



HAWKS ALOFT, Inc.

Conservation, Avian
Research & Education



Veterinary Superstars! by Gail Garber, Executive Director

Meet three of our most dedicated veterinarians (L-R): Christine Fiorello of [Acequia Animal Hospital](#), Kariana Atkinson of [Petroglyph Animal Hospital](#) and Candace Auten of [Eye Care for Animals - Albuquerque](#). The Raptor

Rescue part of our mission would not be possible without their ongoing, dedicated support. Here we highlight the efforts of these three veterinarians, but we also rely on Mike Melloy and Ray Hudgell at Petroglyph and Coronado Animal Hospitals.



With the overwhelming influx of patients, particularly during the May-July period, their veterinary plates have been overly full, not just with their regular patient load, but with the avian patients that arrive on an almost-daily basis!

So far this year, May 15 tops all other days, with all three of our vets seeing different patients on the same day! Interestingly, this year has seen most of the Western Screech-owls come in with eye injuries, including a nestling that had an unfortunate fall from his/her nest that caused damage to both eyes. That day, Dr. Candace cared for three different screech owls, all with eye issues. Meanwhile, over at Petroglyph, Dr. Kari did surgery to set a fracture on the Great Horned Owlet and set two minor fractures on a fledgling Cooper's Hawk. Both of these birds are recovering nicely. Dr. Chris, over at Acequia, handled the emergencies of the week: a Red-tailed Hawk with a nasty puncture wound and a Swainson's Hawk. And that's just ONE day!

Others in our rescue team, although not veterinarians, are equally important! The Hawks Aloft team includes rescuers (folks who respond to a blast text sent out by our Dispatcher Arlette Miller). They interact with the callers, picking up birds already captured and, at

other times even hunting them down and catching them. They deliver the injured birds to one of our Albuquerque locations, one of the many NM rehabilitation centers or to a private rehabilitator. All birds go through triage that includes fluids, medications, and tube feeding and are examined by Lisa Morgan, our Raptor Rescue Coordinator, and/or one of our amazing veterinarians.

After medical diagnosis and initial treatment, some birds are too severely injured and are humanely euthanized by one of our veterinarians. Others move on to one of our rehabilitators who provide ongoing care as the bird recovers. We thank all of the folks on this team (see their names in the credits below). We also thank the collaborating independent rehabilitation centers and independent rehabilitators throughout state.

We couldn't do this without each and every one of you! If you are interested in joining the Raptor Rescue Team, [please email me](#). We hold a monthly online Zoom meeting for Raptor Rescue that nearly always includes Dr. Chris or another veterinarian.

It takes a statewide village to make this possible. [Please consider joining our team!](#)

Above: Three Barn Owl youngsters under the care of Chellye Porter as well as Luna and Olivia, foster parent owls. The two older owlets survived the Veguita Fire near Belen, but the darker female suffer smoke inhalation injuries. The youngest one, hiding in the background was found in a churchyard in Corrales.

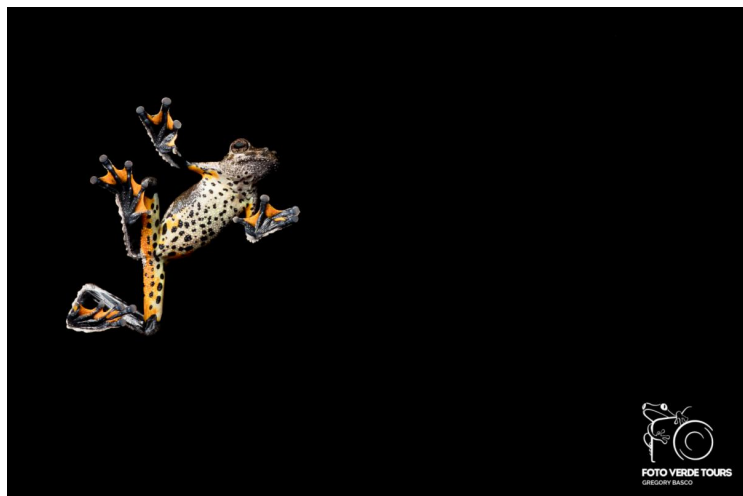
Below, a few of the young nestlings/fledglings that have come in this spring: American Kestrels under the care of Waldo, our foster dad at the home of Ed and Mary Chappelle, Great Horned Owlet with a leg fracture under the care of Lisa Morgan, Cooper's Hawk fledging under the care of Matt Mitchell, and Western Screech-Owl, that has been transferred to the NM Wildlife Center in Espanola where he/she is in a large flight with other fledglings of the same species.



