

HAWKS ALOFT, Inc.

Conservation, Avian Research & Education

The HAI Flier

December 2021



Birds and Glass A Dangerous Combination

by Gail Garber, Executive Director

WHUMP! We've all heard this. The sound of a bird striking a glass window. Rush outside. A tiny but colorful lifeless body. Pick up the fallen fellow. Marvel at the remarkably beautiful feathers. Mourn the loss of life. Then??



Up to one billion birds die every year after hitting glass surfaces in the United States. Why?

- They perceive glass reflections of vegetation, landscapes, or sky to be real.
- They attempt to reach habitat, open spaces, or other attractive features visible through either glass surfaces or free-standing glass.

Despite claims that humans — unlike birds — can see glass, the truth is that glass presents problems to both. When we bump into doors and windows, minor bruises and embarrassment are the typical results. For birds, however, the impact can result in instant death or serious, often fatal, injuries. Birds tend to collide with glass at high speeds and their small bodies, composed of hollow bones, leave them particularly vulnerable to injury.

We humans understand the concept of glass as a solid, transparent material. Detecting and avoiding glass becomes an exercise in learning the cues that signal its presence. Why can't birds see glass? Birds do not learn the same visual cues as humans. As a result, glass is undetectable for them. Birds may learn about individual pieces of glass in an area where they live, through repeated interactions — if they survive the initial collision — but they remain unable to generalize from the experience and remain susceptible to collisions with other structures.

Collisions are most frequent during spring and fall migration, as enormous numbers of birds move between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering grounds. The largest number of collisions occur during the fall, when migrants include both adult birds and their offspring. But, because birds can't see glass, dangers exist for birds year-round, especially glass near bird feeders and bird baths. Resident birds, particularly juveniles, tend to collide more often with glass in summer as they explore local environments. Collisions also happen all winter long.

Most collisions take place during the day, and almost half occur at home windows. Tall buildings (over 11 stories) cause only 0.1% of all building collisions in the United States. But the lower floors can still cause a lot of collisions, so reducing avian mortality due to collisions also means working to reduce collisions at all buildings.

In my case, it was a lovely, plump Townsend's Solitaire that struck the newly installed window in the newly built dining room addition. Severe guilt flooded my being after hearing the THUMP and picking up the still warm body. How could this happen to me – someone that is passionate about birds and spends her life working to protect them! In reality, it happens to everyone who owns a home. I vowed that I would work to change the hazards in my home. The following weekend, armed with American Bird Conservancy's Bird Tape, every window on the ground floor was covered. And, when I replaced the other windows, I insisted on grills between much smaller glass panels, 8" x 12". Yup, it was pricey, but there have been no strikes since then.

Many measures exist to protect birds from the glass in your home as well, many of which are very affordable. The American Bird Conservancy, one of my favorite avian conservation organizations provided the bulk of the information in this article and many of the words too! ABC has a database that rates 111 different products for cost and effectiveness. Here's the link.

While you are visiting the ABC Website for this particular issue, check out other threats to birds. ABC is always my 'go-to' source when researching avian conservation issues. Not only that, their magazine is top-notch and would be a wonderful addition to your in-home library!

Townsend's Solitaire image by David Powell.



Congratulations to Eliane and Johnny Notah Winners of the 2020-21 Raffle Quilt!

We sold 5,000 raffle tickets, bringing in funds to support Hawks Aloft programs. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets!

