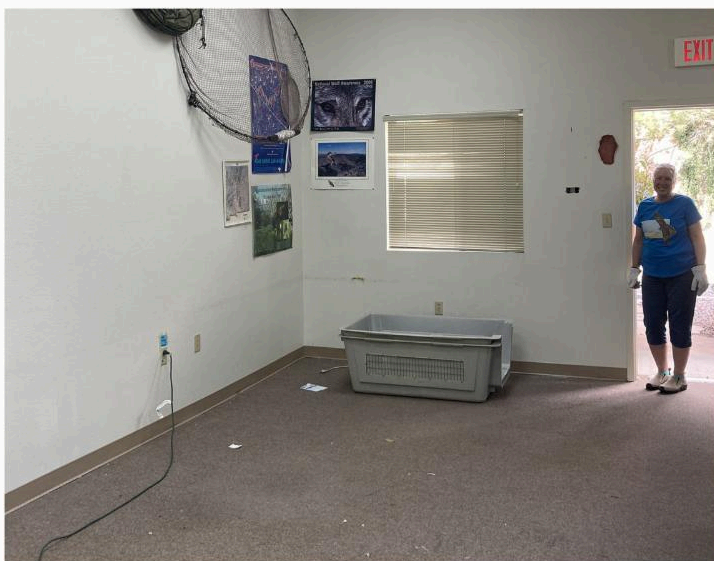




Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue & Collaboration with Others



Raptor Medical Clinic is Completed!

**by Lars Wells
Volunteer**

Building a clinic at the HAI offices would allow our volunteer vets to triage and treat rescue birds in a dedicated space and with specialized equipment without the birds needing to

wait in our busy partnering vets' offices. My wife, Stephanie Otts, and I thought it was a great idea, and that we could help. After all, we've assembled an IKEA shelf or two, so we volunteered to head up the construction project. It was only a couple of walls. *How hard could it be?*

We sketched out a plan to fit the clinic into the back corner of the building in April. However, that very spot had been used for storage and had enough clutter that we feared it would take years to clear out. When I received the picture in June of a miraculously empty clinic-sized space, I turned to Stephanie and said, "they've called our bluff."

July second, we began building. One challenge was constructing the clinic in way that it could be removed without leaving a trace on the leased building if Hawks Aloft moved out. Like cosmetic surgery, we delicately stitched the new to the old while trying to make sure it didn't collapse like a wet box. Also fun was figuring out how to get light, power and HVAC inside without doing any modifications to the light, power, or HVAC.

The single sixteen-foot wall was too heavy for Stephanie and me to place on our own so members of the HAI construction team and a couple of friends came in for a wall standing party. We framed, sheet rocked, drywalled, and installed windows and a door. We trimmed, painted, added ventilation and power strips, and ground off the old carpet glue with John's rented floor sander. Then we added a new water heater and sink. As with all construction projects, framing is fun. But once you've sanded the same drywall joint six times, you begin questioning your life choices.

It took a bit more time than assembling an IKEA shelf, but we wrapped up before September's end. In fact, we spent enough days building that somewhere along the way our phones independently labeled the Hawks Aloft location as "work". Stephanie and I are excited to see the vet clinic come online soon.

Thanks to our wall-standers and floor-grinders on the construction team: John Heidrich, Doug Blythe, Larry Rimer, Matt and Cainen Montano, and Caleb Barnard.

We sincerely thank Lars and Stephanie for their considerable donation of time and expertise. It took a total of 439.5 hours and 173.5 travel miles to build the Hawks Aloft Raptor Clinic!



Below Dr. John Heidrich and Lars at work on the clinic.
Photos by Lars Wells and Stephanie Otts.