Hawks Aloft International Tours: Announcing Ecuador 2022!

October 1 to October
17, 2022

*Join us for a birding and
photography trip through one
of the world's most biodiverse
countries*



Despite its small size—that is, roughly the size of Pennsylvania—Ecuador offers a fabulous amount of biodiversity. Despite having just 0.2% of the planet's physical landmass, it is home to 16% of the world's bird species (not to mention 8% of amphibians, 5% of reptiles, and an incredible 25,000 different species of plants). This has led to the small country being classified as "mega diverse" by Conservation International, along with only 16 other countries the world over.

Join Hawks Aloft, Foto Verde Tours, and experienced guide Paulo Valerio on a trip

through the country, from coastal mangroves to mountain cloud forests and everything in-between. This all-inclusive tour offers members the opportunities to spot once-in-a-lifetime species, as well as capture each breathtaking moment on film.

[Find the full itinerary and reserve your spot here!](#)

Tree frog. Photographed in Ecuador by Greg Basco



© Keith Bauer 2021

**Star Gazing at the
Valles Caldera**



National Preserve

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

One of the perks of conducting owl surveys at Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) is the outstanding view of the night sky. There is very little light pollution, although, depending on the location in VCNP, the urban glow from Albuquerque, Farmington,

and/or Los Alamos/Santa Fe can be visible low on the horizon in the appropriate directions. On clear nights when there is no moon, the view of the stars is amazing. Planet watching is also excellent. Last summer, Jupiter and Saturn were close together in the night sky. Both could be viewed at the same time through binoculars, with at least five of Jupiter's moons and the rings of Saturn also discernable. One pre-dawn morning while driving east to west across VCNP, I was startled to suddenly see a bright light in my rear-view mirror. But I quickly discovered that it was simply a very bright Venus that had risen above the eastern horizon. For a period of time this year, Mercury was visible low on the western horizon shortly after sunset. Mars is also frequently visible. We generally see multiple shooting stars on nights that aren't cloudy, some of which are quite impressive.

Then there are the things we see that are more unusual or unexplainable. Earlier this year while surveying with Brian Dykstra, we saw a formation of 11 very bright, non-flashing lights moving west to east in a row at a low level on the northern horizon. We decided they had to be low altitude satellites, but neither of us had ever seen multiple satellites at one time. Then Brian said, "Wait, there's more!" We counted another line of 43 lights moving across the sky. The next day, Brian sent me a text saying Twitter was abuzz about the "10 UFOs in the Albuquerque sky." "I guess they missed 44 of them," I texted back. A day or two later, it was announced that SpaceX had released a large number of low altitude satellites, confirming what Brian and I had thought.

A more unexplainable sighting occurred while Maggie Stein and I were surveying. During the middle of a survey, I noticed a beam of light over our vehicles, which were parked about 60 meters away and behind some trees. There was a full moon, and initially I thought it was just the moonlight reflecting off the vehicles. But after several minutes, I decided that wasn't right. During a listening period in the survey, we repositioned ourselves and realized that the beam of light was actually far off in the sky to the northwest of our vehicles. I can't judge distance in the sky very well, but it was an extremely long (miles long, I would guess), solid beam of light running mostly vertically but slightly diagonally from the lower left to upper right above the northwestern horizon. Then the beam of light split into a large number of singular, solid lights (30-50?) that appeared to move upward in the sky, and completely disappeared within a few seconds. I took a bearing, and the bearing and estimated distance would have likely placed the lights somewhere over Utah. My assumption is that it was some sort of military launch from one of the covert bases in Utah. Possibly another mass satellite launch? But the long, solid beam of light was present for somewhere between 3-5 minutes, which doesn't seem to fit with any sort of launch I've ever heard of. So really, I have no idea what we saw. On the data sheet, Maggie wrote "UFOs at point 19."

