



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



Where Nature and Farming Coexist

**By Heather Rissi
Education Coordinator**

We wrapped up our Living with the Landscape (LWL) program this past May by taking fourth and fifth grade students from our three elementary schools (Armijo, Atrisco, and Hodgin) to [Old Town Farm](#) (OTF).

OTF sits on 12 acres of property near Old Town formerly farmed by Pueblo Indians and is irrigated by the oldest registered acequia in the U.S. It is also home to Bike In Coffee. Its proximity to the bosque and their practice of organic farming are major highlights of these visits.

The owners of OTF, Lanny Toning and Linda Thorne graciously allowed us to bring between 40 and 50 students to the farm over five different days. Each group was warmly greeted, and then their daughter, Libby Lawson, introduced the farm and its history before showing students the old rustic barn and the hoop houses currently being used for growing the produce they serve at the onsite café. Libby's down-to-earth personality was perfect for the students, who met her enthusiasm and showered her with questions.

Students also went on a brief nature walk around the outskirts of the farm where they enjoyed a nature scavenger hunt and observed native birds, plants, and insects. Some were lucky enough to see a [Swainson's Hawk](#) that frequents the area. Students also created their own nature journals, designed by our Senior Educator Liz Roberts. The journals were a major hit, as the students (and teachers!) proudly showed off their creativity. And of course, we could not have a day without our avian ambassadors!

Our LWL program is designed to expose students to nature and wildlife in a way that encourages a love for learning and a penchant for becoming stewards of the environment.

These field trips tie all our lessons together and illustrate that nature and wildlife can thrive all around them, even in the middle of Albuquerque. The organic farming practices at OTF demonstrate a respect for nature. Watching students discover a wild mushroom while walking, sample a sweet pea right off the vine, or express a wish to become a wildlife educator themselves, might seem insignificant, but to us they have implications for the relationship students may develop with nature.

***Thank you again to Lonnie, Linda, and Libby for allowing us to bring students to Old Town Farm. Thank you also to the volunteers that helped Liz, Gail and I during the field



trips: Rosy Espinoza, Evelyn McGarry, and Ruth Latta! We could not have done it without you.

And thank you to [Nusenda Credit Union](#), [PNM](#), [FHL Foundation](#), McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment, [The Edward F. Zimmer Community Foundation](#), and Hawks Aloft members and donors for funding and supporting LWL.

Photos by Heather Rissi and Liz Roberts

**Thank you to each of our funders for your ongoing support!
We could not do all that we do without you! In the fields of
Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue and
Collaboration with Others!**



Our very own Macondo in the heart of Albuquerque

The magical realism of Old Town Farm

by Patricia H. Hawley
Editor



Linda Thorne's phone narrative reminded me of [Gabriel García Márquez](#), rich in firm reality blended with the fantastic. Old Town Farm (OTF) seems much like the fictional village of Macondo in [One Hundred Years of Solitude](#); a tapestry of the ordinary and the magical enveloped in a biography spanning generations and peoples.

Hidden in bustling Albuquerque is an oasis. We arrived at noon and easily found a shaded parking place. The \$5 weekend car parking fee goes to the neighboring elementary school for their music program. In true Márquezian fashion, tiny violins for tiny mariachi players. Bicyclists swarm in much earlier through a back portal from a well-travelled bike path along the Bosque.

My car read 92°F, but that was not the reality inside as we landed in the cool, breezy microclimate created by the dozen old-growth cottonwoods planted by Linda in her tender 20s. The farm exuded graciousness. Thirty or so visitors were enjoying a musical ensemble. Cool water and shade umbrellas were freely available for those (like me) who need shade for the short distance to the beautiful restrooms and the cafe. The modern reality was replete with modern comforts. But the keen eye can see the long historical roots that are the source of the magical elements.

For example, bordering the property is the unexceptionally named Duranes Ditch. It is actually one of the earliest registered acequias in North America. How does Linda know this? Max Sanchez (now passed), a neighbor whose Spanish roots went back centuries, produced an old document attesting to such. Magical Senor Max taught Linda old world farming techniques. Better still, shards from indigenous peoples revealed that the location had been farmed much earlier. Friendly spirits abound.

Like Macondo, OTF is a tapestry of stories interwoven by a large cast of Márquez-worthy characters, including Linda's own family, friendly "villagers", and mysterious "strangers" who bring their own gifts that contribute in unexpected ways. The handsome and soft-spoken Wayland Tanning ("Lanny") built the stage for scenes of quiet contemplation (under the wisteria) and communion (the huge wrap-around porch of the café). Daughter Libby has returned home with her husband, Diallo, after a long hiatus as a tugboat captain in California.

And, like a [Frida Kahlo painting](#), visitors will encounter nature on this lush island in an urban ocean. Avian, mammalian, and reptilian life abound, making it a perfect outdoor classroom for HAI's Living with the Landscape.

