



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



A Visit to Old Town Farm

**by Heather Rissi
Education Coordinator**

For the past four years, fifth grade students participated in a field trip to Old Town Farm as the capstone of our grant-funded Living with the Landscape (LWL) program. The school-year-long conservation program is designed to teach elementary students about birdlife, and encourages them to become better stewards of their environment. Fifth graders also receive additional class visits from us and a trip to [Old Town Farm \(Bike in Coffee\)](#), to drive that message home.

Old Town Farm (OTF) is perfect for this project because it is a small, local, organic farm right in the heart of Albuquerque. We are very thankful that the farms owners, Lanny

Tonning and Linda Thorne welcome Hawks Aloft with open arms and allow us to use their property for this very important program each May.

This year fifth graders from Kit Carson, Alvarado, and Sombra del Monte Elementary Schools spent the day at OTF. Students were greeted and given a fascinating introduction to the farm by Libby Lawson (Lanny and Linda's daughter). She has a way of interweaving the farm's history with the modern world in a way that captivates students. Students were then divided into three groups that cycled through different activities.

Most popular is the nature scavenger hunt around the farm grounds. Mackenzie Hall and volunteer Ruth Latta encouraged students to use all their senses to become more aware of their surroundings. Students searched for insects, nest cavities in trees, pollinators, water sources, birds, and other wildlife.

Liz Roberts, our resident creative artist, worked with students to teach the [Sadako peace crane](#) story, intended to inspire peace in the world. With assistance from volunteers Evelyn McGarry and Ani Baca, Liz demonstrated the folding of origami paper cranes as students followed along. Everyone worked together as a team and students helping their classmates make it a success. Students also added tags with a drawing or a promise to take care of nature.

Of course, our avian ambassadors are always the hit of every presentation. Students learned about two raptor ambassadors they may not have seen during previous school visits. Jemez, the [Mexican Spotted Owl](#) (a threatened species) was present for several days and it was the perfect segway for me to remind students about the field work we do at Hawks Aloft and its benefit to better understanding impacts to wildlife in our state. We hope that as these students grow and





interact with the world around them, they will actively desire to take part in helping protect nature and wildlife in the future.

We could not offer LWL without the help of our funders: [PNM](#), [Albuquerque Community Foundation](#), [FHL Foundation](#), McCaughin Mountain Foundation, and our members and donors. Thank you, thank you, thank you for funding this important program!

Again, thank you to Lanny, Linda, and Libby for allowing us to share and explore their farm. Also, many thanks to our wonderful education volunteers, Evelyn, Ruth, and Ani, and an additional thank you to volunteer Kristin Brown for taking photographs.

***Note:** Due to a very generous grant from the Albuquerque Community Foundation, we will now be able to offer LWL to possibly four or five schools in the upcoming school year: Emerson, Hawthorne, and possibly Apache and/or Kirtland. Lavaland, that is undergoing a transition in their fifth-grade curriculum, may receive a reduced version of LWL.



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!



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COMMUNITY
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trust • equity • integrity • accountability



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THE FROST FOUNDATION



Bat Caves of The Jornada del Muerto Armendaris Ranch

Updated Information and Registration

*August 5-7, 2026 or August 12-14, 2026
Wildlife of the Armendaris*

Due to health issues, we have had to cancel the Focus on Photography session, but intend to offer it in 2027. Instead, we offer your choice of two different weekends at the Ranch, featuring Wildlife of the Armendaris.

How can I say this? Just Wow! The good folks at the ranch have been working with us on our visits. They have offered us the opportunity for guests to stay in the Armendaris Hacienda, formerly the home of Ted Turner and Jane Fonda. As you can imagine, it is a huge upgrade over the bunkhouse, and we also get **our own personal chef** for the entire trip.

There are four luxury suites in the home, with 3 king suites and 1 suite with 2 queen beds, each of which has its own bathroom!

There is a minimal additional cost for these upgrades. The total cost/person:

Aug 5-7, 2026

OR

Aug 12-14, 2026

Wildlife of the Armendaris

\$1075/king (1 bed) or queen (2 beds) suite with private bath, or
\$850/bunkhouse shared room and bath

This trip will not be advertised on our website and is open to members only at the \$100 or higher level! Registration for this trip will open on **June 13 at noon**. Register by sending an email to [Gail](#) with the desired dates and room. 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.