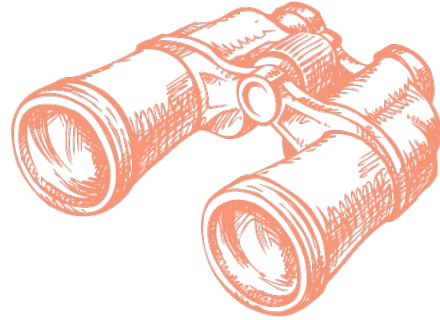
During listening periods of owl surveys, I often stare into the sky while straining to hear distant owl calls. This is often when I see shooting stars. While looking at the stars on the western horizon during another survey with Maggie, I noticed a particularly bright star. Suddenly, the star flashed and then vanished. "Maggie, did you happen to be looking in the sky off to the west a minute ago," I asked. "You mean did I see the star that flashed and then disappeared?" she asked. "Yeah, that" I said. "I don't want to talk about it. These things are starting to freak me out" she said. Again, I don't know what we saw. It looked like a normal star. It was stationary for at least the couple of minutes that I kept glancing back in that direction, and then it vanished. And it didn't come back.

There have been a couple other unusual sightings in the night sky, but I'll stop with just the first three. I'm just glad that all of the unusual observations have occurred while I was surveying with someone else. At least I know I'm not hallucinating. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get video of any of these things. I don't carry my camera with me once it is completely dark, and the camera on my phone just shows solid black at night. If anyone has a reasonable idea about what we saw, let me know.

We reached out to [Keith Bauer](#), one of our favorite "go-to" photographers, for night sky images to accompany this article. While Keith did not have any photos taken from the Valles Caldera, he did send us these two. The top image was taken in the Estancia Valley, and the other was taken at the Bisti Badlands. Thank you Keith!

Hey there birders!

Do you have a pair of binoculars that you wish you could donate or even sell? Education Coordinator Maggie Stein is in the market to find a new-to-her pair of binos. Candidates for purchase would need to be in alignment and functional.



Contact [education\[at\]hawksaloft.org](mailto:education[at]hawksaloft.org) with any leads!



Success for Bosque Nesting Raptors by Amelia Thompson Educator & Administrative Assistant

In 2020, I was given two bosque routes to monitor nesting raptors. It was a very successful year for those routes: two Great Horned Owl nests fledged 3 babies, and 3 Cooper's Hawks nests fledged 6 babies last year.

This year, I was very disappointed not to find any Great Horned Owls. After my third survey, when I checked all the nests a final time, I had narrowed it down to 4 possible nests where there had been Cooper's Hawk activity. I dutifully went out and checked those nests every 10 days, but only one of the nests seemed to have continued activity. One nest had a pair of Cooper's Hawks, but two visits later I concluded that they were chased off by Common Ravens, but even the ravens did not stay for long.

By Mid-June, I was beginning to think that all my nests were going to fail! Even one of the most active 2020 nests, which had fledged two young, seemed to be empty. After doing a morning songbird survey, I swung by that nest, and there was mom, sitting up in the nest. A minute later, out popped a fuzzy little baby from beneath mom! Finally, my first baby of 2021! That was the only nest I checked that day, but I was feeling happy that I had at least one active nest.

The following week, I wanted to make a quick nest check before I left for an out of town weekend. This visit revealed two babies! Feeling optimistic, I decided to check one more nest that I had all but given up on. Imagine my complete surprise when I discovered 4 babies in that nest! I snapped a few pictures and, when I reviewed the photos later, I discovered a fifth baby in the nest. For those of you despairing that your nests are not active, or you aren't seeing anything, be patient and keep checking!



Secondary Toxicity in Raptors

**Christine Fiorello, DVM, PhD,
Dipl. ACZM**

Director, Hawks Aloft, Inc.