Planning your visit: Your visit requires no planning! Cyclists arrive in sporty outdoor gear, but I wore a skirt and sandals. The ground is very even, cleared, with nary a goat head. Restrooms are modern and fully equipped. The wrap-around porch has beautiful ceiling fans, perfectly comfortable on a hot afternoon. Fresh seasonal produce is available for purchase. Pro tip: Go now and snatch up the tail end of the pea harvest and note that tomato season starts soon!

Finally, be on the lookout for Linda, Lanny, and Libby and tell them Hawks Aloft sent you!

Apply NOW!

Living with the Landscape for Title 1 Elementary Schools

Would you like your school to be chosen as a LWL participant for the 2025-2026 school year? Fill out our application form and send it back to us today! The deadline to submit your application is June 15, 2025, to be considered for our conservation education program FREE of cost to your school! The program is open to all Title 1 APS elementary schools.

The program consists of multiple visits with our avian ambassadors for every student at the school, plus interactive, hands-on activities about raptor adaptations, food chains, migration, bioaccumulation, fire ecology, and more. Plus, older students visit a local organic farm and participate in a conservation project on their campus.



Click [here](#) to download the document to fill out the application today! Thank you!

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



A Good Year for Red Crossbills in the Valles Caldera National Preserve

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

The 2025 summer field season kicked into a higher gear in May as we began surveys for the Southwest Jemez Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) at [Valles Caldera National Preserve](#) and [Willow Flycatcher](#) surveys in the middle Rio Grande bosque. Surveys for both projects began in mid-May.

The Jemez CFLRP was officially completed in 2024 and we are not surveying our Santa Fe National Forest points this year. But we are conducting a final year of surveys at our point count locations in Valles Caldera National Preserve. The first round of surveys was completed in May, and bird numbers were noticeably lower than recent years at numerous points. There could be a variety of reasons for the low bird numbers during the first round, including the fact that some Neotropical migrants were not yet on site. But it is likely that ongoing drought conditions and a very poor winter snowpack are key factors.



One bit of excitement was the presence of breeding [Red Crossbills](#) at our Banco Bonito points. Red Crossbills wander widely and breed opportunistically, regardless of the time of year, when they encounter a large cone crop (their primary source of food). Apparently, a good ponderosa pine cone crop was present this spring in the Banco Bonito area, as we encountered crossbills, including recently fledged young at a majority of our 22 Banco Bonito point count locations.

Other species that were present in relatively high numbers during the first round of surveys included [Grace's Warbler](#), [Northern Flicker](#), [Pygmy Nuthatch](#), and [Western Bluebird](#). Species that were present at much lower than normal numbers included [Hammond's Flycatcher](#), [Hermit Thrush](#), and [Western Flycatcher](#) (previously Cordilleran Flycatcher). We typically document both Hammond's Flycatcher and Western Flycatcher at nearly all of our unburned or lightly burned mixed conifer and ponderosa pine points. But our total detections for both species in May were in single digits and Western Flycatcher was virtually absent. It will be interesting to see what the bird numbers are like during the June surveys.

Photos by Alan Murphy Photography



Benefits of Membership Join or renew!

Hawks Aloft Inc is unique among New Mexico nonprofit organizations in that we have four distinct pillars that support our mission! They are:

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

We are a deeply-rooted homegrown New Mexico organization and our operations are centered right here in our community. So, your membership dollars and donations directly help with our programs throughout New Mexico.

Several different levels of membership range from \$25 to \$1000 annually. Members at the higher levels are eligible for special events and advance notice of standard events.

All members, regardless of membership level, receive:

- The HAI Flier, our monthly online newsletter
- Aloft, our annual magazine
- Exclusive access to special events and New Mexico field trips
- Discounts on selected HAI merchandise
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting conservation education, avian research, and raptor rescue.

Our standard individual membership is \$45/year. When you Adopt-a-Raptor that is valued at a higher cost (e.g., one of our Great Horned Owls or Turkey Vulture) a membership is included. All donations greater than \$45 also include annual membership.

Please join our team!

*Harris Hawk, photographed during the 2024 falconry field trip for volunteers.
Photograph by Kristin C. Brown Photography*

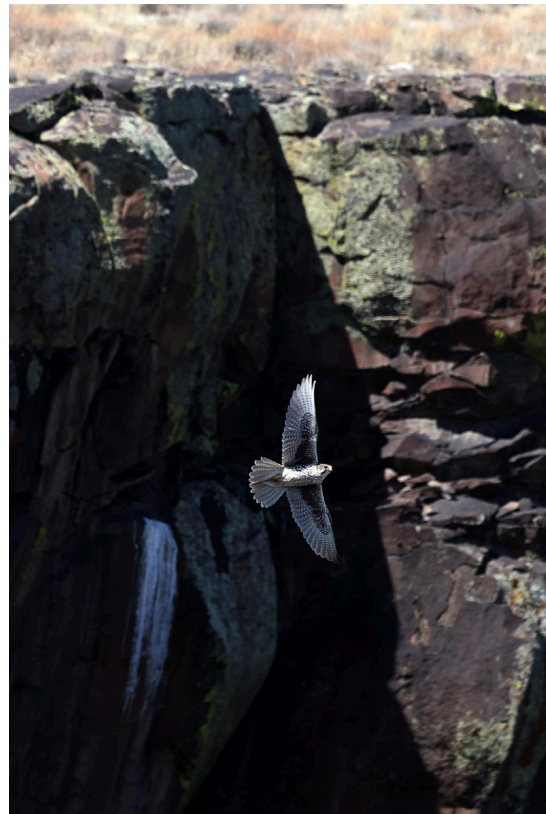


Spring at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

**By Susan Coulter
Project Manager**

Spring survey work in the Upper Rio Grande Gorge is full of surprises on the daily. The frigid nights leave you with a thin layer of ice on your water bottle in the morning. The sunny and warm afternoons demand a lightweight, long sleeve shirt to prevent sunburn. Hats without straps will surely sail away with the winds. The days can be long and tiring.

The rewards, however, are well worth it. It is drop-dead gorgeous. In fact, I like to believe the Gorge may be the source of that word. Seeing raptors in their natural and wild environment is breath-taking. Watching them fly and hearing them vocalize to announce and defend their territory is awe-inspiring.



In mid-May this year, the rewards also included confirming 4 occupied [Red-tailed Hawk](#) nests, with a total of 7 lively fluffballs—2 in each of 3 nests and 1 in the 4th—observable only thru a scope or good pair of binoculars.

We also confirmed a single territory for [Peregrine Falcon](#) and an active nest for [Prairie Falcon](#). Falcons typically nest in small cavities in cliff faces called “scrapes”. This kept the Prairie Falcon nestlings hidden from view until they were old enough to venture onto the outer ledge of the scrape. Often, only the presence of some whitewash (from the uric acid in their excrement) that announces their presence. And there are often several scrapes in a territory, with only one being actively occupied.

Unfortunately, we also confirmed the failure of 2 previously occupied [Golden Eagle](#) nests. Golden Eagles are declining in number across the country – and New Mexico is no exception. Golden Eagles typically mate for life and return to the same areas to nest. There are several nests in most Golden Eagle territories. Which one they choose to use in a given year is anyone's guess.

Nests can fail for various reasons. The female typically lays 2 eggs, but the eggs may fail to hatch or may even be unfertilized. Also, human disturbance causes the female to abandon the nest for long periods which disrupts the incubation process. Another common cause is a lack of mammalian prey species, such as jackrabbits and prairie dogs. The continued drought in New Mexico has reduced these mammal populations, thus leaving Red-tailed Hawks to resort to eating snakes (and sometimes carrion of farm animals and deer if available). Whereas falcons specialize on avian prey, Golden Eagles rely more on mammals. In some cases, as was true of both the failed nests, one or more of the eagles remained in the area for some time after the failure. During one visit to a failed nest, a Golden Eagle was heard vocalizing and then seen flying majestically along the cliff face where the nest was. Perhaps this was to occupy the territory long enough to claim it for the next year. Or—as empathetic humans—we sometimes wonder if it is an emotional reaction to a failed nest.

We are very excited to report, however, that we still have one occupied Golden Eagle nest. The nest is in an angled alcove that we cannot fully see inside. At the end of May we were still observing 2 eagles in the area and have seen them enter the alcove and stay for long periods. In mid-May the eaglets should be about 4 weeks, standing up, and moving about the nest. We are very hopeful they will fledge successfully. At this point, the odds are in their favor.

Thank you to the dedicated surveyors who volunteer their time to make this study successful: Michael Balassone, Roger Grimshaw, Brian Long and Joseph O'Leary.

Prairie Falcon adult with three chicks: Photo by Brian Long. Prairie Falcon in Flight: Photo by Roger Grimshaw.



Call Me Octo Mom!

**By Amelia Thompson
Senior Rehabilitator**

The first [Western Screech-Owl](#) (WESO) arrived on May 19. It was a severely dehydrated fledgling and so Dr. John Heidrich gave it fluids every 30 minutes. By that evening it had perked up quite a bit, and by the next day it had self-fed. Thus I could put it outside with our WESO foster parents, Talon and Ping Pong. On May 21, we received another WESO (adult) that had been hit by a car. Miraculously it only had an eye injury. Both Drs. Kari Atkinson and Candance Auten examined the owl and determined that it still needed another week or two of anti-inflammatories before moving it outside.