**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!**



ALBUQUERQUE
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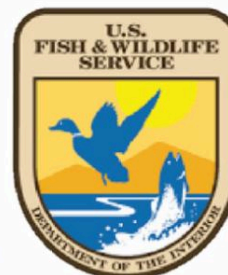
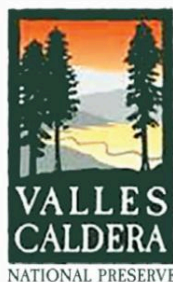
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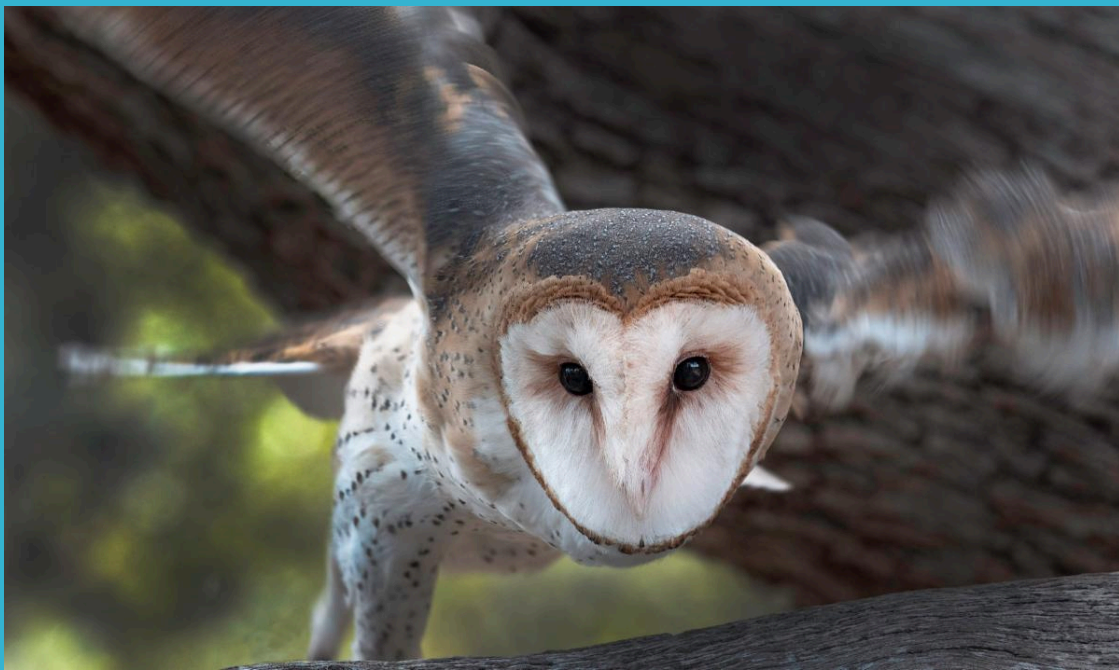
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THE FROST FOUNDATION



Focus on Photography: The Avian Ambassadors of Hawks Aloft

**By Gail Garber
Executive Director**



It's hard to believe that our last Birds of Prey Photography Workshop took place six years ago in 2019. The 2020 workshop was derailed by Covid which made it impossible to bring humans together, even outdoors. At long last, on Saturday, September 27, we secured the Kiwanis Shelter at the Elena Gallegos Open Space in the foothills of Sandia Peak. It was the perfect location with plenty of parking, covered shelter, clean bathrooms and dramatic scenery.



Our volunteer team of professional photographers (Keith Bauer, Doug Brown, Kristin Brown and Larry Rimer) coordinated the event, a photo session among 15 participating photographers and 15 educational ambassadors which were ready for their close ups. The teaching crew arrived early to set up the natural perches in the best positioning for late afternoon autumnal light.

All were ready for a perfect fall day, but Mother Nature had other plans. Even though the forecast was encouraging—showers in the morning, clearing by afternoon—promptly at 2:30 she produced high winds, storm clouds, thunder and lightning. Oh my! But nature photographers are hearty souls and are undeterred by inclement weather. They all showed up with big smiles and big lenses.

Our expert avian handlers Larry Rimer, Heather Rissi, Liz Roberts, and Amelia Thompson, sorted who would handle which bird at which time, according to plumage, eye color, temperament, and wind conditions. It's safe to say that a good time was had by all based on the comments below:

Jerry Sutherlin: My 12-year-old grandson, Aiden, took the workshop this weekend where he was given pointers on photographing raptors such as hawks, falcon, and owls. The knowledgeable staff and other photographers were so kind, giving him advice on the birds and photography. On our drive home he asked that I tell everyone how much he enjoyed the workshop and ask if I would bring him back when there was another workshop. I enclose several of his photos. Thank you Hawks Aloft.

Dustin Huntington: I really enjoyed the workshop. I was at the previous one 5 years ago and was hoping they would restart.

Gerry Swanson: Great fun, even for us amateur photographers who are learning to use our "bridge" cameras. Just to be outdoors and seeing all those birds up close and personal was magical. Thanks to you Gail and all of the Hawks Aloft staff and volunteers.

We are already working on the 2026 Birds of Prey Photography Workshop. Watch for it next September!

Keith Bauer brought his high-end camera and created this video so folks can see what the workshop was like. Thank you, Keith. We also hope you enjoy the many photos that accompany this article.