Rats and mice can be troublesome pests, and there is a huge global industry based on eliminating them. The bulk of that industry involves the use of anticoagulants, which are poisons that cause internal bleeding. If you or someone you know is

on warfarin to prevent blood clots, you already know a little about anticoagulants. For many years, warfarin was the most common toxin found in rodent control baits. A major innovation, at least from the standpoint of killing rodents, was the development of so-called second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs). These toxins are much more potent, and need only a single feeding to kill. Sadly, these compounds are also persistent in tissues, so that if a predator eats a rodent that died from ingestion of SGARs, the predator may also succumb to bleeding. This is called secondary toxicity.

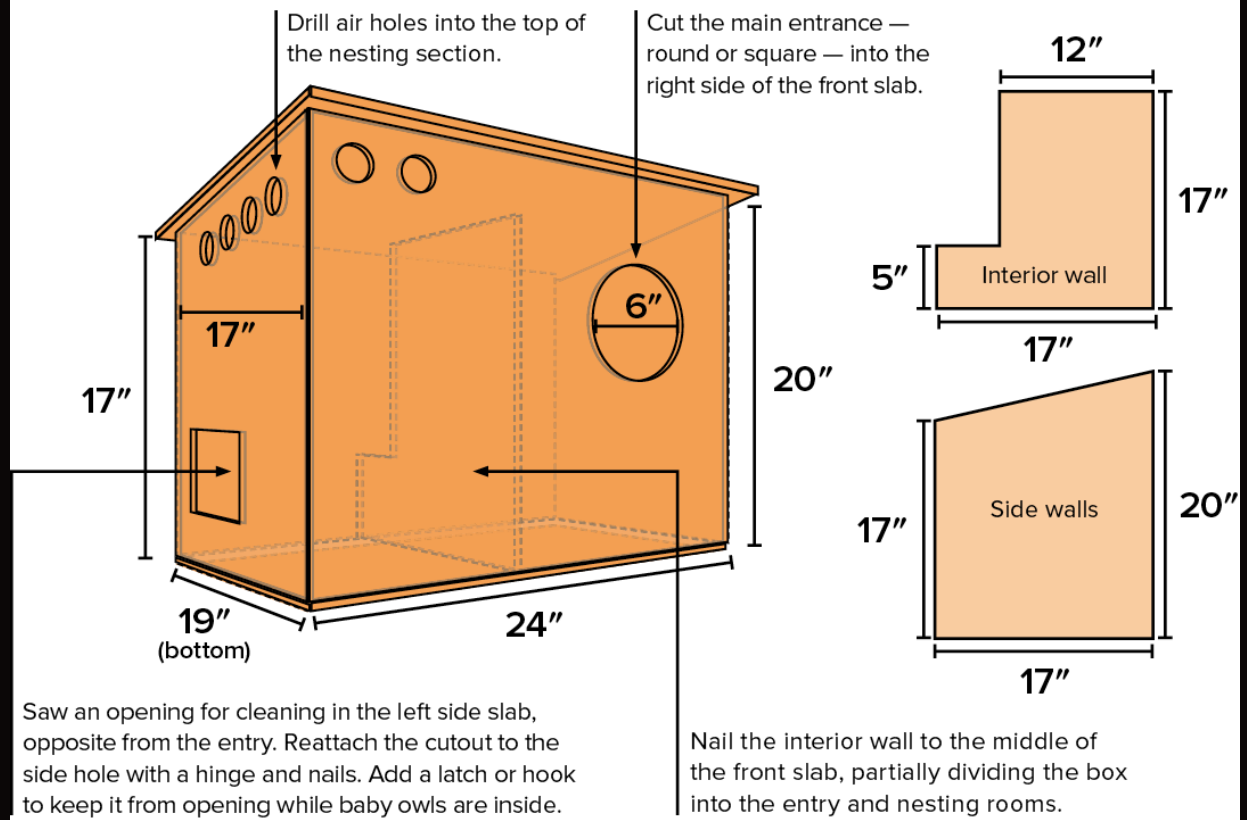
Secondary toxicity is well-documented in both mammals and birds. Numerous studies have found anticoagulant rodenticide toxicity in wildlife, including in nearby Arizona and Colorado. Because of the presence of plague and hantavirus, both serious diseases, the New Mexico Department of Health and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage the use of these SGARs to destroy not only invasive rats and mice, but native ones such as prairie dogs. These chemicals are widely used by governments, tribes, companies, and individuals. Despite this, no one has performed a survey of raptors for anticoagulant rodenticides.