The next call was on May 22. Someone removing a dead branch from a tree found a WESO nest had fallen along with the branch. Unfortunately, one of the babies perished from the fall and one of the adults was left injured. Michael Balassone, one of our volunteer rescuers, was unable to catch the adult, but he transported the three remaining babies to me. These three were quite young, so the risk of imprinting (where baby birds do not learn species-appropriate behavior because their early care takers are humans) was high. Therefore, after administering fluids and a probiotic to treat some diarrhea (common in baby birds), I immediately moved them outside with Talon and Ping Pong and the other baby. They immediately snuggled with the older baby and after a couple of days of hand feeding, they began eating pinkies by themselves.

The last set of babies (for now) arrived on May 27. Evelyn, our Raptor Rescue Coordinator, received a call about a baby owl trapped in a house that was under

construction in the East Mountains. When she arrived, she discovered it was actually four baby WESOs. Due to the active construction, our raptor rescue team made the decision to remove the babies. At the HAI office, educators Heather Rissi and Liz Roberts gave them a checkup. Once at my facility, they were treated with fluids and a probiotic, and kept inside overnight to ensure they were eating on their own before putting them into the outside flight cage with the other four owlets and under the parenting of Talon and Ping Pong. All eight babies are now thriving and steadily gaining weight. They are busy learning how to be wild owls and annoying their foster parents by cramming inside the nest box, where Ping Pong prefers to spend his days sleeping.

Once all eight are flying, we will send them on to “mouse school” where they will learn to hunt live mice before being released.

Owl Addendum: Three more WESO owlets arrived after this article was written! So now Talon and Ping Pong have a very large brood of 11 owlets! That might be a record for WESO clutches! Stay tuned . . .

Photos by Amelia Thompson and Gail Garber.



Think Like a Bee!

**By Emilia Falk and
Elizabeth Reed
Guest Authors**

[Think Like a Bee](#) (TLAB) was founded in 2015 by Anita Amstutz. She had a vision for a non-profit that would focus on pollinator health, advocacy and education in the greater Middle Rio Grande watershed. Thus, TLAB was created to focus on pollinator health, protection, and education in Albuquerque. [A Bee City USA](#) resolution was presented to the City Council, and passed unanimously in 2016.

From 2016 through 2020, TLAB wrote and received grants to create pollinator gardens, work with organic farmers and at-risk youth in the South Valley to create meaningful jobs that underscored the connection between healthy food, pollinators, and working the land. Due to several factors, including COVID in 2020, the organization contracted, and the number of grants dwindled.

In 2021, a neighbor in the North Campus neighborhood approached the County for a small grant to buy surplus pesticide-free native plants. She had noticed an increase in gravel yards and a decrease in pollinators, along with loneliness among her neighbors. She organized a small native plant giveaway, which was very successful, and the [Pollinators in the Neighborhood](#) (PIN) concept was born.



Pollinators in the Neighborhood is a volunteer effort to increase pollinator habitat in the City of Albuquerque. Under the fiscal sponsorship of TLAB, the group has received grants from the Carroll Petrie Foundation, The City of Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County to procure and grow pesticide-free plants to distribute to neighborhoods and schools in Albuquerque. PIN has become an important pillar of TLAB.

PIN is seeking now to expand the program by collaborating with other organizations with similar goals. Specifically, PIN is interested in working with Hawks Aloft to support their Living With the Landscape Program. The creation of pollinator gardens in select elementary schools is part of their program, and PIN could support those efforts by securing supplies and pesticide free plants for the school's pollinator gardens. It is through collaborative efforts with Hawks Aloft, and other organizations in Albuquerque, that we will continue to educate generations about the importance of healthy pollinator habitat. Healthy pollinators equate to healthy communities for all.

If you are interested in learning more about Pollinators in the Neighborhood, please think about volunteering with us. Our plant giveaways will be on three weekends in September 2025 and require many volunteers to prepare and work at the giveaways. We hope to see you in September!

Hawks Aloft is excited to partner with TLAB through our Living with the Landscape program for the 2025-26 school year!

Photos courtesy of Pollinators in the Neighborhood

DONATE

Check Out Our Amazon Wishlist!

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

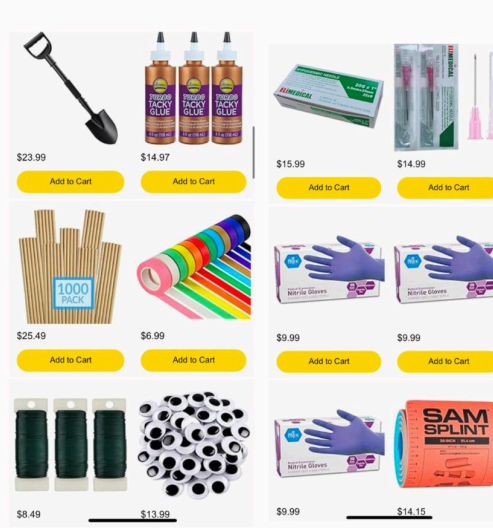
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2RKBK1WZR458Y?ref_=wl_share

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

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

The image is an example of some of the items found on

our wishlist.