[Click here to see the Birds of Prey Photography Workshop video.](#)

Images: Barn Owl by Dustin Huntington; Aiden & two of his photos, and below, our amazing teachers, Kristin, Keith, Doug and Larry. (FYI, Doug is demonstrating the wingspan of a Turkey Vulture.





Raptor Surveys in North-Central New Mexico - 2025

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

Since 2000, Hawks Aloft has conducted raptor monitoring surveys for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) during 19 different years in the Upper Rio

Grande Gorge, Rio San Antonio Gorge, and Orilla Verde Recreation Area in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. These gorges are relatively undeveloped and are important nesting areas for raptors in north-central New Mexico. The abundance of cliff walls provides an ideal nesting substrate for multiple raptor species, including [Golden Eagle](#), [Prairie Falcon](#), and [Peregrine Falcon](#). In 2025, Hawks Aloft was subcontracted by Cottonwood Environmental Consulting to conduct raptor surveys in these areas for the BLM. Susan Coulter has been involved with this project for multiple years, and in 2025 she assumed the role of project manager. Susan, Roger Grimshaw, and Brian Long were the primary surveyors this year, with additional help coming from Joe O'Leary, Heather Rissi, and Michael Balassone. We are extremely grateful for all the work that Susan's team put in this year.

Over the course of this study, nine different raptor species have been documented breeding in the survey areas. [Red-tailed Hawk](#) (99 active nests) has been the most common breeder, followed by Golden Eagle (94 nests), Prairie Falcon (60 nests), and Peregrine Falcon (22 nests). Cumulatively among these four most common breeding raptors, Prairie Falcon has had the highest nest success rate (90%), followed by Red-tailed Hawk (76% successful), Golden Eagle (69%), and Peregrine Falcon (68%). Other breeding raptors include [Great Horned Owl](#), [Ferruginous Hawk](#), [American Kestrel](#), [Swainson's Hawk](#), and [Turkey Vulture](#). [Bald Eagle](#) has been documented as a migrant, but not as a breeder.

In 2025, Susan and her survey team documented 11 active nests among four different raptor species. Known outcome was determined at eight of the 11 nests, with five successes and three failures. Red-tailed Hawk was the most successful nesting species in 2025, with four of the five documented nests fledging young. One of two Prairie Falcon nests documented in 2025 also successfully fledged young. The outcome at a second Prairie Falcon nest could not be confirmed, but it also was likely successful. Two of the three Golden Eagle nests documented in 2025 failed, and the outcome was not determined at the third nest. One active Ferruginous Hawk nest also was documented, but the outcome was undetermined.

Other raptor species documented in the survey area this year included American Kestrel, Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, [Osprey](#), Peregrine Falcon, and Turkey Vulture. The 11 active nests documented in 2025 tied with 2019 and 2024 for the fewest among the 16 years of similar survey effort. Moderate to extreme drought conditions throughout the survey area during the majority of the nesting season was likely a key factor in the low number of active nests and the relatively high number of failed nests documented in 2025. Drought conditions tend to negatively impact raptor prey species, and poor breeding conditions (i.e. a paucity of prey) can cause raptors to forego breeding and/or nest failure. Throughout this study, we have generally observed that the number of active nests is lower during years characterized by drought. Hopefully, the drought conditions dissipate before 2026.

Peregrine Falcon and American Kestrel. Photos by [Doug Brown Photography](#).



Time-sensitivity in Birds, your Dog, & You

**Patricia Hawley, Author &
Editor**

My dog Clementine can tell time with uncanny accuracy. Somehow, she knows when it is exactly 6:00 pm (dinnertime), *regardless of the season*. Time-telling and its sensitivity to seasonal changes is enabled by “clock genes”, the genetic

level mechanism that influences the timing of hunger in Boston Terriers, but more importantly, the cause of migration in birds.

Bird migration is an incredibly complex behavior pattern. It involves timing, distance, location, and day length, as well as physiological conditions such as moulting, fattening, body temperature regulation, and sleep-wake cycles. Underlying these carefully timed events is the “circadian clock” that hormonally regulates birds’ (and your) circadian rhythm. This rhythm is the cycle of physical, mental, and behavioral changes that follow the 24-hour solar period, the cause of which is a nerve cluster located in the hypothalamus of the brain that receives input from photosensitive cells in the retina. Birds, mammals, insects, fungi, bacteria, and plants all have these clocks even though they collect light in different ways.

If all birds have these clocks, why do different species have different migratory patterns and behaviors? Because the genetics and environments underlying the development of the clock differ across species. Individual genes within this suite of “clock genes” turn protein synthesis on and off like switches in response to light conditions. This is the genetic underpinning of both the clock and its functioning. And of course, different species occupy different light conditions according to the latitude, longitude, and the seasonal tilt of the Earth in their ecologies.