We are so lucky in New Mexico to have such a large diversity of birds of prey. Our raptors target everything from insects to rodents to other birds. Those species that specialize on eating rodents, such as many owls, are at high risk, but because seed-eating birds may be attracted to poison bait, any raptor that feeds on birds or mammals may be affected. In one sad study, researchers found that Ferruginous Hawks may focus their hunting on prairie dog towns that have been poisoned because the prairie dogs there are sluggish and slow. Other research has shown that even predators that don't die from the SGARs in their system may have sublethal effects, disrupting their normal behavior and impacting their health.

Thanks to the generosity of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians' Wild Animal Health Fund, Hawks Aloft was awarded a \$10,000 grant to investigate this issue. For the next year, we will be taking blood samples from Red-tailed Hawks, Swainson's Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Great-horned Owls, Barn Owls, and other birds to test them for the most common anticoagulant rodenticides. We hope to learn something about how common exposure is, which species are most often exposed, and whether we are more likely to see exposure in urban or rural areas. It will take a while to gather and compile the data, but our goal is to share the information we gain with the NM Department of Game and Fish and, of course, publish the study in peer-reviewed literature. In the future, we plan to use our results to design additional studies that will help us develop mitigation plans to limit the exposure of our birds of prey to these toxins.

What can you do to help? Well, for starters, think twice before buying rat bait! How about considering a more natural form of rodent control? Barn owls are fantastic mouse predators. Why not build a barn owl house and invite a hungry family to live on your property? Plans for barn owl houses are readily available on the internet, and building one makes for a great family project. You'll save money on rat poison, and you may save an

owl's life.





Larry.Rimer©2021

Surveying in the Rain

By Larry Rimer and
Steve Youtsey

Raptor route surveys are usually scheduled to coincide with decent weather in hopes of seeing the most raptors. High winds, rain, or snow are usually no-goes; however, this month Steve Youtsey and I decided to take a chance with marginal weather.



Storm clouds hovered over the Manzano mountains dumping rain from the start, but stayed off in the distance at least for the first half of our 20 mile route. Light rain soon turned into heavy rain and lightning that was way too close for comfort. We could see the storm in the distance and thought we might have better luck if we went to the end of the route and ran the remaining part of the survey in reverse, driving through the rain to get to the end of the route. We still encountered light rain even there, but this is when it got

interesting.

In the rain, the birds would stay on or near the ground. What we found interesting was that the Swainson's would gather in groups of 20 or more to wait out the storm. We found them mostly on the ground or perched on fence posts or on the irrigation pipes trying to dry out. Hawks on the ground appeared to be hunting grasshoppers, running and jumping from one grasshopper to another. After the heavy rain, the irrigation piping had many species of birds drying their feathers, following the lead of the Swainson's Hawks.

With the majority of birds grounded, it was actually easier to get counts and it became apparent just how many raptors were in the area--hundreds! Even the Burrowing Owls came out to see what was happening with the weather. We learned a valuable lesson that day: don't cancel surveys because of a "little" rain.

Several Swainson's Hawk nests were present on the first half of the route. At one nest, a male perched on a power pole was "talking" to the female in the nest to entice her to come and get his prize big rat he had caught for the babies. It's always a joy to see them have successful hunts and a special treat for me to witness and photograph it.

We also saw many nestling/fledgling American Kestrels (who are cavity nesters) out of their nest improving their flying skills. Since cavities are always in demand by many species, one American Kestrel pair decided to use a manmade cavity, a 4" horizontal pipe in a sign. The fledglings were standing at the edge of the opening, large enough to allow only 2 of the brood to stand side by side, looking out at that big new world (with others behind them in the shadows). Mom was on a nearby power pole watching over them at all times. They looked to be gathering the courage to make the big leap at any moment!

Springtime surveys are always a joy seeing all the young raptors being introduced to the world.

Steve and Larry work together on one of the Estancia Valley Raptor Survey Routes. Kestrel nestlings peeking out of their nest cavity and a Swainson's Hawk carrying prey. Thank you Larry Rimer for these images.



