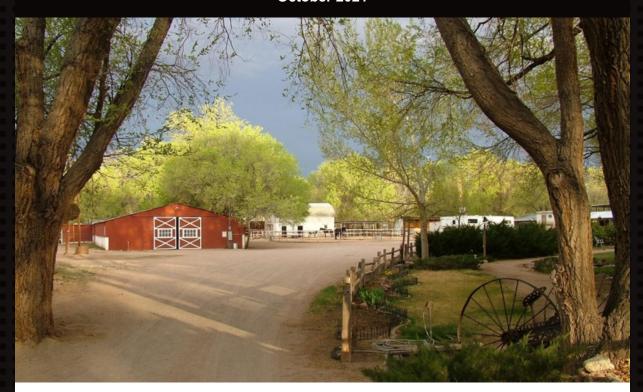


HAWKS ALOFT, Inc.

Conservation, Avian Research & Education

The HAI Flier

October 2021



Capacity Building and a New Community Garden

by Gail Garber, Executive Director

Collaboration: It's written into our mission statement and a goal to which we aspire. But, it's not always glamorous or easy to promote in our publications. Nor is a collaborative timeline either simple or easy. Thus, our publications usually focus on direct actions undertaken through our research, education or raptor rescue efforts. We thank Laurie Roach and the PNMR Foundation for suggesting a new alliance to us a few weeks ago.

In September, we were fortunate to meet with Linda Thorne and Lanny Tanning, owners of Old Town Farm (OTF) and Bike In Coffee. Located west of Old Town and just east of the Rio Grande, OTF is situated on 12 acres among one of the most historic settings in New Mexico. Although Albuquerque was settled in 1706, Pueblo Indians lived and farmed here long before the Spanish arrived as evidenced by the many pot shards found while digging post holes. The Duranes Lateral, which forms the western boundary of OTF, is reputedly the oldest registered ditch in North America.

Since 1977, Old Town Farm has operated as a horse facility and produce farm. Linda and Lanny's dream for OTF is to keep its farming character while adjusting to its ever-expanding urban surroundings. The horses are gone now, but OTF retains its rural flavor where one could sip a hot coffee among the shaded grounds. Former educators, OTF wants to have a greater focus on outdoor education.

Our long-term dream for the Hawks Aloft Living with the Landscape education program is to have a location where students can visit during field trips, working on a conservation project developed in the coming years where students can visit to see the changes implemented by fifth grade students. As we walked among the former horse pens, Linda selected one, in the Goldilocks section (not too far and not too close), for our project. She estimated that the site measures 50' x 80', with a rustic shelter at one end. Then, the magic happened! Our dreams merged.

Now the work begins! We have reached out to many others already with the goal of establishing a select planning committee with expertise to actually realize our shared dream of a community garden that can be used long term for youth conservation. We understand it will be complex and the initial efforts to organize and implement will require knowledgeable adults. Portions of the site will be set aside for fifth graders to plan and work their sections of the garden.

We thank the planners that are already on board: Wild Birds Unlimited, PNM Resources Foundation, Larry Rimer, Michaela Jordan Karni, Tom Mayer and, hopefully, YOU! Do you have planning, irrigation, or gardening expertise? If so, please contact me to share your ideas as to how we might design the master project.

Photo courtesy of Old Town Farm.









A Quick Look at Some High Bird Numbers

By Trevor Fetz, Ph.D., Research Director

After a very busy summer field season, it was nice to have some time to rest and begin catching up on computer work during September. Most of my time during the past month was spent editing data, entering data, and beginning data analyses for the Jemez CFLRP (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project), the Valles Caldera Owl Community Study, the El Segundo Mine Raptor Study, and the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study (MRGSS).

Preliminary analyses of the 2021 Jemez CFLRP data revealed some interesting numbers for some

species. Sapsucker numbers were particularly high this year, as we documented more <u>Williamson's Sapsuckers</u> (49 detections) and <u>Red-naped Sapsuckers</u> (18 detections) than any of the previous nine years of this study. Our previous high for Williamson's Sapsucker was 26 individuals in both 2018 and 2020, while the 18 Red-naped Sapsuckers documented in 2021 was more than all previous years of the study combined (16 total detections). We also documented seven <u>Lewis's Woodpeckers</u> in 2021, after only documenting two individuals (both in 2020) during all previous years. All of our Lewis's Woodpecker detections occurred at points in burned areas on Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Blue Grosbeak (46 detections) and Yellow Warbler (71 detections) also were documented in higher numbers in 2021 than during previous years. Both of these species (with the exception of a single Blue Grosbeak detection) were exclusively documented at riparian points along the Jemez River. The previous high for Blue Grosbeak was 34 detections in 2017. Although I haven't yet calculated specific 2021 numbers for the MRGSS, my sense is that Blue Grosbeaks also were present in higher-than-normal numbers on our Rio Grande bosque transects in 2021.

Yellow Warbler numbers are steadily increasing in the areas we survey along the Jemez River. In 2016 (the first year we surveyed the Jemez River points), we only had two Yellow Warbler detections. The detection numbers have increased in each year since (19 in 2017, 33 in 2018, 34 in 2019, 69 in 2020).

Other species documented at record high numbers during Jemez CFLRP surveys in 2021 included Evening Grosbeak, Gray Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire, and Western Tanager. We had 58 Evening Grosbeak detections in 2021 (surpassing the previous high of 31 in 2018), 49 Gray Flycatcher detections (surpassing the previous high of 25 in 2020), 153 Ruby-crowned Kinglet detections (surpassing the previous high of 117 in 2019), 78 Townsend's Solitaire detections (surpassing the previous high of 49 in 2013), and 311 Western Tanager detections (surpassing the previous high of 248 in 2020).

Photos: Woodpecker Trio: Red-naped Sapsucker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker by <u>Alan Murphy</u>; Ruby-Crowned Kinglet by <u>Doug Brown</u>.

Hawks Aloft Tours



Hawks Aloft Member Trip Birding Southern Arizona May 22-27, 2022

with

Felipe Guerrero, Arizona Birding Tours & **Gail Garber**, Hawks Aloft, Inc.

Trip is available only to Red-tailed Hawk or higher Hawks Aloft membership levels, and is limited to 5 guests only!

Explore the famous Madrean Sky Islands – where Sonora meets Arizona and isolated mountains harboring woodlands and forests tower above desert valleys like an island archipelago reaching north from the Mexican highlands. This region is the northern limit of dozens of specialty birds more common in Mexico and further south.

Depart Tucson the afternoon of May 22, and travel by van to Spirit Tree Inn. The Inn sits on

52 private acres along one of Southern Arizona's high desert creeks in the heart of the

Coronado National Forest, outside of the small town of Patagonia, Arizona, and will be our home base for five nights. Daily outings to specialty bird locations will be directed by the expertise and knowledge of Felipe Guerrero, our private guide for this small, exclusive group outing.

Learn more and reserve your spot here!

Photo: Eared Quetzal by Kristin C. Brown.



DOUG BROWN

Journey to Iceland in 2023!

June 1 - June 11, 2023

Hawks Aloft and Holbrook Travel Explore Iceland: Birding in the Land of Fire and Ice

In the land of fire and ice, massive ice-blue glaciers contrast sharply with bright green meadows, black lava fields, and geothermal lagoons

to create dramatic, captivating landscapes. The country's avifauna is equally impressive: located at the junction of two oceans, it hosts a unique mix of vagrant and migratory birds from both Europe and North America. This adventure with Hawks Aloft offers a look at Icelandic breeding and non-breeding bird populations, from the waterfowl of Lake Mývatn to the iconic Atlantic Puffins. Seek out auks, petrels, cormorants, gannets, gulls, terns, waders, stilts, and birds of prey while enjoying hikes, boat trips, and a bird museum to enrich your understanding of the island's natural history.

Learn more here!

Photos: Atlantic Puffin (above) and Red-throated Loon (below) by <u>Doug Brown</u>.

Images taken in Iceland, July 2021.





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!

Photos: Anole species(above) by <u>Greg Basco</u> (above); Scarlet Macaw (below), photographed in Ecuador by <u>Doug Brown</u>.

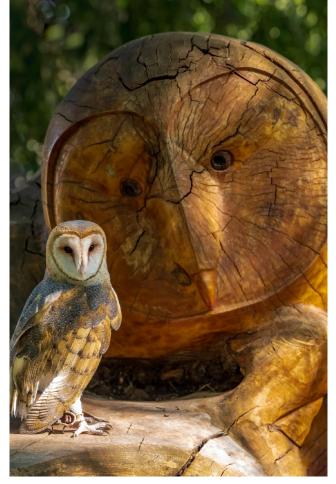




Reflections on LaVeta, Colorado

By Maggie Stein, Education & Outreach Coordinator

During the last week of September, Gail and I, along with *six* of our Avian Ambassadors, had the great pleasure of being guests at a Photography Summit in the tiny town of La Veta.



Colorado. The workshop was hosted by Ricky Tims and featured quest speakers (including Gail!), photoshoot adventures, and nightly showcases of photos that had been taken by participants that day. Our education birds were featured as subjects for photoshoots, and each morning we presented two birds for the roughly thirty participants to photograph. I had never heard of La Veta before this trip, but I was instantly charmed by the little mountain town. One resident we met described La Veta as a community of old ranchers and old hippies. There are no stoplights, and the only groceries you can get are from a store/deli/ice cream shop called Charlie's. The downtown has cute benches on almost every corner. art galleries, and docile deer wandering around who hardly glance at any humans. We had breakfast and lunch at Ryus Avenue Bakery every chance we could get, and ended up on a first name basis with the server at Mission Deli Mesa. Gail and I had such a great time attending this workshop. When we arrived in La Veta, we were greeted

by Ricky and a large kettle of Turkey Vultures soaring around the park across from Ricky's studio and our hotel. We stayed at the <u>La Veta Inn</u> with all six birds in a room with us. (Don't worry, we made arrangements with the hotel owners beforehand!) All the birds traveled extremely well and I even think Beauty would prefer she lived in a hotel room all the time.

Many of the workshop participants have been photographers for longer than I have been alive, and initially it was a very intimidating crowd to be thrown into. With that said, everyone attending the summit was so incredibly kind and appreciative of us bringing our birds. Gail described the photos that were taken of the birds as "photos taken with love" and I could not agree more.

It was such a great week and I learned *a lot* from my time there. I am officially crazy about La Veta, and maybe I'm on track to end up crazy about photography too!

We thank Ricky Tims for booking Hawks Aloft for this exciting event. We greatly appreciate his generous donation in support of Hawks Aloft, making his company our newest corporate sponsor! Click Here to learn more about Ricky's Photography classes and workshops.

Phogos: Scenic view of La Veta by Gail Garber; Celeste, the Barn Owl, with the matching sculpture bench by Warren Lee.



The Hawk in the Hardware Store

By Amelia Thompson, Educator & Raptor Rescue Dispatcher

It was on a Tuesday around noon when the first call came into the Raptor Rescue Hotline. A hawk had flown into and was trapped in a Lowe's Home Improvement Store in Albuquerque. Animal Welfare officers contacted us for advice. Unfortunately, both Hawks Aloft and Animal Welfare lack the equipment to try and catch the bird, considering the huge size of the store and its 40' tall ceilings. We suggested that the store leave as many doors and windows as possible open overnight and hoped that hawk would figure out an exit.

Three more calls came in the next day about the hawk now identified as a Cooper's Hawk! We enlisted the help of Justin Stevenson of RD Wildlife Management, an Albuquerque-based wildlife consulting company that specializes in bats and other mammalian rescues. After consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, store employees, and Gail Garber, he devised a plan and implemented it on Thursday morning. Setting up a unique trap, taped near the bird's favorite perch, Justin placed a 32' ladder close by. When the hawk landed on the trap, Justin raced up the ladder and the hawk was caught. It was a success!

Justin delivered the juvenile Cooper's Hawk to Hawks Aloft for examination and care. Lisa, our raptor rescue coordinator, determined that the bird was thin from but otherwise seemed in good shape. The following morning, the young hawk was examined by Dr. Christine Fiorello of <u>Acequia Animal Hospital</u> where X-rays revealed a fracture of the radius on the right wing, an injury that already showed signs of healing. Dr. Chris wrapped the wing, and bird is confined to a large crate for a few weeks until the bone heals completely. We theorize that although the young Cooper's could still fly, it probably could not fly well enough to catch prey and was reduced to chasing songbirds in the parking lot.

Hopefully this tough little hawk will be released in the next few weeks. Update: This feisty Cooper's Hawk is healing quickly and has already been transferred to our friends at the New Mexico Wildlife Center for flight and pre-release training.

Photos by Justin Stevenson, Amelia Thompson, and Acequia Animal Hospital.



The Hawks Aloft raptor rescue hotline is 505-999-7740



New Open Space Lands: The Poole Property

By Melody Mock, Associate Administrator

A 23-acre plot of land, located directly across the river from the Rio Grande Nature Center. was recently acquired by the City of Albuquerque and is now managed by the Open Space Division. Also known as the Poole property, it was the former home of Suzanne Poole, a singer, educator, and philanthropist known for her support of the performing arts as well as environmental and animal protection causes. With only a couple of homes on site after Poole's death in 2012, it remained mostly free of development until recently. After a contentious couple of years as members of the community opposed a large real estate development on the acreage, it was purchased with funds from the state, the city, and Bernalillo County in March of this year.

