

MEDIA ALERT

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FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO ENLISTING THE COMMUNITY'S HELP TO LOCATE HARRIS'S HAWK, RIPLEY

FRESNO, (May 1, 2024) – Ripley, a Harris's hawk that is one of the free flying birds featured in the Zoo's Winged Wonders Bird Show, was chased off Zoo grounds on Saturday by native red-tailed hawks. The Zoo is now enlisting the community's help to bring Ripley back home to safety.

"All of the birds in our Winged Wonders Bird Show are free flying and work with our Zoological Care Teams voluntarily and choose to participate in the show every day. This was an extraordinarily rare occurrence where Ripley strayed into the territory of local red tailed hawks that are nesting here," said Nicole Presley, Fresno Chaffee Zoo General Curator. "Our dedicated teams have been tirelessly looking for Ripley, and now we are asking for the community's help to find and bring him home."

On Saturday, April 27, during the Winged Wonders Bird Show that Ripley participates in twice daily, he flew off course and into nearby trees. The Zoological Care Team quickly responded and attempted to call Ripley back. Unfortunately, he entered a red tail hawk nesting territory, and the native hawks drove Ripley off Zoo grounds where he could no longer be spotted.

Ripley has been with the Winged Wonders Bird Show for over 7 years. "He has impacted many lives and is not only a guest favorite but also a team favorite," said Presley. "Throughout his time with our team, we have built a strong trusting relationship with Ripley, and he has become one of the Winged Wonder Bird Show's most reliable team members."

Harris's Hawks are easily identified by their chestnut color and their dark tails that have white at the base and tip. Ripley also has an identification band on his left leg. If you believe you have spotted Ripley, please do not approach and call the Zoo at their 24-hour emergency hotline (559)-286-7403.

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Centrally located in Fresno, California, Fresno Chaffee Zoo is a 39-acre [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#) (AZA) accredited zoo. It is home to over 200 different species and features WOW exhibits—from African Adventure to Kingdoms of Asia—that teach guests about animals across the globe and the conservation efforts to protect them. The Zoo welcomes over 800,000 guests annually, offering a world-class guest experience and conservation education to all who visit. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to inspire people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife.

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