The Ted Turner Legacy

By Will Keeley and Gail Garber

[The Turner Foundation](#) provided critical funding for the young Hawks Aloft during the early 2000s, at a time when we struggled to fund independent studies, particularly for the [Ferruginous Hawk](#), whose status was almost entirely unknown in New Mexico. Due to their generous funding, we were able to conduct field studies in the Estancia Valley and

eastern plains of New Mexico, with the support of graduate student, Will Keeley. The Armendaris Ranch management and staff also were very supportive of Hawks Aloft, allowing access to the private lands for our raptor driving surveys, searches for recently released [Aplomado Falcons](#), and access to the bat caves of the Jornada del Muerto! Tom Waddell, ranch manager, spent many hours with our folks, showing us other projects on the ranch, including their work with Bolson's tortoise, and allowing us to use their bunkhouses on occasion.

For three summers, Will Keeley studied Ferruginous Hawks in two areas in New Mexico—the Estancia Valley and the Plains of San Agustin west to the Arizona border. Partial funding was received by the BLM Socorro Field Office but most of it came from the Ted Turner Foundation. It was a transformative time for him as he studied Ferruginous Hawk ecology in New Mexico, collecting data for his Master of Science degree in Raptor Biology from Boise State University in Idaho.

Will reports, "I have myriad magical memories of my time in New Mexico, too many to even scratch the surface. Ted and Jane believed in the wonders of the natural world, and by providing opportunities for burgeoning young helped build a strong conservational foundation to pass along to the next generation. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to dive into learning all I could about a charismatic raptor species and using this experience to develop a professional career spent attempting to conserve habitat for the benefit of all.

Twenty years later, I am still enjoying my job as Senior Wildlife Ecologist protecting habitat for raptors and other wildlife species at the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department that manages about 46,000 acres of grassland, forest, and the iconic flatirons, where we manage climbing access to protect nesting Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, as well as Golden Eagles. I consider myself lucky in many regards, with being at the right place in the right time on several occasions, but I still think back to how the opportunity at Hawks Aloft, provided by Mr. Turner, shaped my entire life--personal and professional."

Thank you!

FHL Foundation

for funding

**Living with the Landscape
for the second consecutive year!**



'Tis the Season!

Baby Bird Season!

**By Heather Rissi
Education Coordinator/Writer**

Tis the Season! Baby Season that is!

If you follow us on [Facebook](#) you have already seen some of the adorable faces of baby birds that have come through our door! Last month we had numerous calls about various types of baby birds (raptors and other species) and had 11 intakes (nestlings and fledglings), including one [Cooper's Hawk](#), two [Common Ravens](#), three [Great Horned Owls](#), one [Barn Owl](#), and four [American Kestrels](#).

These babies all have two things in common. One, they are cute, and two, they want to be fed, right now! Check out the picture of the raven nestlings. These new hatchlings open their mouths wide begging for food. It seems like it would be an easy to feed these babies, right? But, take a closer look at that same picture and you will notice a hole at the bottom of the throat. This does not lead to their stomach, as one might expect, but instead leads to their lungs! The hole is actually their exposed trachea, and if water or food is accidentally inhaled, the bird can end up with aspiration pneumonia! This is why we ask individuals who rescue birds (baby and adult alike) not to feed or give water to a rescued bird and instead put it in a box in a dark, quiet area and take it to a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.



Now, let's talk about the cute factor! Humans are biologically drawn to babies or baby animals that we deem cute! It is just our nature. So, it makes absolute sense that we naturally want to help any animal in need – especially baby animals! While we do see plenty of baby birds that do need help, there are plenty others that are perfectly healthy and do not need rescuing (i.e. fledgling baby birds learning to fly). Check out the wonderful flowchart by Audubon on what you should do if you find a baby bird. If there are any questions at all, you can always contact our Raptor Rescue Hotline at 505-999-7740.

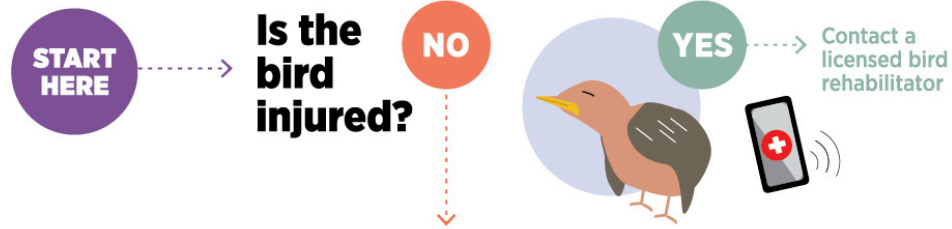
Equally important is to remember wild birds belong in the wild! Taking and keeping a baby bird is illegal due to the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#) and risks the bird becoming human imprinted (where it does not associate with others of its own species). Birds can also suffer irreversible and heartbreaking medical conditions such as metabolic bone disease that can further decrease their chances of being released into the wild. Check out our featured Adopt-a-Raptor, Indigo, for more information on this topic.