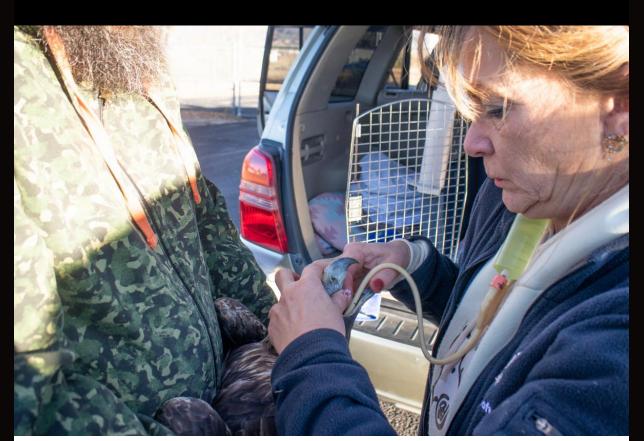
Featuring a bald eagle soaring against a blue background surrounded by vibrant colors, the center of this quilt was designed by Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer and Gail Garber designed the remainder based on Cynthia's design. The quilt was then put together by a group of dedicated volunteers.



The Quilting Team (L-R): Cynthia Figueroa McInteer, Gail Garber, Vicky Harms, Allison

Schacht, Sami Sanborn, Layla Chappelle (the dog), Lizzie Roberts, Mary Chappelle, Evelyn McGarry, Barb Deshler, and Carol Bauer. Standing behing the quilt: Ed Chappelle and Rick Deshler. Not shown: Donna Barnitz, Steve Elkins, and Maggie Stein. We also thank Keith Bauer, who drove over on short notice to take photos for us!

Thank you all! We couldn't do it without your help!





Roadside Triage

by Lisa Morgan, Raptor Rescue Coordinator

A quiet afternoon of fetch with my dog quickly turned serious when I received an urgent call from Gail Garber, director of Hawks Aloft. Quendy Garber (no relation to Gail) came upon a Golden Eagle while searching for a Christmas tree on BLM land near Cuba—a magnificent, but clearly injured, adult female. Thankfully, he pinned the location on his phone and called the HAI Raptor Rescue Hotline (505-999-7740). Evelyn McGarry, our dispatcher, reached out to Chris Gibson, one of several excellent New Mexico falconers who are at the ready to assist us with just about any task we ask of them. Chris

contacted his friend and apprentice falconer, Marc Valdez, who lives in the Cuba area.

Quickly packing field triage supplies, Gail and I were on the way to Cuba as Marc was on his way to find the eagle via the location pin from the original callers. Marc located her right away and immediately determined that her left wing was injured. Wrapping her feet and body for her safety, as well as his, Marc quickly transported her to the Ranger Station in Cuba our meeting location.

The first few seconds of the examination revealed the heart-dropping smell of necrosis. Picking her up, I walked away from everyone to quietly assess what had happened to her. Pulling her left wing out, a heavier smell of necrosis hit me, and I could see at least half of

her humerus (that big bone in our arms between our shoulder and elbow) was sticking out. The bone was dry and the surrounding tissues were in a stage that told me she had been languishing with this injury for at least two, maybe three days.

Assisted by Gail and Marc, field triage happened in the parking lot at the Ranger Station. Examining the rest of her body revealed that this beautiful bird had been very successful up to this point. She was well nourished and her feathers were in excellent condition. Realizing all of this made my heart that much heavier, as I knew the injury was too far along for any hope of survival. The best we could do was to support her with fluids and anti-inflammatory/pain medication, and wrap her injured wing to her body to stabilize it. "Less movement equals less pain."

With the eagle crated and comfortably surrounded by towels, I began making phone calls while Gail drove. Dr. Chris Fiorello and Acequia Animal Hospital could put a quiet end to her suffering the next day. Until then, we needed to keep her comfortable. Maggie Stein took the night shift helping me give fluids and more medication, Larry Rimer took the morning shift, and Amelia Thompson took her to Dr. Chris.

In the end, Dr. Chris confirmed that the eagle had a mid-shaft fracture. This means that if only she had been found a day or two earlier, she most likely would have survived this injury. She would have been an excellent candidate for surgery and the fracture was perfectly located for healing correctly.

We thank Dr. Fiorello and the staff at Acequia Animal Hospital. Thank you to Maggie Stein, Larry Rimer, and Amelia Thompson for their assistance in keeping this eagle comfortable. We especially thank Chris Gibson, Marc Valdez, and all of the other New Mexico falconers for always being at the ready to assist Hawks Aloft and the birds of prey that grace beautiful New Mexico!