Shoutout to the Scouts! By Maggie Stein Education & Outreach Coordinator,

The extremely time-intensive aspects of fieldwork season are starting to wind down, and I now have a bit more flexibility in my work schedule. That, paired with New Mexico's full reopening, has allowed us to schedule regular Hawks Aloft education programs again. We are so excited!

Our comeback started with a program for Cub Scout Troop 495 during one of their meetings. This program was lots of fun, but a little challenging. It had been months since Amelia and I worked with kids in person, let alone very excited kids of all ages. Despite that, we conjured up our almost forgotten classroom management skills and had a lovely time with extremely curious kids who asked the best questions! The education birds we brought behaved like superstars and were surprisingly comfortable in front of an audience even after not attending programs for a while. Much to everyone's delight, Beauty even pelleted in front of the kids!

Our next Cub Scout group kicked our programs into a new gear. We were lucky enough to be guest presenters at the Albuquerque Metro Cub Scout Day Camp. There were around 70 kids attending. We discussed wildlife conservation which carried over extremely well into the values of Cub Scouts. Because Cub Scouts promotes outward thinking and giving

back to the community, the students had great ideas on how they could help protect wildlife. Special thanks to Evelyn McGarry and to Amelia for helping the program run so smoothly.

We are certainly looking forward to scheduling more programs in the upcoming months. Do you know a teacher or principal that would be interested in education programs for the Fall? [Email Us](#) for more information!



The Difficult Side of Rehabilitation by Lisa Morgan Raptor Rescue Coordinator

I clearly remember the early days of my rehab career and for many years after: the exuberance felt when the phone calls came in, or when the next case arrived at the door. Wanting to save them all, time quickly taught me to protect my heart. Many times, that still wasn't enough.



Most people don't realize that wildlife rehabilitation is a mix of medical knowledge, intuition, loving just enough, not loving too much, and maybe a little bit of belief in the afterlife to keep you sane.

Cases that clearly aren't going to make it at intake are given a quick and kind end by our amazing veterinarians: when the injuries are too severe and it would be cruel to drag things out any longer. However, there are a small percentage of cases that are considered "guarded." Those are the cases that sometimes end up breaking your heart in the end. This one such case:

Last May, we received three nestling Red-tailed Hawks. Their nest had been blown down and there was no way to reunite them with their parents. One chick was euthanized on arrival due to its injuries. Another chick eventually had to be euthanized due to on-going, incurable neurological issues. The third chick seemed "viable", and was placed with our very capable rehabilitator, Sherry McDaniels, in Deming, NM. Sherry named him "Hami",

and began the long process of pouring her heart into him just enough to get him healthy, happy, and as well-adjusted as she could, with the intent of using established falconry techniques to train him for the wild.

But Hami also seemed to have issues with Metabolic Bone Disease, where bones don't form properly, leaving the bird with some minor deformities. However, the deformities were not enough to warrant euthanasia. Eventually, Hami exhibited neurological signs like his siblings in which he would ball up his feet and not be able to grip the glove or perches normally. It became obvious that he would not be releasable.

His diet was always good, so we knew that the issue was not diet-related. Sherry was invested in his future and well-being. Hami called exuberantly when he saw Sherry, and enjoyed spending as much time with her as she could manage. The plan was that Sherry would apply for an education permit with Fish & Wildlife Service to bring Hami to public events teaching the public about his kind.

Hami's condition worsened and he was finding it more difficult to stand on his perches. He spent much of the time on or near the ground. Sherry reached out to anyone she could think of that might have insight into his condition. He was placed on supplements and changes were made to his mews. Still, he showed no improvement, and soon it became time to think about his ongoing quality of life.

When HAI personnel are invested in the life of a bird under their care, in most cases we leave it up to that person to say when and where the decision will be made to end that bird's suffering, as was the case with Sherry.

After a year of investment in Hami's future and well-being, Sherry made the very difficult decision to let him go. Anyone who has been there cannot find fault with that decision, and can only respect and have compassion for her as she made one of the most difficult decisions of her rehabilitation career. We thank Sherry, not only for her dedication to Hami, but for all of the other birds she has given, and will continue to give her heart to.

