



Common Black Hawk



Gray Hawk



Zone-tailed Hawk

The Tubac Hawk Watch began in 2013 when hawkwatcher Peter Collins began systematically documenting the Common Black Hawk migration through Tubac. The hawks migrate through Tubac each year in March on the way to their breeding grounds, mostly in northern Arizona. The birds often stop overnight to roost in the big cottonwoods along the Santa Cruz River. The Common Black Hawk is a special bird in the United States, with only about 250 breeding pairs, all restricted to the extreme southwest. Annual counts of these birds at the Tubac HawkWatch have exceeded 500! At least 15 other species of raptors migrate through Tubac in the spring too, including such sought-after species as Gray Hawk and Zone-tailed Hawk.

Word got out within the hawkwatching community, and people from all over the country started showing up to watch the migration spectacle. Tubac Nature Center, in turn, started organizing groups to share in the splendor, and lo and behold, the Tubac HawkWatch has grown into a season-long event, each year bringing several thousand visitors to Ron Morriss Park and the town of Tubac. The peak of the migration is in mid-March, when the HawkWatch Festival occurs. During the festival days you can enjoy numerous activities such as family day, a live raptor exhibition, bird walks, optics vendors, displays by local non-profit organizations, expert lectures, the Tucson Bird Alliance store, and more.

The Tubac Nature Center booth is open every morning in March!