of the volunteers that make our work possible!

*Photos by homeowner and  
Kristin C. Brown Photography*





*Kristin Brown*  
KRISTIN C. BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY



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## **Meet Robert Kasuboski**

### **Outreach Coordinator**

Robert grew up in southern New Mexico where he spent a lot of time enjoying the outdoors. With a bachelor's degree in wildlife in hand, he set off for Alaska when a friend offered him a place to stay. There, he continued his

pursuit of the outdoor world, spending his free time kayaking, skiing and doing photography, especially of the huskies that predominate as sled dogs. He published two books, "Dogs on the Run", and "Alaska Between the Sunsets." After 20 years, frustrated by the lack of roads and access to nature, Robert returned to New Mexico where there is abundant sunshine and a better road network.

Back in the Land of Enchantment, he spent time volunteering and working for various agencies on wildlife projects including waterfowl surveys, capture and banding operations, and rehabilitation and outreach. He first volunteered and then worked for Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation in Carlsbad, NM for seven years before moving to Hawks Aloft.

Now, as our Outreach Coordinator, Robert is able to work more closely with the raptors that are his passion. In his free time he enjoys being outdoors, birding, and doing wildlife photography.

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**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.*

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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—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 Pygmy Owl](#), 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 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!



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## 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!*

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**Adopt A Raptor**



## **Hello Sparrow! The American Kestrel (and Azulito too!)**

Sparrow also hatched in the wild in New Mexico during the nesting season of 2019. He was rescued when he was found with a collapsed right eye. It is unknown why his eye is collapsed; it could be a congenital defect, or even the result of an attack or an impact injury. Sparrow is named after one of the most common prey items of wild Kestrels, Sparrows. American Kestrels were also formerly known as Sparrow Hawks.

The Kestrel Boys are a bonded pair and live together. These two rambunctious Kestrels have been so much fun to watch grow up. They love getting into mischief together, including an incident in which they killed a House Finch that unknowingly wandered into their flight cage.

### **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.*

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**Photographer's Monthly  
Gallery**

**Nick Dunlop**





My photography began when I was a teenager with a hand-me-down camera from my father. Dad and grandfather both were engineers and had fancy cameras with all kinds of knobs and levers, with which I fell in love. My pet Red-tailed Hawk became my favorite subject and I would perch her on rocks and tree branches to simulate the look of a “wild” hawk. Years later, I still continue to strive for images of wild raptors, especially when they’re hunting or raising their young.

Unlike my photographer friends, I focus most of my time on just a few species of raptors, with Peregrine Falcons my favorite subjects. I go by myself, away from others and try keep my presence minimal. I use blinds and remote cameras on occasion and never bait, call or flush birds. I work on and off with biologists here in the US and overseas and hope to travel more in the future. My photos and videos have been published and licensed a number of times which is always fun. I have a short book of images of peregrines hunting and will add to it this fall with imagery of nesting and fledging.

[Click here](#) to visit Nick's Website

*I had the great pleasure to meet Nick in October 2023 at the Raptor Research Foundation conference and was immediately enchanted with his work. I purchased several copies of his book, for myself and friends and also ordered all my holiday cards too. I know you will be just as fascinated by his work. - Gail*

Image 1: Peregrine Falcon attacking a flock of [Dunlins](#)

Image 2: [Gyr Falcon](#) family, photographed in Iceland

Image 3: Peregrine Falcon pair sharing a meal

Image 4: [Golden Eagle](#) Family

Image 5: Peregrine Falcon attacking a [Brown Pelican](#) while defending her nest.

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Thank you all for your support!

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

## August 2024 Raptor Rescue

Hotline Calls:  
57

Patient  
intakes: 30

- Cooper's Hawk, wing injury (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis & loss of tail feathers (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, neurological (juvenile)
- Great Horned Owl, DOA
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis & suspected WNV (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian trichomoniasis & emaciation (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, ocular disease (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk, ingestion of contaminated pool water (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk, wing injury from possible burn/electrocution (adult)
- Cooper's Hawk, DOA (Avian Trichomoniasis)
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis & suspected WNV (juvenile)
- American Kestrel, orphaned (nestling)
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk, wing injury & emaciation (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk, spinal trauma (juvenile)
- Great Horned Owl, open fracture of right humerus



- Cooper's Hawk, open fracture of humerus & femur, suspected HBC (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, wing injury (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis (juvenile)
- Great Horned Owl, spinal injury
- Cooper's Hawk, emaciation & dehydration
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis & emaciation (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, failure to thrive: nutritional deficiency & emaciation (juvenile)
- Red-tailed Hawk, head trauma (juvenile)
- Common Barn Owl, severe infection (adult)
- Swainson's Hawk, hit by car (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk, open fractures both wings (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, Avian Trichomoniasis & trauma (adult)
- Turkey Vulture, dehydration (juvenile)

## Raptor Rescue Team

Michael Balassone  
 Wendy Brown  
 Mary Bruesch  
 Ed Chappelle  
 Mary Chappelle  
 Charles Cummings  
 Chris Gibson  
 Lee Hanks  
 Carole Heimann  
 Denise Inight  
 Devona Jensen  
 Jeannine Kinzer  
 Rebecca & Robert Kraimer  
 Ruth Latta

Tristen Ljan  
 Evelyn McGarry  
 Sherry McDaniel  
 Matt Mitchell  
 Jenee Moore  
 Eliane & Johnny Notah  
 Stephanie Otts  
 Chellye Porter  
 Dianne Rossbach  
 Susan Shook  
 Jim Taulman  
 Davedda & Tony Thomas  
 Amelia Thomspson  
 Lars Wells

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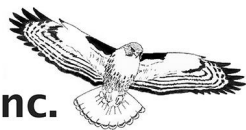
Edw. F Zimmer Community Fund

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

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### Who We Are

Gail Garber, *Executive Director*  
David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*  
Linda Contos, *DVM, Attending & Triage Veterinarian*  
Trevor Fetz, *Research Director*  
Jeanne Gowan, *Guest Author*  
Nate Gowan, *Surveyor*  
Roger Grimshaw, *Raptor Surveys*  
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Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager, Raptor Driving Surveys*  
Robert Kasuboski, *Outreach Coordinator*  
Tom Mayer, *Project Manager & Avian Surveyor*  
Evelyn McGarry, *Office Manager, East Mountain Representative, Raptor Rescue Dispatcher*  
Calle Poindexter, *Marketing Coordinator*  
Larry Rimer, *Project Manager*

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