Officially called the San Antonio Oxbow Extension, it is now designated as a protected wildlife habitat adjacent to the San Antonio Oxbow. This wetland became a permanent marsh in the 1960s after an Army Corps of Engineers project removed the oxbow, or U-

shaped bend in the river. Not only do the wetlands provide increased ecological diversity, they also are home to many plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered species. A <u>2019 video</u> made in support of conserving the area highlights the property and wildlife, helping us to understand the importance of the transfer to Open Space.

The Poole property serves as a buffer between existing housing developments and the Oxbow wetland, and it could become a location for community involvement and education about the bosque and the Rio Grande.

To date, no formal decisions have been made as to how the City will proceed. Open Space staff have been conducting informational sessions and tours to engage the public. The first question is how the Poole property should connect to the existing San Antonio Oxbow. Then there are issues of how the property can be utilized. Ideas include different types of trails; viewing points or overlooks; outdoor furnishings such as benches, picnic tables, and shade structures; and pollinator gardens, community gardens, or nature play areas. Possible educational programs could include citizen science projects, school group programs, or adult programs.

A citizen survey can be filled out with any ideas you might have about the property usage: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/v22vysz

There is no public access to the wetlands or the Poole property (yet) but you can visit the San Antonio Oxbow Overlook just south of the area. From Coors Blvd, turn east onto Namaste Road. Parking is available at the east end of Namaste. A short 400-foot trail takes you to the overlook area.

Photo by Melody Mock.



Bring Us Your Old Pumpkins!

If you are a pumpkin-carver, consider donating your leftover pumpkins after Halloween. We use them as enrichment for Beauty, the Turkey Vulture, and other birds. Call us at 505-828-9455 to arrange drop off.

Seeking Laptop Donation

Our Raptor Rescue coordinator, Lisa Morgan, works from home due to an autoimmune disease. She manages our rehabilitation cases from home but

sadly, the aging laptop she uses is in its death throes.

So we are desperately seeking a donation of a laptop computer. Ideally, it would be no more than a few years old. We would be so very grateful to be able to provide Lisa with a working computer.

This donation would help the Raptor Rescue Program. Thank you!!



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, whooo 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 Bimonthly Video!



Raptor Migration

Maggie discusses the miracle of migration during this period of peak raptor migration.

Posted 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.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram



The Hawks Aloft



Raffle Quilt!

90" x 90"

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

We'll draw the wining ticket in December 2021

Click here to purchase tickets

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

Adopt-A-Raptor Today!



Meet Indigo, the American Crow

Click here to Adopt-a- Raptor

Indigo, an American Crow, was hatched in 2007 and illegally kept as a pet by a woman in Oregon. Not only is it illegal to keep an indigenous bird as a pet, but Indigo was fed an improper diet and confined to a small cage. As a result, she developed permanent metabolic bone disease, and has limited flying ability. She is also aggressive to other

birds, including other crows. Indigo was confiscated in 2008 and brought to the Cascades Raptor Center in Eugene, Oregon. She found her way to her forever home with us at Hawks Aloft the following spring. Indigo is the only one of our education birds who is an omnivore, and she eats a highly specialized diet to keep her healthy and to combat symptoms of her bone disease. Her favorite foods are mice, corn, and salmon from her caretaker's dinner!

Photo by Larry Rimer.

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 Kristin Brown

Kristin's love for photographing nature and wildlife, birds in particular, have led her to remote corners of North America, Central and South America and more recently Iceland. Having recently retired from a 36-year career in nursing, she hopes to expand her portfolio with trips to Asia and Africa.

The beauty in her images comes from a combination of sharply-honed technical knowledge and sense of aesthetics — capturing not only the most minute details of her subjects, but also their very essence.



She has donated many of her personal images to Hawks Aloft and has photos in iBird, a handheld interactive field guide to the Birds of North America. Kristin lives with her husband and fellow photographer, Doug Brown, and two parrots in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she is an active and vital member of the local birding and photography community.