In the case of the raven nestlings mentioned above, the rescue callers had observed the nest for some time and found that after previous activity, the parents had been missing for several days. After consulting with us, the callers rescued them and volunteer Evelyn McGarry transported them to Mikal Deese at [On a Wing and a Prayer](#) in Corrales for their continued care. We thank the rescuers for their assistance in this rescue.

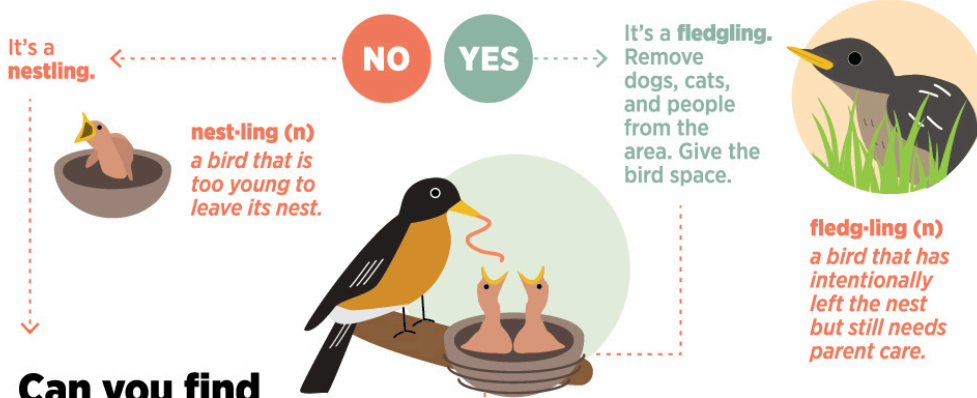
Thank you to our funders who make Raptor Rescue possible: [Avangrid](#), [PNM](#), [The Edw. F. Zimmer Community Fund](#), [Albuquerque Community Foundation](#), [The Frost Foundation](#), and our members and donors.

Photos by Evelyn McGarry and Heather Rissi.

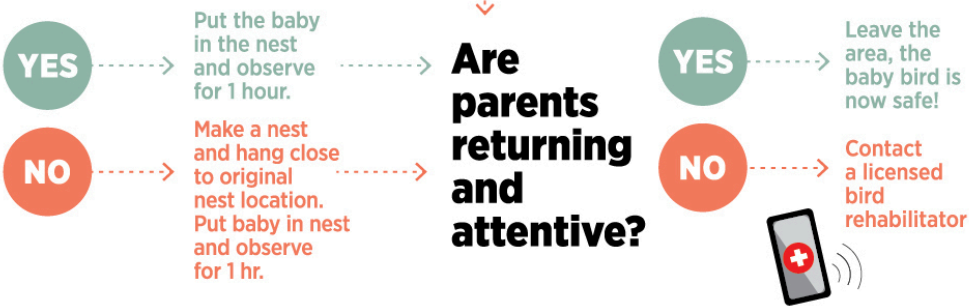
I Found a Baby Bird! ...Now What?



Does the bird have feathers?



Can you find the nest intact?



Calling all Construction Team Volunteers! Mews Building and Maintenance Day Saturday, July 11, 2026 8:00 a.m.

Please help Hawks Aloft build a new 8' x 8' rehabilitation cage at Gail's House. Our goal is to complete the new structure that day, and to also install swings for our ed birds, replace worn Astro-Turf, and basic touch up. Bring your power tools, hand tools, creative genius, and positive attitude! Lunch will be provided.

Yes, we should have planned this for earlier in the year, but we have been waiting on the delivery of the corrugated metal panels.

Please [contact Gail](#) to sign up!



NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2026
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM

Co-sponsored by
Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation
Hawks Aloft, Inc. & New Mexico Wildlife Center

Willow Flycatcher Season Begins

By Trevor Fetz, Ph.D
Research Director

May 15th marks the beginning of the [Willow Flycatcher](#) survey season, and we have a full slate of surveys this year. We are surveying 17 sites for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Albuquerque Reach of the Rio Grande and three sites for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in the Los Lunas Reach.

The survey areas for the BOR are particularly large, as they cover the entire area from the Los Lunas bridge north to the Pueblo of Isleta boundary on both sides of the Rio Grande.

The season kicked off with a fast start, as several of our surveyors encountered relatively large numbers of flycatchers. I picked up four detections at one of our sites in Corrales where we previously have only documented two total detections, and never more than one in a single year. A few days later, Alex and Heather encountered large numbers of flycatchers moving through the Albuquerque South Valley on both sides of the Rio Grande. Between the two of them, they racked up 18 detections among the three survey areas they covered that morning. But a bit further south, where I was surveying, it was a quiet morning. I only encountered one flycatcher among the two survey areas I covered.

Clearly, there was a large movement of migrant flycatchers working their way up the Rio Grande in mid-May. It is unlikely that any of the birds we detected were from the endangered Southwestern subspecies we are targeting. Most, if not all, of the birds were probably from other subspecies that breed further north. Given the dry conditions and very low water level in the Rio Grande, it might be a bleak breeding season in the areas we survey. One of the key habitat characteristics for [Southwestern Willow Flycatchers](#) (SWFLs) is the presence of standing water or at least a damp substrate, and those areas will be very limited this breeding season. Nevertheless, it's always fun to pick up flycatcher detections. Hopefully, we will pick up more as we enter the SWFL nesting season.



Renew your Membership/Join our Team



HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUS (HPAI)

**By Christine Fiorello, DVM
Lead Veterinarian**

Last month, I wrote about the current strain of HPAI, but how much of a risk is it?

Globally, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, there have been fewer than 200 reported human cases of this strain of HPAI since its emergence in 2022, and just a handful of those were fatal. In comparison, according to the World Health Organization, other strains of influenza cause an estimated 200,000 to 650,000 human deaths per year. Right now, the HPAI strain is not a significant cause of human mortality (although knowing the propensity of flu viruses to mutate, that could change at any time).

Raptor populations, on the other hand, have been hard hit by HPAI, surprising avian biologists. The USDA reports that nearly 20,000 birds in the US have tested positive for HPAI since 2022, and just shy of 4,000 of these were birds of prey. Keep in mind that these are just birds that were REPORTED. It is therefore likely a huge underestimate of the numbers of birds truly affected. Where do the numbers come from? The answer may be more complicated than you think.

In order for an HPAI-affected bird to be reported, the universe has to align. The bird has to be either dead or sick enough to be noticed; in a place where it *can* be noticed. The person who notices it then has to capture it and transport it to the appropriate authority, who then has to decide to test it, and finally, the result must be reported.

Sick and dead birds are found by people, which means they must be near a city or a road. Much of New Mexico is rural. It would be safe to say the average person is not wandering around the wilderness and cattle ranches looking for sick or dead birds. It just is not possible! New Mexico is too vast a place, with too many inaccessible places.

Most reports come from state and federal agencies, such as Departments of Fish & Wildlife or Natural Resources. But here's the rub: not all states have HPAI surveillance programs, and states vary tremendously in terms of their resources and priorities. That leaves many questions to be answered: Are only submitted birds being tested, or are authorities actively looking for sick birds? Do they test every bird, or just a small selection? Do they report every bird that is tested?

In other words, 4,000 birds in 5 years is an absolute minimum! A disproportionate number of raptors affected by HPAI are eagles – almost 25% of the 4,000. That is why the work of Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen North) out of Arizona, the organization testing thousands of wild animals for HPAI, is so important, and why we are contributing to their work.

To report suspected Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), immediately contact your **state veterinarian** or the **USDA toll-free hotline** at **1-866-536-7593**. State and federal experts will evaluate the situation, arrange for testing, and enforce necessary quarantine or mitigation steps.

[Bald Eagle in flight](#), photo by [Kristin C. Brown Photography](#)

Housesitter Needed

We seek a person to stay at our director's home occasionally to care for two small dogs and up to 12 educational raptors. Preference will be given to individuals that have vet tech or raptor handling experience. This is a paid position. Please [email Gail](#) if interested.

DONATE



Introducing the 2026-2027

Hawks Aloft Raffle Quilt!