Photos by Gail Garber.



Welcoming Evelyn McGarry New Raptor Rescue Dispatcher

By Amelia Thompson, Educator

Many of you know Evelyn McGarry as one of Hawks Aloft's extraordinary volunteers since 2016. Evelyn has helped out in every aspect of Hawks Aloft

operations: she does education and outreach programs, she helps in the office with administrative work, she's done data entry for research projects, and she rescues birds in the East Mountain area. Now she has a new role in our organization as the Raptor Rescue Dispatcher, and we could not be more thrilled to have her take on this job. Not only does Evelyn have a wide variety of knowledge about Hawks Aloft and rescuing birds, she is also very organized and great with people.

As Raptor Rescue Dispatcher, Evelyn answers the Raptor Rescue Hotline, which means she gets every type of call, from songbird to eagle, and her job is to figure out the best course of action for each call. Sometimes it's as easy as referring the person to another organization, either because they are closer to that organization or because we don't rescue that type of bird. Other times it's as difficult as organizing a relay from one part of the state to another, utilizing multiple volunteers and staff members to get the bird to where it needs to be.

When we initially turned over the Raptor Rescue Hotline phone to Evelyn, it had been a very slow season for rescues, but as soon as Evelyn took the hotline phone the calls poured in. She has helped in the rescue of two Golden Eagles, two Great Horned Owls in Mountainair, a Western Screech-Owl, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, a Cooper's Hawk, and other species just in the past two weeks. Please join Hawks Aloft in welcoming Evelyn in her new role and give her a huge thank you for everything she has done for us over the past five years.

Photo by Gail Garber.

Our Raptor Rescue Hotline number is 505-999-7740.



Welcome Linda Contos Consulting Veterinarian

By Amelia Thompson, Educator

Please join us in welcoming Linda Contos, DVM, as a consulting veterinarian joining our raptor rescue team. Linda was one of our 'goto' vets at Ventana Animal Hospital until she retired from the practive. We are thrilled to have her expertise on our team.

Linda is now conducting intake exams at our office. To facilitate this, we have created a special space for examining rescue birds with an exam table, a scale, and supplies needed to administer fluids as well as treating and bandaging wounds and broken bones.

We are happy to have this designated area, as injured birds of prey are often brought to the office. Now they can be examined here by Dr. Linda rather than having to be transported to a second location for examination. Another benefit is that volunteers on our rescue team will have greater opportunities to see triage in action. We have had a surprising large number of rescues at the end of November, so it has been especially great having an extra pair of hands to help with the intakes. We thank Linda for giving her time and knowledge as we grow as a rescue organization.

Photo by Gail Garber.



Bosque Field Surveys Are Coming!

By Trevor Fetz, Ph.D., Research Director

November was an uneventful month comprised of data entry, data analysis, editing, and

report writing. But the fun is about to start. The 2022 winter field season for the Middle Rio Grande Songbird Study (MRGSS) starts in December. I was exhausted after the long summer field season, but three months of staring at my computer has made me excited to get back out and start surveying again.

The MRGSS remains entirely funded by your memberships and donations! Thus, we will only be surveying a subset of 49 transects this winter. Once again, I am grateful to have survey help from David Buckley, Gail Garber, Mike Hill, Amelia Thompson, and Maggie Stein. Without their assistance, our survey effort would be greatly diminished.

It will be interesting to see how the drought conditions impact bosque bird numbers this winter. But surprisingly, water levels in the Rio Grande will be relatively high for at least the start of winter surveys. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is emptying the reservoir at El Vado to perform maintenance on the dam at that location, so a large amount of water is currently being released. It is possible that some of our lower-lying transects will be wet, which might draw in some different species. Here's hoping for some good birds!