Orange you Happy for Spring Migration?

by Nate and Jeanne Gowan, Guest Authors

Orange you happy for Spring migration?

With spring migration in full swing, our backyard birdbaths and feeders are busy places. To entice the migrators, we also put out orange halves and are rewarded with frequent visits from [Bullock's Orioles](#).

The male plumage of the Bullock's Oriole is a striking yellow-orange and black. Their undersides are almost entirely a golden orange except for a black patch on their throat.

Their orange heads have a black stripe that connects through their eyes to their black cap. Wings, tail and back are also black, but the wings have a large white patch.

Adult females are more muted with greyish-brown upper parts, a duller yellow breast and an olive crown. Some females have a dark throat patch like the male, but it is not a common coloring. Their wings are greyish brown with one or two indistinct bars.



Bullocks Orioles and [Baltimore Orioles](#) are often confused because of their similar coloring but the Bullock's have a black eyeline against its orange cheek. The Baltimore orioles are seen mostly in the eastern United States while the Bullock's are found in the west from the Great Plains and beyond. These two species of orioles hybridize on the Great Plains. They were once lumped together and named the Northern Oriole before being designated as two separate species.

During courtship, males can be seen hopping from branch to branch, bowing to the female while stretching upright, spreading their tail feathers and quivering their wings. After pairing, the female will choose a nesting site typically in woodland areas. Their nests are hanging pouches often suspended from branches of deciduous trees. Although males help gather nest material, the females are primarily responsible for the building. The nest is composed of vines, plant fibers, strips of bark and grasses, all flexible enough to weave into a pouch which is lined with plant down, hair, moss or fine grass.

Bullock's Oriole's diet consists of insects as well as fruit and nectar from flowers. Their prey consists of caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, ants, as well as other bugs. They also love fruit, and oranges are one of their favorites. These birds use a method called "gaping" to extract juice from flowers and fruits and even caterpillars. They thrust their closed bills into the skin and pry their bills open inside the fruit or insect to lap up the juices with their tongues.

Since we discovered their love for oranges, we have been putting out 4 orange halves per day. But the effort and expense are worth it to encourage these especially beautiful visitors.

Photos by Nate Gowan.



**Presenting
The Hawks Aloft
2024-25 Raffle Quilt!**

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

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

[Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

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

Photo by Bob McInteer.

Hawks Aloft New Mexico Field Trips



Armendaris Bats – A New Adventure!
A special viewing of the Armendaris bats
Cooper's Hawk or Higher Level Members Only Local Tour
August 13-15, 2025
\$575/person

Sitting quietly along the edge of the collapsed lava tube, in the reflected heat of the volcanic rocks, all was calm and quiet. Then from above, distant screams arose, far too high to be seen.

As we waited, the screams continued to intensify until first one, then another joined in. Once the mass exodus of bats began, it was only then that the cadre of waiting Swainson's Hawks made their descent into the bat stream, catching and eating on the wing. Even as I write this, several years after my first visit, it still evokes chills of excitement. Other raptors might include Prairie Falcon and Peregrine Falcon, [American Kestrel](#) and [Barn Owl](#).

We are beyond thrilled that we will once again visit the Jornada bat maternity colony located in a remote volcanic reach within the [Armendaris Ranch](#), owned by Ted Turner, that encompasses 358,000 acres in south central New Mexico. This is indeed a trip of a lifetime to experience the closeup encounter with millions of [Brazilian Free-tailed Bats](#) with seven other species, including [Allen's Big-eared Bat](#) and the [Spotted Bat](#).

This year we are excited to announce a very special opportunity for this year's Armendaris Bat Adventure – No More Camping!

Instead, we will stay in the beautifully refurbished and air-conditioned Deep Well Bunkhouse, located about 10 miles north of Engle, Ranch Headquarters. We have full use of the adjacent Cookhouse, where we will prepare and provide all meals. Our group will have exclusive use of the ranch, meaning that we will be the only visitors.

Cory Thompson, Turner Expeditions, will be our most excellent guide for our entire stay. Everyone greatly enjoyed the time we were able to spend with him last year. Our planned itinerary includes:

- Two evening visits to the bat caves.
- An expedition to the summit of the Fra Cristobal Mountains with a far-reaching view from the crest.

- A private tour of the ranch where we might see [Burrowing Owl](#), bison, big horn sheep, oryx, deer, and Golden Eagles that nest in the Fra Cristobals.
- An afternoon indoor chat with Cory about the history of the Armendaris, current conservation efforts by the Turner Endangered Species Fund, the wildlife on the ranch, and more.
- A final morning visit to the bat caves to watch them return!
- All meals will be provided (picnic dinners at the bat caves).

