



# Raptor Wrangler Bios

## Melissa Hill

Assistant Curator, Draper Museum Raptor Experience  
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Melissa Hill joined the Draper’s staff to establish, launch, and manage the Draper Museum Raptor Experience. Today, the program houses and cares for nine live birds of prey, as well as shares the birds in public educational programs at the Center, and at area schools and special events. All birds—non-releasable due to physical or behavioral defect—come from other educational programs or rehabilitation facilities.

Arriving at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in 2011, Hill had just completed a stint at HawkQuest, a nonprofit raptor education organization based in Colorado that had presented popular raptor programs at the Center of the West in recent years. She was lead lecturer there, and prior to that served as curator of birds at Reptile Gardens in South Dakota, where she conducted programs, trained birds, and taught staff and volunteers to care for and handle them.

Hill earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wyoming in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management.

Hill is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and a member of the Education Committee for the International Association of Avian Trainers & Educators (IAATE). In 2015, she became a published author, writing two series of children’s books about raptors for Capstone Publishing in Minnesota.

## Brandon Lewis

Raptor Program Assistant  
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After serving two summer internships with the Draper Museum Raptor Experience, Brandon Lewis joined the Draper Museum’s staff in spring 2014. Lewis presents public raptor education programs, trains raptor program volunteers, developed and manages an animal enrichment program, and assists with the care, feeding, and training of the birds currently living at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Lewis earned dual degrees in zoology and history from the University of Wyoming. In addition to working with birds of prey, he has a background in public education working as a Park Guide for the National Park Service, and has interpreted American history in period clothing for the past ten years. He is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation.