



Tailwinds

RAPTOR EDUCATION & CONSERVATION

Fall 2024 - Issue 3

TAILWINDS "MEWSLETTER"

Friends of Tailwinds

Thank you so much for being a Friend of Tailwinds! We hope you enjoy our third issue of our now semi-annual "Mewsletter". We hope to see you at our programs, and please introduce yourself as a Friend of Tailwinds so we can thank you for all of your support!

News From The Mews

Lionel: Introducing our newest ambassador! Lionel is an Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*). He was deemed non-releasable due to an injury to his eye (we affectionately call this his scrambled egg eye). He is at least 5 years old. Flip to our Species Spotlight to learn more about screeches!



George: Barred owl (*Strix varia*). George is living his best life. He lives with his roommate Greta, our Turkey Vulture, who is not the most polite roommate at times. She will occasionally try to steal his food. For the first time, we walked in and saw that George had snagged some of her food instead! Safe to say, he's had a good appetite lately.



Henry: Great Horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*). We are so excited to share that Henry has been going through a massive molt, and has a beautiful new tail! When Henry was injured and "grounded", his tail feathers became damaged and broken. This is his first time molting out feathers he has had since he was injured. Talk about new beginnings!



Out with the old...



In with the new!



Handsome Man!



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News From The Mews Cont.

Phoenix: Red tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Is starting to get her adult call! She's a bit of an awkward teenager, and sounds like she has a voice crack, but we are excited to listen to her develop a full adult hawk call. Out of all of the birds, she enjoys bath time the most. With the hot weather this summer, she will frequent her tub, and enjoyed a good spray down in the sun!



Greta: Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Ah Miss Greta. The box fan was her best friend during the hot summer. One of the most important things for our birds is enrichment opportunities, and she loves to soak up some sun! When vultures do this, they are using UV rays from the sun to help sanitize their feathers. She had this beautiful portrait drawn at one of our programs this summer.

Volunteers:



*Tailwinds volunteers are the **cogs in the wheel** that make everything come together. We are grateful for all our truly amazing volunteers. Each one comes with a unique story. We will share these stories in the next few newsletters.*



Ari

Ari – A passionate naturalist! Ari loves the worlds of plants and animals and how they connect. She is an advocate for wildlife in everything she does. Something so simple as cutting down a tree - how can we make it useful to wildlife she would ask!

Ari is an emerging falconer, we are grateful for her unwavering support in and out of the mews!

Miya - One of our first volunteers. Competent is an understatement. She comes highly qualified from the Museum of Science in Boston where she provided raptor (and other animals) educational programs! She can handle anything at Tailwinds calmly and professionally. When not with us she can be found hiking, traveling, skiing, coldwater plunging, taking flying lessons, and time with her family. Thank you Miya!



Miya



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Species Spotlight

Have you ever been on an evening walk in the woods when all of a sudden, this haunting whinny seems to sound out of nowhere, sending chills down your spine? You might be surprised to know that this sound does not come from a large, terrifying predator, but a 6 inch tall Eastern Screech Owl!

Screech Owls come in different "flavors", a grey morph, a red morph, and a brown morph. Lionel is somewhere between the red and brown morph. They average 6 inches in height, and have "plumicorns" or, ear tufts. When they are attempting to camouflage, they will pull their feathers in tight and stand up straight, attempting to "disappear" in the presence of potential predators.



<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/woodland-wildlife-spotlight-eastern-screech-owl/>



Lionel in his "alert" posture



Alert Lionel. He appears more brown in this pic!

Lionel's "house" aka nest box



Like most owls, screeches feed on small rodents. They are also able to hunt insects as well, including moths, crickets, and beetles. While Lionel eats a diet mostly of mice and small chicks, for enrichment, we gave him crickets in a paper towel roll.

Eastern screech owls make their nests in cavities, such as old woodpecker holes in trees, or even abandoned structures. Depending on location/placement, they are known to use nest boxes. Visit the link below if you want to learn how to build your own screech owl nest box!