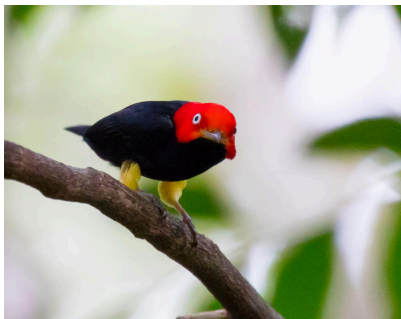
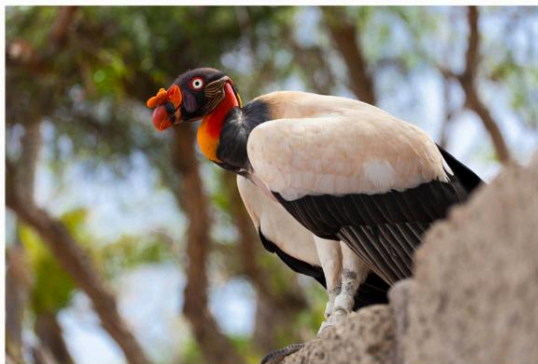
Space is extremely limited (8 people max) and we cannot guarantee a private room. Due to the space limitations, this trip is open only to active members at the Cooper's Hawk level or above. This trip will not be advertised on our website.

Registration for this trip will open on June 29 at 2 p.m. Register by sending an email to [Gail](#). Registrations will be processed in the order they are received. Once we check the status of your membership, we will confirm and send additional details as well as an invoice that can be paid online.

It promises to be even more special than past trips!

Photo by Larry Rimer.

Hawks Aloft International Tours



Belize | Neotropical Birds and Mayan

Ruins

April 16, 2026 - April 21, 2026

\$2675 per person

Embark on an exploration of rainforests, waterfalls, history and wildlife with Hawks Aloft and Holbrook Travel. On this 6-day adventure you will visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and learn about local conservation and Mayan sites. Amid rainforests and valleys, archaeological sites tell the story of this culturally rich region while also providing habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna, including hundreds of bird species.

You'll encounter incredible biodiversity and geological features in the country's pristine central rainforests and learn about wildlife rehabilitation at the Belize Zoo.

OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION: Continue your Belize adventure with an optional post-trip extension to explore and snorkel in the azure waters of Ambergris Caye.

Highlights

- Discover concentrated flocks as well as rare sightings of avifauna, such as the Jabiru, Yellow-headed Parrot, Yucatan Jay, and Yucatan Woodpecker, in the wetlands and pine savannas of Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Hike the trails at Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Refuge, a tropical moist forest sheltering some 300 avian species, including trogons, tanagers, flycatchers, and the Yellow-billed Cacique.
- Enjoy up-close encounters with some of the country's native fauna, including a pair of Harpy Eagles, at the Belize Zoo.
- Learn about birding and conservation in Belize from a local expert
- Explore Mayan sites and beautiful waterfalls at Mayflower Bocawina National Park via a system of trails through the rainforest.

Click [Here](#) for complete details including post-trip extension.

Photo Credits: Top Collage (clockwise from upper left) [Ocellated Turkey](#) by Laura Hare; Xunantunick by Lily Wilde, [King Vulture](#) (Holbrook stock) Southern Stingrays by Steffie Lopez. [Red-capped Manakin](#) (Holbrook stock)

Peru Spectacles of Nature Birding the Amazonia, Andes, and Desert Coast



September 15- 27, 2026
\$7275 Per person

From the snow-peaked Andes Mountains to arid desert lowlands, and from steamy cloud forests to sun-kissed Pacific shores, Peru's tremendous range of ecosystems and the consequent diversity of its endemic species make it a favorite among birders. Join Gail Garber, Holbrook Travel, and Hawks Aloft members for a unique birding opportunity and to explore some of the country's natural and cultural highlights—including the Amazon basin, [Machu Picchu](#), and the [Ballestas Islands](#). As you traverse different landscapes, you'll cross more than just birds off your life list: take a boat ride through the rainforest on the Amazon River, walk among the ruins of the Inca civilization, and marvel at the coastal desert of the [Paracas Reserve](#).



