

Tubac Nature Center
Tubac HawkWatch Festival
March 13-17, 2026
Schedule of Activities

Thousands of hawks fly through Tubac on their spring migration, and official hawk counters will be counting them throughout the season! The HawkWatch Festival occurs at the peak of the hawk migration. To see hawks, come to **Ron Morriss Park, 31 Calle Iglesia, Tubac, AZ**. Plan to be there in the morning for best viewing. Bring a chair, hat, sunscreen, water and binoculars.

To celebrate these magnificent birds, we are offering a host of activities during the HawkWatch Festival:

March 13-17 – Tubac Nature Center, HawkWatch International, and Tucson Bird Alliance booths will be open at Ron Morriss Park from 9:00-12:00 every day.

March 13-17 - Bird Walks

Led by experts from the Tucson Bird Alliance and Tubac Nature Center, will start at Ron Morriss Park at 8:00 a.m. (meet near park entrance) and 11:00 a.m. (meet at Tucson Bird Alliance booth) every day. Please register at: tucsonbirds.org/field-trips/

March 14-17 – Optics Vendors

Kowa (?), Vortex, Zeiss, and Land, Sea and Sky will display their products at Ron Morriss Park, and be available to answer your questions.

[PLACEHOLDER for more info on live raptor exhibition]

Friday March 13

Non-Profit Organizations Day

Local environmental non-profit organizations will have booths open at Ron Morriss Park from 9:00-12:00. Come and learn about all the interesting and important work these organizations are doing.

Participating organizations include: The Nature Conservancy

Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve; Tumacacori National Historical Park; MORE TO BE ADDED.

2:00- 3:00 p.m.

PLACEHOLDER for lecture by HWI

Saturday March 14

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Family Day, at the Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac. The day starts with a Nature Scavenger Hunt at 8:00am, followed by tons of activities from 9:00am-11:30am. Events will include hands-on activities like bird ID, learning how to use binoculars, button making, hawk workbooks, owl-pellet dissection workshops and more. The morning will be capped off with a **live raptor presentation at 11:30am** which includes being able to get your picture taken with these amazing birds.

You can come for the whole morning or just for part. All activities are FREE but we do ask that all children are accompanied by an adult.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. - Nature Walk

Explore the plants and animals along the Santa Cruz River with a local naturalist.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Digiscoping Workshop [tentative]

[description TBD] With Jeff Bouton, Kowa Sporting Optics USA. *Meet at the Kowa booth.*

2:00- 3:00 p.m.

Lecture - “**Conservation of Santa Cruz River Habitats in Tubac**”.

Seth Ausubel, Vice President, Tubac Nature Center and Kari Hackney, Director of Habitat Stewardship, Tucson Bird Alliance. Learn about the Tubac Nature Center’s projects and plans to restore the forest, wetland, and other critical habitats along the Santa Cruz River, and efforts to permanently preserve the land.

Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

Sunday March 15

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Digiscoping Workshop [tentative]

[description TBD] With Jeff Bouton, Kowa Sporting Optics USA. *Meet at the Kowa booth.*

11:30 a.m. – Tubac HawkWatch founder **Peter Collins will talk about the hawks (especially the Common Black Hawk), the history, and the joy of hawk watching in Tubac.** He will answer your questions. *Gather at Ron Morriss Park.*

2:00- 3:00 p.m.

PLACEHOLDER for lecture by HWI

Monday March 16

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Lecture - “***Buteo Basics: Natural History and Identification***”. *Jeff Babson, Naturalist, Pima County Conservation, Lands and Resources.* Buteos are familiar birds that, due to variation within species, present some identification challenges. This presentation will help birders sort through the buteos and how to separate them from related hawks. Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

Tuesday March 17

12:00 p.m. – Raffle Drawing (winners need not be present)

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Lecture - “***The Interesting World of Ravens***”. *Jennie MacFarland, Director of Bird Conservation, Tucson Bird Alliance.* [abstract needed; title needs confirmation]
Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

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