



**New Mexico  
Wildlife Center**

**Blake-Nuttall Fund Report for 2018**

Raptor Education

In the period from January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018, New Mexico Wildlife Center has hosted 71 educational programs for 2,946 people with two more currently scheduled during the month of September.

16 of these programs were for the general public, 42 were for school-aged children, (with 2 of those for Kindergarten students and 13 for pre-K students,) and 3 were specifically for college classes. 30 of these programs were held at NMWC and included a tour of our Ambassador Animals. The other 41 programs were held at area schools or outdoor venues, such as the Bradbury Museum in Los Alamos, various public libraries and parks, the Santa Fe Animal Shelter, a local juvenile detention center, the Randall Davey Audubon Center, and the Rio Grande Visitor Center in Pilar.

The numbers of audience members reached categorized by age groups were as follows:

All Ages	877
Adults	842
College	47
High School	63
Middle School	65
Elementary School	784
Kindergarten	27
Pre-School	241

Wildlife education programs vary based on age group, but each program allows participants to meet animals from New Mexico in an up-close setting. We find that seeing our Ambassador Animals in close quarters lets the audience make a connection with wildlife that would be impossible otherwise. These programs allow us to educate the public and address issues with wildlife in our state. For example, this year so far, we have hosted 13 programs for pre-Kindergarten age groups. We discussed the differences between wild and domestic animals,

leading students to understand why wildlife should be left in the wild and not kept as pets. For older students we address topics like animal adaptations and New Mexico's native wildlife; these not only help students learn science topics in keeping with state standards, but also allow them to develop a deeper appreciation of our state's wildlife and wild places, encouraging them to become better stewards of wildlife as they grow into adults.

The Animal Ambassadors utilized in these programs are housed on-site at New Mexico Wildlife Center and provide an educational opportunity for visitors to the center. In 2018 so far, 1,203 people have visited NMWC to complete the self-guided tour of our Ambassador Animals. We also hosted our annual Open House last October, which was attended by over 700 people. Participants got to meet our Ambassador Animals and visit a variety of educational stations.

Over the last twelve months, NMWC was able to acquire several new Animal Ambassadors for use in wildlife education programs. These include an American Kestrel, a Swainson's Hawk, a Bald Eagle, a Great Horned Owl, a Peale's Peregrine Falcon, and a Barn Owl. NMWC Education Animals Curator, Shawna Protze, is responsible for the daily husbandry of these animals. Shawna trains our Animal Ambassadors with the assistance of Executive Director, Melissa Moore, and a number of volunteers. We are also currently conducting interviews for a new Education and Outreach Manager and an Education Coordinator. Both of these positions are close to being filled. These additions will allow us to significantly increase the number of programs we will offer.

Here is a selection of photos from some of our recent programs.



One of NMWC's volunteer handlers introduces Oscar, our Great Horned Owl.



A volunteer handler asks a class of students from a summer program what our Bald Eagle, Maxwell, eats.



A preschool student watches Maxwell, our Bald Eagle, on a tour of NMWC's Animal Ambassadors.





Participants in an adult continuing education program meet Artemis, a peregrine falcon, handled by one of NMWC's volunteers.

### Raptor Rehabilitation

The raptors that come through our rehabilitation facility provide another education opportunity.

In the period from January 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018, New Mexico Wildlife Center has admitted 67 raptors to our ICU unit. Thanks to new partnerships with Smith Veterinary Hospital and the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and Humane Society, we now have four veterinarians who are assisting with cases in our rehabilitation hospital.

As members of the community bring injured animals to our facility for rehabilitation, we are in a unique position to provide education about raptors in our state. Our staff spoke to each rescuer about the injuries suffered by the bird they found, why they are important, and how to live more peaceably with wildlife. We also fielded over 600 phone calls from people in New Mexico who had questions about wildlife around their homes.