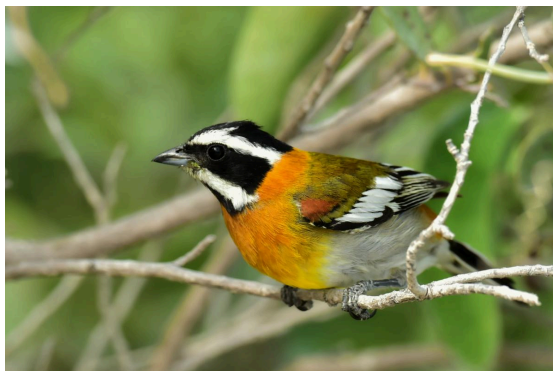
Highlights

- Spot some of the 400-plus species of birds found in the Machu Picchu complex and surrounding areas.
- Explore the Amazonian lowlands by boat and on foot to look for colorful macaws, tanagers, and the enigmatic [Hoatzin](#).
- Discover the mist-fed ecosystem of Lomas de Lachay, home to an oasis of dwarf forest in the Peruvian desert.
- Visit Pantanos de Villa, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance that provides critical habitat for waterfowl and migratory shorebirds.
- Witness the seabirds of Ballestas Islands, including species such as the [Humboldt Penguin](#), [Peruvian Booby](#), [Inca Tern](#), and the near-threatened [Peruvian Diving-Petrel](#).

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

Photos: Top Photo clockwise from top right: [Paradise Tanager](#)/Ian Segebarth, Hoatzin/Holbrook stock, Machu Picchu/Debbie Sturdivant Jordan/Weaving demonstration/Laura Hare. [Andean Cock of the Rock](#) by Ian Segebarth.

Hawks Aloft Waitlisted Tours.
Please visit our website for full details and to be added to the waitlist.



Cuba A Journey to the Extraordinary

January 31 – February 9, 2026

From \$4,295/person

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

[Western Spindalis](#), image courtesy of Holbrook Travel.



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.](#)
Giant Anteater - photo 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!

OneCommunityAuto.com

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 Talon! Avian Ambassador & Loving Owlet Foster Mama!

Talon is an easy favorite for elementary school students, even after they learn she is indeed not a baby owl, but an adult Western Screech-Owl! Talon came to us in 2019 after being hit by a car. Unfortunately, she lost sight in her left eye and has head trauma that affects her cognition. These injuries minimize her hunting skills and prevent her from being able to recognize danger from predators. Talon's name exemplifies that despite their small size, Western Screech-Owls are fierce predators.

Talon was originally believed to be a male until she began to lay (unfertilized) eggs! But instead of raising her own owlets, she shares her enclosure with foster Western Screech-Owlets that we get in the spring, which helps limit the chance of the babies becoming human-imprints. Please consider sponsoring Talon!

When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you receive:

- A one-year Hawks Aloft membership
- An adoption certificate
- An information booklet about the individual bird you have adopted



- Exclusive access to video updates about your bird
- Your choice of:
 - A professional 8×10 photo of your bird, or
 - A stuffed Audubon Bird with realistic vocalizations (if available for that species)

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

Photo by Larry Rimer



Photographer's Monthly Gallery

Amy Brenneman

Amy has had a passion for the outdoors and wildlife her entire life, taking her to places like Nepal, South Africa, Iceland, and Morocco. Her favorite place of travel is Alaska. Her interest in photography was sparked by a trip to Alaska, in which she was bear watching at Brook Falls, in Katmai National Park. She knew that this was a once

in a lifetime opportunity and wanted to be able to capture the excitement of the moment. She began taking lessons from friends Doug and Kristin Brown at the end of 2023, and quickly fell in love with photographing birds.

1. Brown Bear
2. [Common Nighthawk](#)
3. [Canvasback](#)
4. [Black-necked Stilt](#)
5. [Northern Harrier](#)





Amy Breneman
PHOTOGRAPHY





DONORS, SUPPORTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Donate to Hawks Aloft

**Become a Hawks Aloft
Member**

May 2025 Donations & Memberships

Shane Kelly Abbott Jr
Ann Adams
Ricardo Aguilar
Sherrie Auhll
Richard Besset
Diane Blake
Niels Chapman & Ruth Burstrom *
Edsal & Mary Chappelle (In
Memory of Chuck Brandt)
Brian Cover
Dawna Lee Driskill
Frederick H. Leonhardt
Foundation / Martina Gamez
Gail Garber *
Teresa Garcia *
Patricia Hawley *
Kroger / Smith's Inspiring
Donations
Ben Lewinger / Fable
Communications LLC
Sue Lyons *
Cheryl Maracich *

Our Veterinarians and Rehabilitators

Kariana Atkinson, DVM
Candace Auten, DVM
Calista Veterinary
Hospital
Mary & Ed Chappelle
Linda Contos, DVM
Coronado Animal
Hospital
Desert Willow Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center
El Paso Zoo
Eye Care for Animals
Mike Melloy, DVM
Matt Mitchell
Milan Airport Animal
Clinic

Raptor Rescue Calls and Patient Intakes May 2025

Hotline Calls: 75
Patient intakes: 14

- Harlan's Hawk, Emaciated & Femoral Fracture
- Western Screech Owl, Dehydration (fledgling)
- Western Screech Owl, Eye Injury & Physical Trauma (hit by car)
- Western Screech Owl, Gastrointestinal Disease (orphaned nestling)
- Western Screech Owl, Clinically Healthy

Trish Meyer *
Milt Michailidis
John & Mary Mims *
Mary-Anne Mitchell
David Parsons *
Natalie Paynter
PayPal Giving Fund
David Powell
Lee Rottler *
Allison Schacht *
Marian Spindler
Dorothy Stermer *
Victoria Telles
K Wayne & Drena Welty *
Wild Birds Unlimited Westside(@
Corrales Road) Public Donations

* indicates recurring monthly
donor

Would you like to join our team
of recurring monthly donors?
Every little bit helps, even if its
only \$5 a month. [Contact Gail](#)
to set up your recurring monthly
donation.