Our new raffle quilt was designed by Gail Garber and Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer. It features the Barn Owl, one of our most favorite of owls. Rather than holding a weekend long stitch-a-thon, we divided up the sections and distributed them to Gail's small quilting group of friends. The sections were stitched by Mary Chappelle, Barbara Deshler, Pat Drennan, Vicky Harms, Carol Meincke, in addition to Gail and Cynthia. It was machine quilted by Tisha Cavanaugh, whose exquisite needlework has graced many of our quilts in the past. Liz Roberts, our senior educator, helped to stitch the binding along with all the rest of us in an afternoon work day so that we could present the quilt at the Monte Vista, CO, Crane Fest this March.

Tickets are \$1/each or 6/\$5.

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on December 4, 2027.

Click [here](#) to buy raffle tickets.

Photo by Bob McInteer



Birding Belize 2026

**by PD St. Clair
Administrative Assistant**

and Gail Garber

Belize is a beautiful country along the Caribbean coast and the perfect destination for our short, but memorable adventure. Our 11-member party discovered a country overflowing with biodiversity, cultural traditions, and unforgettable wildlife. We focused on two

destinations, Bocawina and Crooked Tree, where abundant birdlife, lush forests, delicious food, and warm hospitality created the perfect rhythm of birding and relaxation.

[Mayflower Bocawina National Park](#), nestled deep within the rainforest felt like a postcard brought to life. The grounds teemed with tropical plants and birds at every turn, while evenings were accompanied by the sounds of insects, gecko smacks, and the song of the Common Pauraque.



The first night is all about making the acquaintances of the good folks with whom we would spend the next week. We hit it off right away, meeting Roni Martinez, our birding guide extraordinaire, Paul Stauss, an award-winning photographer from Florida, and Gene Vance, a long-time HAI member and master photographer for Hawks Aloft expeditions. As is our custom, we invited everyone to share photos taken during the trip, and Gene later compiled them into a slide show that [you can view here!](#) Don and Mima Falk, also longtime friends with a passionate interest in pollinators and resiliency in the landscape, provided additional knowledge about the vegetation surrounding us. We also welcomed father/daughter duo, Patrick and Anna Callahan as well as Bruce and Susan Madara, first time international travelers. Gayle Vance, Gene's other half, HAI administrative assistant PD St. Clair, and HAI director Gail Garber, rounded out the group.

Coffee and bird walks started each day, followed by a late breakfast. The [White-collared Manakin](#) stole the show for many of us as well as Brown Basilisks and toucans. We visited the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, the world's first jaguar preserve and learned about Belize's strong conservation ethos. Standout birds included [Yellow-faced Grassquit](#), [Chestnut-headed Oropendola](#), and [Red-legged Honeycreeper](#). But the jaguars remained hidden.

Culinary experiences were notable with traditional Maya meals, homemade ice cream, fresh fruit, and dishes influenced by Creole, Garifuna, Mestizo, and Maya cultures—a delicious introduction to Belize's rich cultural heritage.

The last stop of our adventure was Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. Managed by the Belize Audubon Society, the sanctuary's lagoons and waterways provide essential habitat for many bird species. During a three-hour boat tour we observed at least 25 [Snail Kites!](#) They were so abundant they were easy to photograph perched and in flight. We also marveled at [Wood Storks](#), [Jabirus](#), [Boat-billed Herons](#), and several species of kingfishers.

As is common among our various travel groups, the bonds of friendship grew stronger daily through our shared adventures, capped off by evening gatherings on the second floor deck of the lodge where we could swap stories, check out the new photos of the day, and enjoy libations as the sun set over the lagoon. It was magical. We thank everyone who participated with a special thanks to Gene for compiling the slide presentation.

A special part of the trip was learning from our guide, Roni Martinez, whose conservation work focuses on protecting the endangered [Scarlet Macaws](#) of the Chiquibul Forest. His stories about monitoring nests, combating poaching, and working with local communities highlighted the challenges and successes of conservation efforts in Belize.

Belize is an amazing place for birding with its exceptional wildlife, landscape, rich culture, and dedicated conservation efforts. We look forward to when we can return.

[Black-cowled Oriole](#) and group photo by Paul Strauss.

Slide Presentation compiled by Gene Vance, with photos from everyone in the group, identified on each image.