<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-screech-owl-nest-box>



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An exciting initiative soars into action!
Embrace the Adopt-a-Raptor program!



I can eat up to
5 mice per
day!

Did you know?

One  costs \$1.00

That translates to **\$450** a **MONTH** in food

Every year the birds have an annual wellness visit with our veterinarian. This visit can cost up to **\$1000**, not including other medical expenses that can pop up.

One way you can help us offset these costs is through our new Adopt-a-Raptor Program!

Sponsor a raptor for yourself, or as a unique gift for someone special!

- Your support helps provide your adopted bird with food, housing, toys, training, and top-quality medical care year round.
- Adoption includes an adoption certificate, photograph, personal history of the bird and a tailwinds sticker.

<https://tailwinds.live/adopt-a-raptor>



Anticoagulant Rodenticides

While we prepare for the winter season, so are the rodents! Mice will seek shelter in houses, cars, sheds, woodpiles, etc. Unfortunately, anticoagulant rodenticides are a popular method of rodent control, which can be deadly for any animal who ingests them (family pets, raptors, etc.).

How do they work?

Back to anatomy and physiology! When you cut your finger, it will bleed for a little bit, and after holding pressure, the bleeding will stop. This is due to special cells that float around in our bloodstream called **platelets!** Their job is to clump together and form a clot to "plug the hole", stopping the bleeding. This occurs through a process involving platelets and other clotting factors in our body, called "**coagulation**". All mammals have this physiologic process.

Anticoagulant Rodenticides cont.

Lets say a mouse found it's way to a bait box with a form of **Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)**. **SGARs** can be lethal within one feeding. This poison will completely block the mouse's ability to coagulate, and the clotting cascade will break down to the point where the mouse will start to bleed internally, and eventually bleed to death.

So where do raptors come in?

So this mouse has just ingested an **SGAR**. On its way back to the nest, the mouse is snatched by a hawk. The **SGAR** within the mouse will now break down the clotting factors of the hawk, leading to the hawk bleeding internally, and eventually dying without intervention. Due to how fast **SGARs** work, by the time a poisoned bird is brought to a rehabber, it's often too late for intervention. But **there are ways we can help!** Check out **Raptors Are The Solution (RATS)** for more information!

[https://
raptorsarethesolution.org/](https://raptorsarethesolution.org/)

Fun Fact: Warfarin, a medicine many people take for a heart condition, was one of the original first generation anticoagulant rodenticides!



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Upcoming Programs

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

November

09: Bow Public Library: 10:30am

16: Loudon Recreation: 2:00pm

24: The Word Barn: 3:00pm

December

17: Southeast Land Trust of NH: 5:30pm

January

Portsmouth Senior Center: 2:30

February

20: Exeter Senior Center: 2:30

Additional programs coming for 2025! See our website for updates.

Visit **TAILWINDS.LIVE** for events, tickets, and purchasing links

You can book your **OWN** program **today!**
Reach out to linda.noon@tailwinds.live. We look forward to connecting with you!

Conservation

Interested in assisting your town or city in saving raptors and wildlife by minimizing rat poison use? We urge you to attend a MA Audubon "RESCUE RAPTORS" event or webinar. Keep an eye out for 2025 sessions [Programs & Events Search](#).

Here is a recording of a Regional Forum for Safe Rodent Control in New England hosted by MA Audubon, a must watch for understanding the issue, and non-poison options. [A Forum for Safe Rodent Control in New England](#).



Ways to Help Tailwinds

We are grateful for all of your support! Food, housing, and veterinary care for our raptors can be expensive. Ways you can support Tailwinds include...

- Check: Can be made out to Tailwinds, and mailed to 14 Shaws Hill Rd, Kensington NH, 03833
- Venmo: @TailwindsRaptors or scan QR code! —>
- A list of items that help with basic care and husbandry for our birds can be found at: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3MOULKSH4DJN?ref=wl_share