New Mexico Wildlife
Center
On a Wing and a Prayer
Petroglyph Animal
Hospital
Santa Fe Raptor Center
Samantha Holeck, DVM
Amelia Thompson
Wildlife Rescue of New
Mexico

- (orphaned nestling)
- Western Screech Owl,
Gastrointestinal
Disease (orphaned
nestling)
- Common Raven,
Grounded (nestling)
- Common Raven,
Emaciated & Physical
Injury
- Western Screech Owl,
Entrapment (orphaned
fledgling)
- Western Screech Owl,
Entrapment (orphaned
fledgling)
- Western Screech Owl,
Entrapment (orphaned
fledgling)
- Western Screech Owl,
Entrapment (orphaned
fledgling)
- Greater Roadrunner,
Entrapment & Physical
Injury
- Northern Saw-whet
Owl, Physical Injury
(fledgling)
- Great Horned Owl,
Grounded Nestling

Raptor Rescue Team

Michael Balassone
Brandon Borquist
Wendy Brown
Mary Bruesch
Ed Chappelle
Mary Chappelle
Charles Cummings
Gary Eilar
Chris Gibson
Lee Hanks
Carole Heimann
Denise Knight
Devona Jensen
Jeannine Kinzer
Ruth Latta

Megan Lemmo
Evelyn McGarry
Matt Mitchell
Jenee Moore
Eliane & Johnny Notah
Stephanie Otts
Chellye Porter
Steve Priola
Dianne Rossbach
Susan Shook
Jim Taulman
Amelia Thompson Ethan Thompson
Lars Wells
Tamryn Wiedeman
Vicki Wilmarth

Thank You to Our Corporate & Foundation Donors!

Albuquerque Community Foundation

Anonymous

Avangrid Foundation

Benevity Fund

Bureau of Land Management

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Cottonwood Environmental Consulting

Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation Service/Arroyo Classrooms

Defenders of Wildlife

Edward F. Zimmer Community Fund

Fable Communications

Farmers Electric Cooperative

FHL Foundation

Holbrook Travel

Iberdrola

Intel Corporation

Kroger/Smith's Inspiring Donations

Los Alamos National Laboratory Employees

Tom & Edel Mayer Foundation

The McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment

National Philanthropic Trust

Nusenda Foundation

One Community Auto

Owings Gallery

PNM Resources Foundation

Peabody Natural Resources Company

Gerald Swanson

The Edw. F. Zimmer Community Fund

The Frost Foundation

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Bureau of Reclamation

USDA Forest Service - Jemez Ranger District

Valles Caldera National Preserve

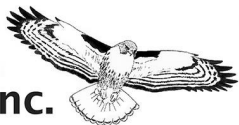
Wild Birds Unlimited

[Hawks Aloft Website](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Shop](#)

Hawks Aloft, Inc.



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

[Contact Us](#)



Who We Are

Gail Garber, *Executive Director*
David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*
Linda Contos, *DVM, Consulting Veterinarian*
Emilia Falk, *Guest Author*
Trevor Fetz, *Research Director*
Jeanne Gowan, *Guest Author*
Nate Gowan, *Surveyor*
Roger Grimshaw, *Raptor Surveys*
Pat Hawley, *Editor*
John Heidrich, *DVM, Triage Veterinarian*
Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager, Raptor Driving Surveys*
Brian Long, *Raptor Surveys*
Tom Mayer, *Avian Surveyor, Guest Author*
Evelyn McGarry, *Office Manager, East Mountain Representative, Raptor Rescue Dispatcher*
Calle Poindexter, *Marketing*
Andrew Orr, *GIS Mapping*
Elizabeth Reed, *Guest Author*
Larry Rimer, *Project Manager*
Heather Rissi, *Education Coordinator*
Liz Roberts, *Senior Educator/Naturalist*
Dallas Steele, *Bookkeeper*
Amelia Thompson, *Senior Wildlife Rehabilitator*
Scott Waters, *Graphic Design*

Our Board of Directors

Claudette Horn, *Chair*
Terry Edwards, *Treasurer*
Kristin Brown, *Director*
Linda Contos, *DVM, Director*
Christine Fiorello, *DVM, Director*
Nate Gowan, *Director*



Try email marketing for free today!