



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

Along the Anza Trail, 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 & Sky will display their products at Ron Morriss Park. Try them out!



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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 the interesting and important work these organizations are doing. *Participating organizations include: Arizona Field Ornithologists; Borderlands Restoration Network; Empire Ranch Foundation; Friends of Madera Canyon; Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area; The Nature Conservancy Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve; Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and Museum; Tumacacori National Historical Park; U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest; Western National Parks Association.*

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Raptor Ambassadors Meet & Greet – Live Raptors at Ron Morriss Park

2:00- 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker – **“Spooky, scary, cool, and tiny: All about cavity nesting raptors and CARES, a community science program studying their ecology and conservation”**. *Melissa Halvorsen and Dave Oleyar, HawkWatch International.*

Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

Saturday March 14

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

Family Day, at the Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

Registration starts at 7:45 a.m.

Nature Scavenger Hunt from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. We’ll walk right from the Tubac Community Center along part of the Anza Trail looking for items on our nature scavenger list.



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Saturday March 14 – Family Day (continued)

Various “Hands On” Activities from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. including owl pellet dissection, learning how to use binoculars for birdwatching, learning local bird ID, working on their own hawk journals, crafts, and games.

Live raptor presentation from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Come and learn about raptors and what makes them special. This is a wonderful interactive time to get to see these beauties up close. Photos can be taken after the presentation.

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

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Digiscoping Workshop

Learn how to use a spotting scope as a telephoto lens with your smartphone or other camera. With Jeff Bouton, Kowa Sporting Optics USA.

Meet at the Kowa booth in Ron Morriss Park.

2:00- 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - **“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.



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Sunday March 15

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. *Gather at Ron Morriss Park.*

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Raptor Ambassadors Meet & Greet – Live Raptors at Ron Morriss Park

2:00- 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - **“Hawkwatching 101”**. Dave Oleyar, HawkWatch International
Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

Monday March 16

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Raptor Ambassadors Meet & Greet – Live Raptors at Ron Morriss Park

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - **“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.



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Tuesday March 17

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Raptor Ambassadors Meet & Greet – Live Raptors at Ron Morriss Park

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

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker - "**Ravens: Fascinating and Intelligent Birds**". Jennie MacFarland, Director of Bird Conservation, Tucson Bird Alliance.

Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Rd., Tubac.

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