Interestingly, there is variation in clock genes across members of the same species as well. This is part of the reason that not all juncos, for example, migrate in the same way at the same time. Similar to human “polymorphisms” in eye color (e.g., blue eyes, brown eyes), different genetic alleles (forms of a gene) exist in a population that combine in matched pairs (homozygous) or unmatched pairs (heterozygous), and the type of pairing causes variation in traits and behavior. Genetic studies thus far have focused on the slight differences in form and length of alleles in the genetic clocks of, for example, chickens, swallows, larks, tits, warblers, cardinals, hawks, kites, pigeons and doves. Except among monozygotic twins, there will be genetic variation.

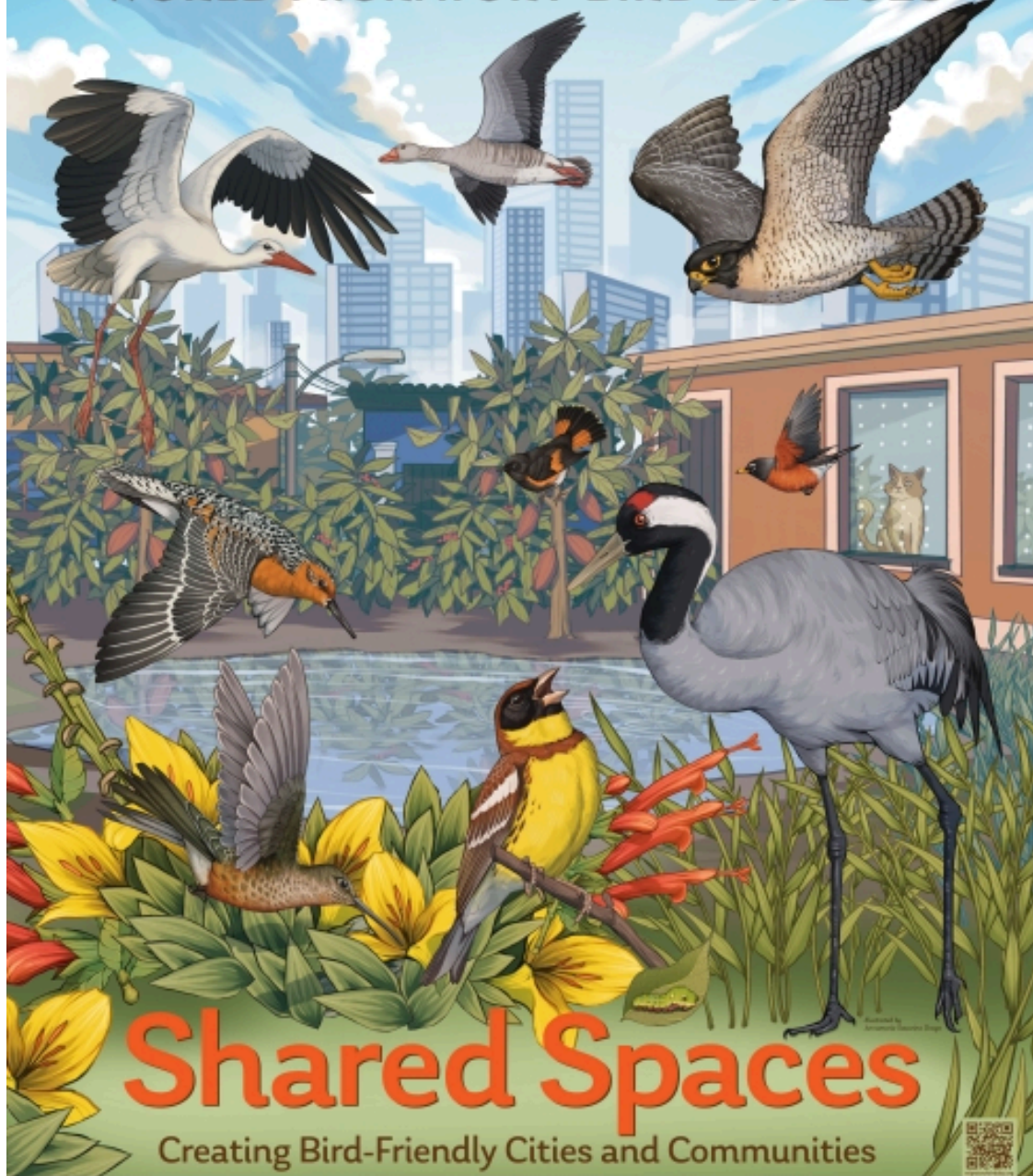
Seasonal environments are crucial for the survival and reproduction of many avian species, and their carefully crafted migration schedules are both a function of nature (genes) and environment (light conditions). Fall is the time of avian restlessness and flight. It is also the time when you may crave different foods and sleep more. The genetic underpinnings of these very different adaptations are remarkably similar.