The next phone call is always just around the corner...

Photos by Sherry McDaniel



LWL Returns by Maggie Stein Education & Outreach Coordinator,

Thanks to the generosity of the PNM Foundation, along with the full reopening of New Mexico, our Living with the Landscape education program is now ready to resume in-person programming during the 2021-2022 school year.

Living with the Landscape (LWL) is designed to foster a deeper appreciation for our natural world in elementary level students. This is achieved by connecting our educators with schools in the Albuquerque area for a year-long relationship; allowing Hawks Aloft to connect with each classroom of every grade level. This program is

offered free of charge to Title-1 or low-income schools and brings raptors into the classrooms, along with conservation projects, hands-on activities, and year-end field trips. Curriculum is designed to complete at least one teaching standard at each grade level and can be tailored to the specific needs of each classroom.

Is your school interested in participating in our Living with the Landscape program? Teachers or principals can apply for this program by emailing [education\[at\]hawksaloft.org](mailto:education[at]hawksaloft.org)

for a copy of the application. Schools will be selected for the 2021-2022 school year near the end of the summer.

Beauty, the Turkey Vulture is our most popular avian ambassador! She visits many of the classes we visit. Photo by Maggie Stein.

Owls of New Mexico!

Owls of New Mexico features images of our Avian Ambassadors and nearly every single species of owl that might be found in our state. Designed by Scott Lowry, this unique design can now be yours in both short and long-sleeved T-shirts. After all, *whooooo* doesn't love owls?!

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.



[Order yours today!](#)



Donate Your Old Car to Hawks Aloft! Thank you One Community Auto

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*.

[Here's the link to donate your old vehicle!](#)

Call our office if you still have questions: 505-828-9455.

Check Out our Weekly Video!

**It posts every other
Monday Morning on our
Facebook and YouTube
pages.**

Join staff educators Maggie Stein
and Amelia Thompson as they



present different Avian
Ambassadors and educational
concepts:

Our next video will cover
Window Collisions and the effects
on birds.

Find us on [Facebook](#)
Find us on [YouTube](#).

*Image of a nesting Violet-headed
Hummingbird, photographed near
Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica by Keith
Bauer.*





The Hawks Aloft Raffle Quilt!

90" x 90"

Get your tickets now! \$1 each or 6/\$5.

We'll draw the winning ticket in December 2021

[Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Thank you to everyone who worked on this year's quilt!

Associate Administrator

We are searching for an administrative superstar (30-40 hrs/wk) who can assist us in all areas of our business operations, finance, fundraising and development. Hawks Aloft has an animal-friendly, healthy work culture that also includes vacation, sick leave and paid holidays.

[Click Here](#) for the full position announcement. Scroll down to the bottom of the page for the text.

Adopt-A-Raptor Today!

Meet Cimarron del Norte, the Rough-legged Hawk

[Click here to Adopt-a- Raptor](#)

such as Cimarron del Norte or just Cimarron, for short. While he is fully retired, he spent years educating people throughout New Mexico about his species, the Rough-legged Hawk. He came to Hawks Aloft in 2007 after a wing injury that left him unable to properly fly, likely sustained during his migration, since his species are typically found farther north than where he was rescued in Roy, NM.



Photographed here by Doug Brown.

When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you will receive:

- A one-year Hawks Aloft membership
- An adoption certificate
- An information sheet about the individual bird you have adopted
- Exclusive access to video updates about your bird
- Your choice of:

1. A professional 8×10 photo of your bird, or
2. A stuffed Audubon Bird with realistic vocalizations (if available for that species)

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

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.

- 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 now that every time you do so, you help out Hawks Aloft!

We appreciate your ongoing support in this, and so many other capacities!

Support Hawks Aloft with every Amazon order!



It's simple and makes a huge impact! Just go to [smile.amazon.com](#) and log into your existing Amazon account. Then under the search bar you can select your charity--find us by searching for "Hawks Aloft Inc." ... Save your account settings and shop away!



Photographers Monthly Gallery Featuring: Tony Giancola

Meet long-time photographer, Tony Giancola. Tony has donated many thousands of photographs to the Hawks Aloft digital library over the years.