Hawks Aloft International Tours

Brazil Return to Northern Pantanal Earth's Largest Tropical Wetland With Hawks Aloft and Holbrook Travel



**July 23-Aug 2, 2027
From \$11,095/Per Person**

Embark on an exploration of the Pantanal in central-western Brazil, the world's largest freshwater wetland and a haven for incredible wildlife. We set up this return visit following the wildly magical trip we took in 2025, which participants called, "the trip of a lifetime."



Get up close to jaguars and hundreds of bird species while exploring diverse landscapes by foot and boat. Photographic opportunities are extraordinary! Stay in comfortable floating accommodations right in the heart of nature for an unforgettable experience.

Highlights

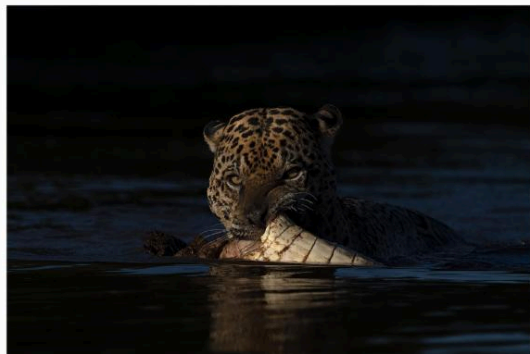
- Search for jaguars, capybaras, anteaters, tapirs, caimans, and much more while exploring the Pantanal.
- Drive along the Transpantaneira, a mostly dirt highway that passes through many habitats and is often described as the best road in the world to spot and photograph

wildlife.

- Enjoy one-of-a-kind opportunities to observe ocelots at close range from a strategically located blind.
- Navigate the narrow tributaries of Meeting of the Waters State Park and look for two families of giant otters.
- Ascend SouthWild's observation tower for eye-level views of a Jabiru nest.

[Click Here](#) for Full Details for the above trip including itinerary, lodging, and pricing.

Jaguar reclining along the Cuiaba River, [Hyacinth Macaws](#), [Toco Toucan](#), boat exploration 2025, jaguar with prey, giant river otter family. Photos by Gail Garber.



**Thrill to the Miracle of Migration
Return to Panama
With Hawks Aloft and Canopy Company**



A River of Raptors
October 13 – 28, 2027
From \$6850 per person

Biologically and culturally diverse, Panama connects North and South America. It is a haven for wildlife watchers of all kinds, especially birders. Timed for peak migration with up to 500,000 raptors soaring overhead.

Fifteen days - visit three distinctly different regions of the country. Join Hawks Aloft as we return to Panama for our third expedition (we have seen [Harpy Eagle](#) on every previous trip!).

Highlights

- Timed for peak migration with up to 500,000 raptors soaring overhead

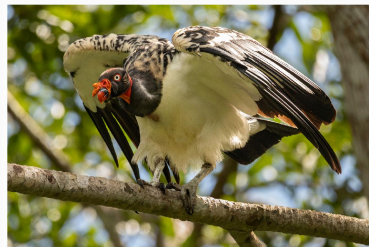
- Visit three distinct regions
- Soberania National Park in the Canal Zone, home to many hummingbirds
- Darien Province – lowland tropical forest - home of Harpy and [Crested Eagles](#)
- Cocle Province -- western highlands dry forest with [Bat Falcon](#) and motmots
- Explore local culture, including the Embera Indigenous Community.

It is, indeed, the trip of a lifetime!

[Click Here](#) for the complete itinerary. including itinerary, lodging, and pricing.

[Click Here](#) for registration and deposit.

Photos by Gail Garber and Larry Rimer. Harpy Eagle, [Black-collared Hawk](#), [Golden-collared Manakin](#), [King Vulture](#), Embera Indigenous Community.



Wait Listed Trips

Mystical Migration of the Monarch Butterflies Michoacan, Mexico with Hawks Aloft and Holbrook Travel

February 17 – 23, 2027
From \$3,225 per person

Click [Here](#) for Full Details for the trip including itinerary, lodging, and pricing.

Click [Here](#) for Full Details for the extension to Mexico City including lodging and pricing.



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 Indigo! The American Crow

Indigo, the [American Crow](#), was hatched in 2007 in Oregon and kept as an illegal pet. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits capturing, hunting, or possessing any migratory birds, its nest, or eggs without a specific permit.

Despite this, Indigo was taken from the wild and became imprinted on humans because she spent time with humans at a critical stage of her development. Birds that imprint on humans often do not associate with others of their own species, and for Indigo, it means she is aggressive toward other crows. Imprinted birds are not releasable.