[World Migratory Bird Day is October 11, 2025!](#)

[Snow geese](#) have already begun to arrive on their wintering ground in New Mexico. Photo by Dustin Huntington. Raptor migration is peaking right now in North America.

From the Friends of Corpus Christi HawkWatch: Some of the [Broad-winged Hawks](#) we saw during the Celebration of Flight festival on the 27th and 28th. Over 180,000 on Saturday and over 250,000 on Sunday!

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2025





Invisible Obstacles: Preventing Window Strikes

**By Marcos Montoya
Naturalist, Administration**

On October 11th, we are celebrating [World Migratory Bird Day](#) as countless species make their way through New Mexico, destined for warmer climates. While this trip is harrowing at best, even for species with refined adaptations for navigation, humans indirectly create one of the deadliest obstacles to birds: Windows.

In a September 2025 article in the [Cornell Chronicle](#), Kathi Borgmann of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports on a series of recent studies stating: "Window collisions are a leading cause of bird mortality, killing more than 1 billion birds annually in the United States and Canada. Nearly half of fatal bird collisions in the U.S., and 90% of those in Canada, occur at residences of three stories or less."

While it is easy to assume taller buildings might cause more strikes, the uninterrupted reflection of the sky and trees on lower-profile buildings [may be a greater threat than the glass itself](#).

Since 2016, HAI Raptor Rescue has recorded 3,589 calls from all over the country involving a window or building strike, with 1,965 of those causing immediate injuries. Our experiences seem to mirror Cornell's findings, with window strikes mainly taking place in residential or rural areas. Among window strike calls in the Albuquerque area, we received 41 birds into care since 2016, 19 of which were [Cooper's Hawks](#).

The Bird Collision Prevention Alliance (BCPA) was formed in 2024 to lessen human impact on birds. Supported by ornithological research, they've tagged songbirds, migratory species, and juvenile birds being at highest risk of window strikes due to their flight behaviors. For raptors, it is likely that hunting behaviors when chasing these high-risk birds may cause strikes as well.

While decals and other solutions to make windows more visible have been known for years, the BCPA have gathered research showing that window decals or exterior window coverings of different materials are equally effective, so long as a single pattern is repeated across the surface of the window, ideally two inches apart or less. Images that

cover windows completely, or physical obstacles like paracord are highly effective as well. With these insights, universities like Cornell have taken huge steps to retrofit buildings with bird-friendly additions.

To learn more about how you can make your home more friendly to birds, the BCPA has many resources for DIY projects and links to their supporting research at stopbirdcollisions.org.

Window strike view. Photo by Steve Elkins.

Back to School with Living with the Landscape

**By Heather
Rissi
Education
Coordinator,
Writer**

It's that time of year again! Students are back at school and Hawks Aloft



educators are busy preparing for another wild year with Living with the Landscape (LWL). This school season, Hawks Aloft has decided to take on an additional school, which means we will visit four Title 1 elementary schools: Kit Carson, Sombra del Monte, Reginald Chavez, and Alvarado. These schools have a combined 1,038 students!

Senior educator, Liz Roberts, and I will visit every single class from PreK to 5th grade at least twice throughout the school year. During our visits, students will meet and learn about our live raptor education ambassadors as well as engage in age-appropriate hands-on activities geared towards helping students understand important ecological topics from watersheds to migration. Older students will receive additional visits, participate in a conservation project on their campus, and visit Old Town Farm, a local organic farm located close to the bosque.

Lanny Tanning and Linda Thorne, the owners of [Old Town Farm](#) (and Bike In Coffee), in addition to their daughter Libby Lawson, have created an invaluable partnership over the years. In addition to explaining organic farming practices to students, they allow Hawks Aloft to use the property grounds to stage our end-of-the-year activities meant to connect previous lessons.

In addition to partnering with Old Town Farm, this year Hawks Aloft is also gratefully teaming up with [Pollinators in the Neighborhood](#) (PIN), another non-profit geared towards educating the public about pollinator friendly plants. The organization also provides neighborhoods and schools with pesticide-free non-native plants. PIN will help Hawks Aloft by providing pollinator resources and plants for some of the participating schools.