Northern Flicker is a common bird of winter in the riparian forest along the Middle Rio Grande. They often are found foraging together at bare spots on the ground -- feasting on ants -- on of their primary prey items. Thank you <u>Doug Brown Photography</u> for this image.

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.



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 iceblue 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!

Atlantic Puffin (above) and Arctic Tern(below). Photos 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. Even thought it occupies 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 inbetween. 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: Velvet-purple Coronet(above) and Yellow-rumped Cacique (below), photos by <u>Doug Brown</u>





Neighborhood Nature Day

By Maggie Stein, Education & Outreach Coordinator

November was an exciting month of new beginnings for our educational programming. This includes our first ever collaboration in the Neighborhood Nature Day Community Pop-up Events. Hawks Aloft was thrilled to participate as a community partner, along with the City of Albuquerque Open Space, Talking Talons Youth Leadership, ABQ Backyard Refuge Program, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central New Mexico.

We feel very fortunate to work alongside these incredible organizations to provide accessible outdoor education experiences for all ages. These events are tailored to promote discovery and documentation of nature in local neighborhoods.

The pilot pop-up event took place at Phil Chacon Park on the first Saturday of November. Amelia, three of our Avian Ambassadors, and I representing Hawks Aloft. It was a beautiful Fall day with warm sunshine and calm winds; great for having birds outside in the park! We had a lot of fun getting to know some of the faces of the other community partners, and our birds loved spending the day sunbathing (especially Beauty!).

We hope to see more of these events in the future around Albuquerque, and we certainly look forward to continuing to collaborate for Neighborhood Nature Days!

Photo of Azulito at Neighborhood Nature Day by Maggie Stein.



The Many Ways to Help Support Hawks Aloft

by Melody Mock, Associate Administrator

As we enjoy this season full of holidays and gratefulness, we are thankful for the support that we receive from our community. Over the years, you have helped us continue to pursue our mission of raptor rescue, research, and education.

There are many ways that you can help our organization.

Since we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your donation is tax deductible. Visit our website at www.hawksaloft.org and click on the donate button! We have different levels of membership that you may choose. Or you can Adopt a Raptor and choose which of our education birds you would like to support.

Each time our Raptor Rescue dispatcher receives a call and determines that a rescue is in order, they reach out to an extensive network of volunteers in the area who can go retrieve the bird and transport it to one of our rehabilitators. Volunteering to help with this or other jobs is another way that you can support Hawks Aloft. Visit the <u>Volunteer page</u> on our website to find out about the different ways that you can help by giving us your time.

You can also get the word out about Hawks Aloft and our Raptor Rescue Hotline. People often share images of injured birds on social media, and you can always share our hotline number (505-999-7740) or website address (www.hawksaloft.org) so they can call us. Sharing or commenting on our social media posts helps them get more attention as well.

Donating your old vehicle is another way you can support us and help the birds. Your old car might just be taking up space in your driveway – but your donation will help us out! We work with One Community Auto and they take care of the entire process. They will accept anything on wheels, running or not.

If you shop at Smith's grocery store or Amazon online, both businesses provide ways to donate to nonprofits. Link your <u>Smith's shopper's card to our organization here</u>. For Amazon shopping, Just go to <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and log into your existing Amazon account. Then under the search bar you can select your charity and find us by searching for "Hawks Aloft Inc." Save your account settings and shop away!

Hawks Aloft Support

Giving Tuesday and Nonprofit Support

Many thanks to those who donated to our Facebook Giving Tuesday Fundraiser as well as other Facebook fundraisers in the past! And we truly appreciate your donations in response to our year-end appeal.

Huge appreciation to the volunteers who helped us stuff envelopes for the mailing: Mary Bruesch, Sharon Carbonneau, Devona Jensen, and Ruth Latta. We couldn't have done it without you!

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 longsleeved 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.

Adopt-A-Raptor Today!

