



# Tailwinds

RAPTOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

Spring 2023 Issue 1

TAILWINDS "MEWSLETTER"

## Friends of Tailwinds

Thank you for being one of the Friends of Tailwinds! We are so grateful that you attended one or more of our events and have shared your email with us. Your interest and support is immensely appreciated. We hope you will enjoy the first seasonal "Mewsletter." Read on for happenings around the mews, interesting raptor related resources, upcoming programs, and more. We hope to see you at another program. Be sure to introduce yourself as a *Friend of Tailwinds* so we can thank you in person!

## News From The Mews - Springing Forward!

**"MEWS"** - In falconry terms: mew is a birdhouse designed to house more than one bird of prey. So much is happening in our mews right now! Though this spring in southern New Hampshire has been long and cool, raptors and other animals are beginning to shed (molting) their winter coats. Our Tailwinds raptors are off to a slow start, but downy feathers are floating around the mews. George our Barred Owl and Greta our Turkey Vulture are in the lead. Greta routinely has down feathers stuck in her nose which looks like it tickles. We find it kind of cute when she snor- sneezes these feathers from her nose! Molting is one of three major events in the lives of raptors in addition to breeding and migration. Molting is important as it replaces worn or damaged feathers in order



Our Tailwinds Mews - aka home sweet home

to maintain the ability to fly, which is critical for hunting. Some species change their plumage during the molting cycle (red-tailed hawks change from juvenile to adult with a red tail).

We have high hopes for this molting season with Phoenix our Red Tailed Hawk Education Ambassador. She suffered through West Nile virus, losing her tail feathers and some wing feathers as a result. This is one reason that she is non-releasable. To see her grow new tail and wing feathers would be exciting. Talons and fingers crossed she'll have a new red tail to show off. We can't wait to see what the rest of this Spring has in store and we look forward to sharing the journey with YOU!



### "Phoenix"

Red-Tailed Hawk  
*Buteo jamaicensis*





# Tailwinds

RAPTOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

## Seasonal Neighbor News

Birds are migrating back to NH. Some raptors Eagles, Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls are already nesting and have even hatched. Parents are actively feeding young ones and on the move. What should you do if you find an injured or orphaned bird?

Call a wildlife rehabilitator in your area to assess whether the bird needs help. Looking for a Wildlife Rehabilitator?

The app/website **Animal Help Now, AHNOW.ORG** will help guide you to the nearest wildlife rehabilitator.

Take note of the following:

- The location.
- Is it in danger from other people, animals, cars?
- Is the bird downy (fluffy feathers) or does it appear to have full feathers?
- Type of tree - do you see a nest?
- Is there an apparent injury?
- Are parents or siblings present?
- Can you identify the bird?



**NEVER FEED OR WATER A FOUND WILD ANIMAL**



*Great Horned Owl family in their nest*

**Follow [Explore.org](https://www.explore.org) for live bird nest cams, follow the development of young birds. It is fun for families, individuals, classrooms and more!**

Greta was wondering if you had seen our **NEW LOGO?**

Thank you Brian Beaulieu!



*"A good definition of brand strategy is the considered intent for the positive role a company wants to play in the lives of the people it serves and the communities around it." — Neil Parker*

## Resources

Concerned about rodents and looking around for humane non-toxic alternatives?

[RAT's Raptors Are the Solution](https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/preferred-pest-control-products/)  
<https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/preferred-pest-control-products/> has an exceptional website with suggestions, ideas, information, resources, alternatives, and mitigation options.





# Tailwinds

RAPTOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

## Vulture Culture Science!

Among many of the clever adaptations in vultures, one is the chemistry and utility of their waste (poop and pee also known as feces and urates or 'mutes'). Interesting research by our volunteer Anna (who also is a nursing student) is revealing that vultures carry specific bacteria on their heads and in their guts that combat environmentally dangerous bacteria like rabies, botulism, E. coli, anthrax, and possibly others. Anna collected samples of mutes from our vulture Greta, took it to the lab and is studying it by culturing it, and found Greta's bacteria inhibited the growth of the deleterious bacteria mentioned above. Anna was able to share this capstone project at Colby Sawyer, and Greta was a wonderful co-presenter! Way to go Anna! Great research. And thank you Greta! Science is COOL!



Anna and Greta - Dynamic Duo!



**Henry**  
Great horned owl  
*Bubo Virginianus*

## Wishlist and Donations

Our team of educational birds requires constant care and feeding. We provide a varied diet, enrichment, veterinary care, clean and secure housing. Your support is key in helping us achieve our goal of connecting raptors with our community. All donations go directly to our birds and their care. There are several ways you can help:

**Venmo:** @TailwindsRaptors

**Paypal:** @TailwindsRaptors

**Check:** Tailwinds, 14 Shaws Hill Road Kensington, NH 03833

A list of items that will help with the basic care and husbandry of our birds can be found at: [Amazon Wish List](#)

## Attitude of Gratitude

We are incredibly grateful for a community of amazing supporters and volunteers without whom we couldn't do what we do. We thank **YOU** today and every day!!

**Brian Beaulieu** - Logo Design

**Andrea Gupa** - Perch and enclosure design

**John Noon, Dale Willoughby,**

**Alan Tuthill, Ian Aldrich** - Construction

**Willy Lacey** - Heavy equipment for construction

**Ricci Lumber** - Building materials

**Michael Sterling** - Photography

**Tractor Supply** - Rat-wire and mew protection materials

**David Wold** - Strategic planning of our organization

**Thomas Wilson-Frascone** - Coping (nail and beak trim) of birds

**Many individual donors who made this all possible.**

**THANK YOU!**





# Tailwinds

RAPTOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

## Upcoming Programs

Along with multiple schools, libraries, and other private events, we will be at the following:



### DID YOU KNOW?

An owl's eyes take up 1/3 of their skull and make up as much as 5% of these birds' total body weight. That may not sound like a lot, but for comparison, your eyeballs are about 0.0003% of your total weight. If we had eyes the size of owls, our eyes would be the size of grapefruits or softballs! WILD!

### MAY

- 6 KENSINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 9 CANDIA AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
- 20 BEDROCK GARDENS, Lee
- 26 THE WORD BARN, Exeter

### JUNE

- 14 BURLEY FARM, SELT, Epping
- 14 NORTHWOODS BREWERY
- 17 CREEK FARM, Forest Society, Portsmouth
- 24 GRIFFIN FREE LIBRARY, Auburn
- 25 THE WORD BARN, Exeter

### JULY

- 12 LOUDON RECREATION DEPARTMENT
- 15 THE WORD BARN, Exeter
- 27 HAMPSTEAD LIBRARY

### AUGUST

- 11 BLAISDELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY, Nottingham

\*\*\*Please note that our programming can change due to extenuating circumstances and we appreciate your understanding.

Visit **TAILWINDS.LIVE** for events, ticket purchasing links and to book your program **TODAY!**



**George**  
Barred Owl  
*Strix varia*

George wants you to know -  
**YOU** can **HELP** protect our wildlife,  
**DON'T USE RAT POISON!**

You can visit

<https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/>

for **FREE** education and outreach materials like this poster here! Help spread the word!