We are excited to start the school year and see so many new faces! As a reminder, LWL is entirely grant funded. We could not do this program free of charge to the schools without the support of our funders and sponsors: [Albuquerque Community Foundation](#), [Frederick H. Leonhardt Foundation](#), [Nusenda Credit Union](#), McCaughin Mountain Foundation for Empowerment, and our members and donors!

If your Title 1 Albuquerque elementary school would like to be chosen to participate in LWL's 2026-2027 school year, send us an [email](#) for more information.

Hawks Aloft Volunteer Training Class
When: Saturday, November 9, 2024
Where: [Bachechi Open Space Education Building](#)
[9521 Rio Grande Blvd](#)
Time: 1 PM – 4 PM
Cost: \$35 — Includes membership and volunteer manual.
Light refreshments will be provided.
[Click Here to Register](#)

Hawks Aloft Inc (HAI) is a non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)) focused on: 1. Conservation education, 2. Avian research, and 3. Raptor rescue and rehabilitation. We were founded in 1994 and since then have been running on community and federal grants, donations, and volunteer expertise and energy.

What do our volunteers do?

- Those with naturalist skills conduct our field research and avian surveys in the wild.
- Those with construction skills build and repair our flight cages (mews) and facilities.
- Photographers donate images for our publications and social media.
- Writers contribute newsletter articles, draft social media posts and help with grants.
- Veterinarians, rescuers, and rehabbers save animals' lives.
- Teachers advise our education program and help construct curriculum material.

Collaboration with others at all levels of the community have undergirded our success for over 30 years!

Please attend our volunteer training to learn more about Hawks Aloft and how you may be an integral part of our programs or daily administration. There you will meet current staff and several volunteers, including our veterinarians who oversee the raptor rescue program. We will also introduce you to some of our avian ambassadors who are success stories in their own rights, even though they could not be re-released into the wild. We look forward to meeting you and beginning to work together.

Renew your Membership/Join our Team



The American Nightingale aka Hermit Thrush

**By Nate & Jeanne Gowan
& Patricia Hawley**

**The Hermit Thrush literally makes music.
And you should listen.**



The [Hermit Thrush](#), true to its name, prefers the quiet solitude of the forest. Its rusty brown plumage with pale spotted underparts camouflages it so well, it is difficult to spot, especially since it is a ground forager.

But an avid birder's patience will pay dividends. Its unique "flutey" song begins with a sustained whistle followed by cascading shorter notes. The bird may also trill. In fact, each male sings 7-12 song types which vary by location. Interestingly, this species can produce two different notes at the same time which makes the bird self-harmonizing. This special skill is due to its "double voice box". Unlike the single larynx found in mammals, birds have a two-sided syrinx at the base of the trachea. In Hermit Thrushes, each half operates independently and its distinctive song is why it is nicknamed the "American Nightingale".

Check out their songs here: www.allaboutbirds.org/gudie/HermitThrush/sounds.

Zoomusicologists—those analyzing animal vocalizations and music—have long been transfixed by the Hermit Thrush. Though the oral tradition of indigenous peoples goes back much further, written works by naturalist John Burroughs (1866) and poet Walt Whitman (1867) drew attention to this secretive bird. Composer and zoomusicologist, Emily Doolittle (yes, Dr. Doolittle), has analyzed Hermit Thrush song through interdisciplinary lenses and noted the similarities between their song and human music: 1.

Both are *learned*, 2. Variation in song is associated with region and thus is *cultural*, 3. Both are defined by *pattern creation*, 4. Both have *repeated structures*, 5. There is *individual variation* within a style, 6. Both have aesthetic features associated with *patterns* and *elements of surprise*, and 7. Both are associated with physical and emotional states of the song producer.

We were spellbound the first time we heard them in the forest, and our patience was more than rewarded. We think yours will be too.

Images by Nate Gowan

[DONATE](#)



**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.

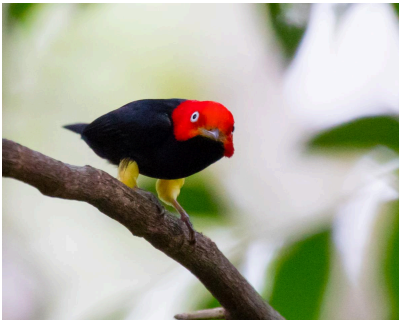
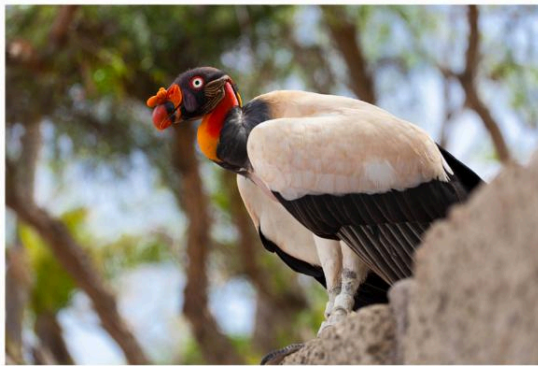
Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's raffle quilt a reality: Tisha Cavanaugh, Ed Chappelle, Mary Chappelle, Barbara Deshler, Rick Deshler, Vicky Harms, Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer, Carol Meincke, Liz Roberts, and Carolyn Sanborn.

[Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

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

Photo by Bob McInteer.

Hawks Aloft 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.

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!**



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

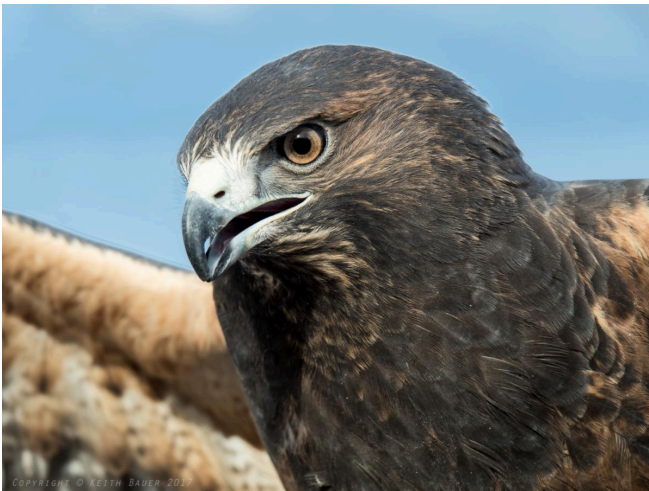
SO.

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 Idaho! The Swainson's Hawk

Found in 2014, Idaho was rescued as a fledgling with extensive damage to her primary and secondary flight feathers caused by exposure to industrial chemicals. After rehabilitation, she is fully flighted yet cannot be released as her feathers lack the ability to sustain the long-distance flights necessary for this migratory species to survive.

Yearly migration for the Swainson's Hawk is one of the longest journeys recorded among all raptors and these hearty birds excel at it. Forming kettles of thousands, they'll migrate from as far north as Alaska to Argentina, often joined by other raptor species along the way.

While Idaho cannot join in on these mass-migrations with her fellow Swainson's Hawks, she has found a flock of her own. Housed with our Turkey Vulture, Beauty, the two are very compatible and get to stretch their wings together when acting as ambassadors in the community.

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
- 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 Keith Bauer



Photographer's Monthly Gallery

Doug Brown

Doug Brown is an internationally renowned professional bird photographer and BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year honoree. His work has been displayed at the British Natural History Museum and numerous other museums around the world. Doug's images can be found in a variety of digital and printed field guides and textbooks, including the popular iBird app for smartphones. He was a longtime Avian moderator on the nature and wildlife