Her work can be seen on her website: https://www.kristincbrownphotography.com

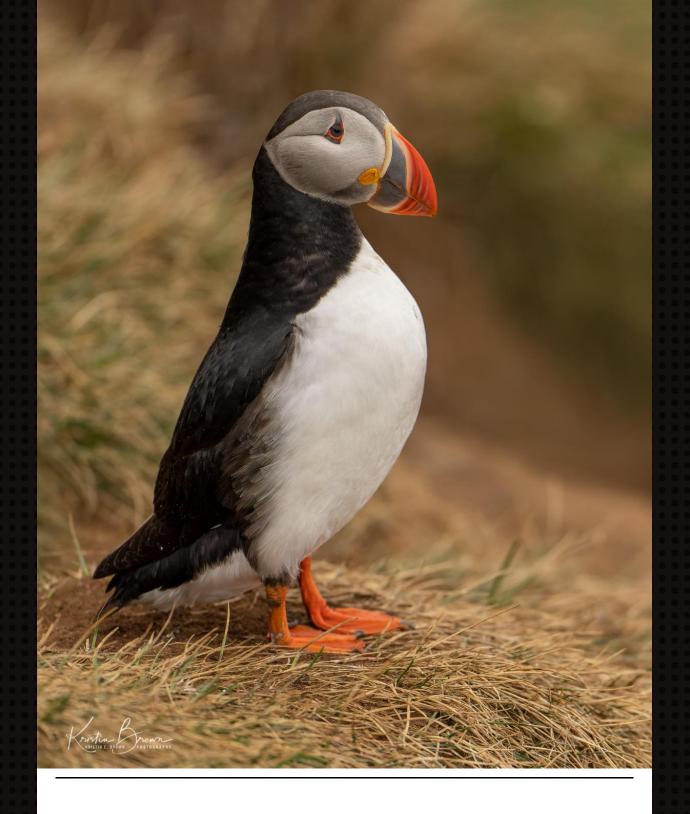
1. Neotropic Cormorant dining on rainbow trout

- Arctic Tern, photographed in Iceland
 American Coot, attempting to walk on ice
 Atlantic Puffin, photographed in Iceland
 Sandhill Crane, photographed at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge











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Become a Hawks Aloft Member

Thank You to our August Donors & Members!

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Acequia Animal Hospital

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Candace Auten, DVM

Holli Bellusci

David Biddinger

Carol Calista, DVM

Calista Veterinary Hospital

Mary & Ed Chappelle

Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Eye Care for Animals

Christine Fiorello, DVM

Tim Fitzpatrick, DVM

High Desert Veterinary Care

Ray Hudgell, DVM

September Intakes

Total Cases: 14

Turkey Vulture: wing injury

Cooper's Hawk: cat caught

Long-eared Owl: barbed wire entanglement

Cooper's Hawk: failure to thrive

Red-tailed Hawk: wing injury

Great Horned Owl: wing injury

Cooper's Hawk: dead on

arrival

Great Horned Owl: wing and jaw injury

Cooper's Hawk: trapped in building, wing injury

Peregrine Falcon: wing, toe, and beak injury

Great Horned Owl: wing

Kim Sorensen injury Daniel Levenson, DVM Laura Southard Cooper's Hawk: wing injury Sherry McDaniels Mike Stake American Kestrel: wing Mike Melloy, DVM injury Tony & Davedda Thomas Lisa Morgan Mississippi Kite: feather Ricky Tims damage New Mexico Wildlife Center Roy & Karen Winchester Petroglyph Animal Hospital **Raptor Rescue Team** Chellye Porter **Anthony Bailey** Larry Rimer **David Biddinger** Mary Bruesch San Juan Animal Hospital Terry & Cindy Buttram Ed Chappelle Santa Fe Raptor Center Mary Chappelle Joanne Dahringer **Anthony Sarica** Paul Domski Chris Gibson Southwest Veterinary **Medical Center** Shannon Harrison Denise Inight Greg Kerr Samantha Uhrig, DVM Dean Klassy VCA West Side Shawn Klocek **Evelyn McGarry** Sherry McDaniel Ventana Animal Clinic Matt Mitchell Wildlife Rescue of New Jenee Moore Julie Morales Mexico Eliane Notah Amanda Rael Larry Rimer Patti Rosin Dianne Rossbach **Anthony Sarica** Kris Thackrah Davedda Thomas **Tony Thomas**

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Research & Education

6715 Eagle Rock Ave NE Albuquerque, NM 87113









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Trevor Fetz, Ph.D., Research Director
David Buckley, Avian Surveyor
Brian Dykstra, Biologist
Roger Grimshaw, Raptor Surveys
Sue Harrelson, Project Manager,
Taos Gorge Raptor Study
Jerry Hobart, Project Manager,
Raptor Driving Surveys
Thomas Mayer, Raptor Surveys
Evelyn McGarry, East Mountain
Representative

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Larry Rimer, Project Manager,
El Segundo Raptor Study
Maggie Stein, Education and
Outreach Coordinator; Project Leader
for McKinley Mine Study
Amelia Thompson, Raptor Rescue
Dispatcher/ Educator
Brent Thompson, Biologist

Alwyn VanderWalt, *Director*Mary Chappelle, *Emeritus*