Unfortunately, she also was fed an improper diet that caused permanent metabolic bone disease. This disease causes birds to have weak and brittle bones and can be deadly. Indigo is now on a specialized diet to combat this disease. She found her permanent home at Hawks Aloft the spring of 2009 and was named Indigo in reference to her iridescent plumage. She is now retired from education programs and enjoys spending ample time with her caretaker.

Crows are part of the corvid family, which are known for being particularly intelligent birds. Some crows will hold "crow funerals" where they gather around a peer who has died to learn about the cause of death. Scientists suggest this is a survival mechanism to learn about potential environmental dangers or threats. Crows also do predator mapping, which allows them to remember a predator or human face that is considered a threat.

For more on crows and their funerals listen to <https://www.alieward.com/ologies/corvid-thanatology>

Please consider adopting this amazing ambassador bird!

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
- 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

Featuring
Larry Rimer

Photography is not so much a hobby for me but rather a tool to help with my real passion—identifying and recording wildlife on my surveys. It is not unusual to have just a few seconds to identify animals. While I may have a good idea what it is with that glimpse, analyzing that photo later is very helpful.

My photos are not up to the picture-perfect standards of publications, but good enough for identifications and recording sightings. I spend much of my volunteer time in the field with Hawks Aloft, where I manage two of our raptor ecology studies.

Photography remains a challenge for me.

Chasing the perfect shot is not what makes me get up at ungodly hours of the day. I enjoy my work in the field, observing wildlife in their natural habitats, watching them hunt and raise their young to continue the circle of life. My many years of surveying have made me significantly more aware of the intricate balance of how weather and human interactions with the environment (ranching and farming activities) impacts wildlife.

1. [Golden Eagle](#) pair near one of their several nests
2. [American Avocet](#)
3. [Peregrine Falcon](#) with prey
4. [Northern Harrier](#) and Common Raven Face-off
5. Common Raven and Golden Eagle aerial encounter
6. Golden Eagle pair flying together



Larry Rimer©2026



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Larry Rimer©2026



Larry Rimer©2026

DONORS, SUPPORTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS

**May 2026
Donations &
Memberships**

Patrick Ball
Howard & Sherry Lynn Barnes
Niels Chapman & Ruth Burstrom *
Mary & Ed Chappelle
Gil Clarke
Gail Garber *
Teresa Garcia *
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Petroglyph Animal Hospital
Roadrunner Veterinary
Emergency & Specialty
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Santa Fe Raptor Center
Judie Smith
Amelia Thompson
Wildlife Rescue of New
Mexico

**Raptor Rescue Calls
and Patient Intakes
May 2026**

Hotline Calls: 95
Patient intakes: 20

- Peregrine Falcon, Fractured Major/Minor Metacarpals & Severe Soft Tissue Laceration
- [Greater Roadrunner](#), Neurologic Disease & Physical Injury
- Greater Roadrunner, Physical Injury
- Great Horned Owl, Head Trauma (fledgling)
- Cooper's Hawk, Open Fracture of Humerus
- Common Raven, Trichomonas & Eye Ulcer (nestling)
- Common Raven, Fell from Nest & Possible Aspiration (nestling)
- American Kestrel fledgling, Nest Location Unknown (fledgling)
- Great Horned Owl, DOA
- Great Horned Owl nestling, Fell from nest
- [Western Screech-Owl](#), Neck Puncture Wound
- [Prairie Falcon](#), Fractured Radius
- Greater Roadrunner, String Entanglement Around Legs
- [Common Barn-owl](#) nestling, Dehydration
- Cooper's Hawk nestling Orphaned & Nest Location Unknown
- Great Horned Owl, DOA

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.

- American Kestrel fledgling, Dehydration
- American Kestrel fledgling, Dehydration
- American Kestrel fledgling, Dehydration
- American Kestrel, DOA

Raptor Rescue Team

Wendy Brown
Mamie Chan
Kelly Coles
Charles Cummings
Deney-Rae Evans
Andy Faust
Chris Gibson
Ebony Harris
Eugene Heathman
TC Hobson
Denise Inight
Devona Jensen
Savannah Jhee
David Johnson
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Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue & Collaboration with Others

Contact Us



Who We Are

Gail Garber, *Executive Director*
Kariana Atkinson, *DVM, Veterinarian*
David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*
Linda Contos, *DVM, Consulting Veterinarian*

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