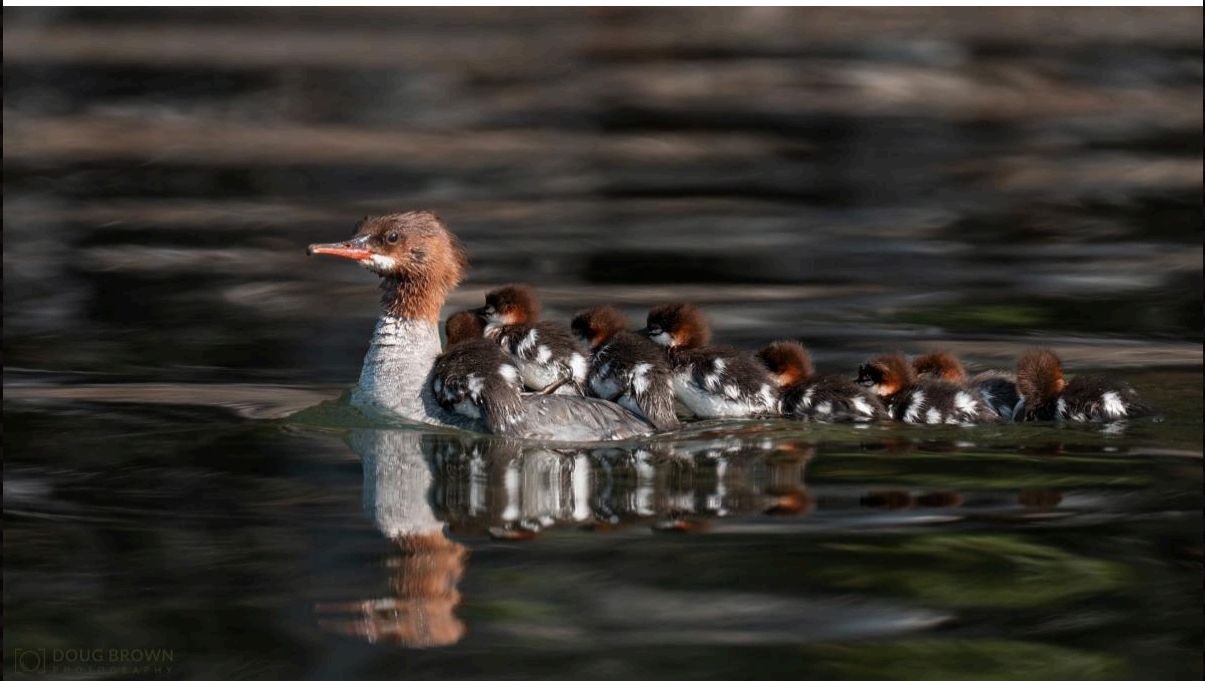
photography website BirdPhotographers.net. Doug has a particular interest in photographing birds in flight. Although he resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Doug travels extensively to pursue his photographic passion and lead workshops in Ecuador, Costa Rica, California, and New Mexico for over a decade. He has a pro affiliation with Wimberley Professional Photo Gear.

Doug has been involved with Hawks Aloft for more than 15 years. He generously donates his amazing photos for our use, but also donates him time and photographic expertise to teach workshops. Doug's selection of photos for this month's gallery were taken during his trip to British Columbia earlier this year.

Images:

1. [Blue-winged Teal](#)
2. Female [Common Merganser](#) with many chicks
3. [Common Loon](#) at sunrise
4. Common Loon with chicks
5. [Great Gray Owl](#)

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Raptor Rescue Calls and Patient Intakes September 2025

Hotline Calls: 69
Patient intakes: 27

- [Mississippi Kite](#),
Humeral Fracture
(juvenile)
- American Kestrel,
Dehydration &
Weakness (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk, Wing
Injury (juvenile)
- Cooper's Hawk,
Broken Wing
- Ferruginous Hawk,
Wing Injury from
Barbed Wire
Entrapment (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk,
Electrocution
(juvenile)

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- Mississippi Kite,
Fracture of
Radius/Ulna
- Cooper's Hawk, DOA
- [Common Raven](#),
West Nile Virus
(juvenile)
- Great Horned Owl,
Humeral Fracture
- Cooper's Hawk,
Trichomonas & Head
Trauma (juvenile)
- American Crow,
Respiratory Disease
- Great Horned Owl,
Wing Injury
- [Sharp-shinned Hawk](#),
Trauma
- Swainson's Hawk,
Wing Bone Infection
(juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk,
Wing Injury
- Cooper's Hawk,
Trichomonas & Ocular
Disease
- Red-tailed Hawk,
Head Trauma & Wing
Fracture
- Burrowing Owl, Died
in 24 Hr
- Peregrine Falcon,
Died in 24 Hr
- Common Raven,
West Nile Virus &
Spinal Trauma
- Cooper's Hawk,
Trichomonas &
Emaciation (juvenile)
- Swainson's Hawk,
Humeral Fracture
- Swainson's Hawk,
Trichomonas
- Red-tailed Hawk,
Broken Wing
- Prairie Falcon,
Physical Injury
- Sharp-shinned Hawk,
Physical Injury

Raptor Rescue Team

Michael Balassone
 Brandon Borquist
 Wendy Brown
 Mary Bruesch
 Ed Chappelle
 Mary Chappelle
 Kelly Coles
 Charles Cummings
 Chris Gibson

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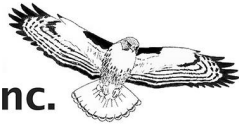
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*Conservation Education, Avian Research, Raptor Rescue
& Collaboration with Others*

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David Buckley, *Avian Surveyor*
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Nate Gowan, *Surveyor*
Roger Grimshaw, *Raptor Surveys*
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John Heidrich, *DVM, Triage Veterinarian*
Jerry Hobart, *Project Manager, Raptor Driving Surveys*
Brian Long, *Raptor Surveys*
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Tom Mayer, *Avian Surveyor, Guest Author*
Evelyn McGarry, *Office Manager, Raptor Rescue Dispatcher*
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