Tony says: I'm about to start my third decade of hobby photography. Birds continue to be my focus although I shoot more and more video as I try to capture behavior as well as images. I've recently left Colorado for the desert near the Salton Sea, which was once a major flyway, but has been in decline in recent years as water has been diverted elsewhere. Finding birds is

challenging where there is little water, but I follow the habitat restoration projects in the area and am hopeful both for the birds and for my photographic opportunities. I recently got a Mirrorless Camera which requires a lot of re-training, but overall, I am a fan.

1. **Hooded Merganser X Common Goldeneye:** This was actually the second of these hybrids I saw in CO this year. This one required a lot of tracking along the river to get a halfway decent shot.
2. **Great Blue Heron:** Sometimes you take to many of the same kind of shot that you look for a different angle.
3. **Snow Bunting:** I've chased a couple of these over the years, once driving seven hours round trip. This one was much easier, hanging out along a walking path in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, CO. Again, I like the reflected image more than the 'original'.
4. **Snowy Egret:** There were a number of wildfires in Colorado last year, and I was able use the spectacular sunrise it created to 'work' with a very tolerant bird to get this shot.
5. **Norther Flicker:** I went to check on a location that had a nest the previous year and found a male checking it out. I was able to get close enough to get a full frame head shot that shows a lot of feather detail.











Thank You to our June Donors!

Keith Bauer
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Holli Bellusci

David Biddinger

Carol Calista, DVM

Calista Veterinary Hospital

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Eye Care for Animals

Christine Fiorello, DVM

Tim Fitzpatrick, DVM

High Desert Veterinary Care

Ray Hudgell, DVM

Daniel Levenson, DVM

Sherry McDaniels

June Log & Intakes

Total Calls: 92

Total Intakes: 36

Great Horned Owl: leg injuries
Greater Roadrunner: illness
Curve-billed Thrasher: illness
Western Screech Owl: orphaned
Swainson's Hawk: head trauma
Prairie Falcon: electrocution
American Kestrel: illness
Greater Roadrunner: hit by car
Western Screech Owl: eye injury
Cooper's Hawk: renested
American Kestrels (3): orphaned
Red-tailed Hawk: wing injury
Common Nighthawk: dog caught
American Kestrel: wing injury
Common Raven: wing injury
Common Raven: leg injury
Western Screech Owl: eye injury
Cooper's Hawk: fell in pool
Cooper's Hawk: orphaned
Barn Owls (2): orphaned due to fire

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mary Bruesch | Mike Melloy, DVM | American Kestrel: illness |
| Terry & Cindy Buttram | | Cooper's Hawk: orphaned |
| Ed Chappelle | Lisa Morgan | Common Raven: wing injury |
| Mary Chappelle | | Cooper's Hawk: orphaned |
| Joanne Dahringer | New Mexico Wildlife Center | Cooper's Hawk: orphaned |
| Paul Domski | | Cooper's Hawk: wing injury |
| Chris Gibson | Petroglyph Animal Hospital | Barn Owl: orphaned |
| Shannon Harrison | | White-winged Dove: pelvic |
| Denise Knight | Chellye Porter | injury |
| Greg Kerr | | Chihuahuan Raven: |
| Dean Klassy | Larry Rimer | electrocution |
| Shawn Klocek | | Common Raven: orphaned |
| Evelyn McGarry | San Juan Animal Hospital | Swainson's Hawk: wing |
| Sherry McDaniel | | injury |
| Arlette Miller | Santa Fe Raptor Center | American Kestrels (2): |
| Matt Mitchell | | human interference |
| Jenee Moore | Anthony Sarica | |
| Julie Morales | | |
| Eliane Notah | Southwest Veterinary | |
| Amanda Rael | Medical Center | |
| Larry Rimer | | |
| Patti Rosin | Samantha Uhrig, DVM | |
| Dianne Rossbach | | |
| Anthony Sarica | VCA West Side | |
| Kris Thackrah | | |
| Davedda Thomas | Ventana Animal Clinic | |
| Tony Thomas | | |
| Frank Wilson | Wildlife Rescue of New | |
| | Mexico | |

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