Meet Celeste, the Barn Owl

Click here to Adopt-a-Raptor

Celeste came to Hawks Aloft through our very own Raptor Rescue program. She was found in Belen, New Mexico, with a right shoulder-girdle fracture and a traumatic eye injury, presumably after being hit by a car. Her wing has since fully healed, and she is a fully flighted bird, but she was left blind in one eye and has developed limited sight in the other. Although Barn Owls can hunt in complete darkness, Celeste would need to be able to see with both eyes to avoid predators and obstacles she would face in the wild. Celeste is named after the celestial bodies that would guide her in the darkness when hunting.



Photo by Warren Lee. This image is available as a print. If you are interested please contact Warren, our featured photographer this month.

When you adopt a Hawks Aloft raptor you 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:
- . 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
- 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

Warren Lee

Warren Lee is an award winning, internationally published, artist and speaker. From the tiny to the vast he specializes in finding and sharing, through fine art prints, portions of the amazing wonder and joy around us. He is entranced by wildlife - especially critters in motion and landscapes.



Birds of Cornerstone Park are featured below:

The City of Henderson, Nevada transformed an old quarry from an eyesore to a magical suburban oasis. It is now a 100 acre wetlands park featuring a 31 acre lake (for critters only - no swimming or boating), trails and pavilions. The pandemic provided an excellent opportunity to explore unexpected wonder just around the corner.

For more information on Warren's photos, please contact him via email.

- 1. American Coot and chicks
- 2. Face-off: Great Egret & Hummingbird sp.
- 3. Great Blue Heron carrying nesting material
- 4. White-faced Ibis in flight
- 5. Pied-billed Grebe take-off











Donate to Hawks Aloft

Become a Hawks Aloft Member

Thank You to our **November Donors &** Members!

Acequia Animal Hospital Anonymous Donor Jessalyn Brach Vickie Dern Steven Emmons Marie Fair Cynthia Figueroa-McInteer Patricia Folsom Karen Garcia **Deborah Gruen** Leah Henzler & Joe Cairns **Gerald Hobart** Jessalyn Brach Raymond Juncosa Margaret Kircher Melissa Lauer Catherine LeBaigue Richard Lutz Cheryl Maracich John & Mary Mims Mary-Anne Mitchell **David Parsons** Renee Robillard Ronald Chavez Carolyn 'Sami' Sanborn Corinne Shaw Charlotte Sornborger Virginia Sunderland Davedda Thomas K Wayne & Drena Welty

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Shannon Harrison

Our Veterinarians and Rehabilitators

Acequia Animal Hospital Kariana Atkinson, DVM Candace Auten, DVM Holli Bellusci **David Biddinger** Carol Calista, DVM

Calista Veterinary Hospital Mary & Ed Chappelle

Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Lindo Contos, DVM

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New Mexico Wildlife Center

Petroglyph Animal Hospital

Chellye Porter

Larry Rimer

San Juan Animal Hospital

Santa Fe Raptor Center

Anthony Sarica

Southwest Veterinary **Medical Center**

Samantha Uhrig, DVM

Wildlife Rescue of New

November Intakes

Total Cases: 11 Total Hotline Calls: 30

> **Great Horned Owl** - Torn eyelid

Red-tailed Hawk - Electrocution

Golden Eagle - Lead and rodenticide toxicity

> **Great Horned Owl** - Head trauma

Sharp-shinned Hawk - Wing injury

Western Screech-owl - Hit by car

Great Horned Owl - Eye injury, emaciation

> Cooper's Hawk - Hit by car

Golden Eagle - Wing injury

Great Horned Owl - Eye injury

Red-tailed Hawk Wing injury

Denise Inight Devona Jensen Greg Kerr Dean Klassy Shawn Klocek Ruth Latta **Evelyn McGarry Sherry McDaniel** Matt Mitchell Jenee Moore Julie Morales Eliane Notah Amanda Rael Larry Rimer Patti Rosin Dianne Rossbach **Anthony Sarica** Alejandra Gaytan Tellez

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Who We Are

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