

Gillespie Creek Journal

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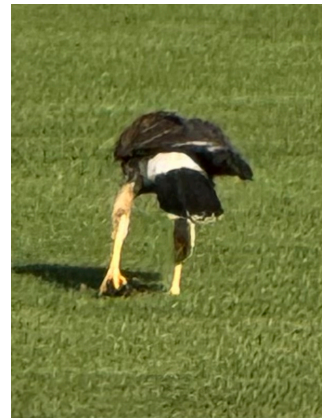
Harris's Hawk March 3, 2024.

Is it work or play? This beautiful raptor began its adventure chasing after my orange Calloway golf ball that had just rolled by on the practice green at South Golf Course below its nest. Soon distracted he/she flew to the 9th-hole fairway and picked up a pine cone. What fun! "Pick up, throw forward, hold it in talons, drop it, pick it up for another ride."

All in a day's work for a fledgeling bird of prey!

Harris's Hawks are said to be increasingly popular species for falconry training. They are intelligent and the easiest to train and most social of the Buteo family of raptors.

For a good read try **H is for Hawk** by Helen McDonald



Photos by Judy Appel



Trained Harris's Hawks have been used for bird abatement at airports, resorts, landfill, sites in Canada and the United States.

Harris's Hawks Look Black with a White Butt When Flying

Perhaps this playful fellow will find a position at Trafalgar Square in London or the tennis courts at Wimbledon where its ancestors have been assigned in the past.