



The Early Bird Gets the Nest

By Ellen Garner Crawford

Many of us spend our frigid winter days dreaming of spring: warm weather, budding trees, baby birds, and clear, blue skies.

So, it might surprise some to learn that one of your favorite raptors spends its winter on the nest. Great horned owls are one of the earliest nesters in our area, with courtship and vocalizations before any other bird species in Ohio.

But where does our largest resident owl reside in nesting season? We often think of nesting as a time for birds to carry sticks and leaves and other materials to their tree, carefully constructing their young's future home. But, unlike other bird species, owls do not often build their own nest. This includes great horned owls. Some great horned owls don't even line their nest. Others might embellish their nest with bark, leaves, feathers, or even their own pellets. Either way, most resident owl species in Ohio do not construct a stick nest themselves.

While about half of the great horned owls in Ohio prefer holes in trees, the other half must get more creative. The other half need to find existing stick nests. To be able to support a great horned owl, the nest has to be pretty sizable.

This means commandeering nests from red-tailed hawks, great blue herons, ravens or crows, and even eagles. Being at the top of the food chain and having a fearsome reputation, like "Tiger of the Sky", means most other birds won't willingly fight a great horned owl which they discover in adverse possession of their nest.

Eggs are then laid in January or February (despite the cold). Great horned owls' down feathers are able to keep their clutch of eggs warm—a toasty 98 degrees Fahrenheit—even when temperatures around them drop to below zero. About a month later, the eggs hatch. During the nestling and fledging period, the nest deteriorates and may not be reused.

What about the nest builders, such as red-tailed hawks? Luckily, red-tailed hawks don't lay eggs until March or April. Upon finding their previous nest occupied, a mated pair of red-tailed hawks will work together to build a stick nest over the course of 4-7 days, lining the nest with bark and dried plants. These 6.5 foot-high by 3 feet across nests are usually near the top of tall trees with a wide view of the hawks' territory. No wonder great horned owls love to move in!

Sources: All About Birds, ODNR website, ODNR field guide, RAPTOR Inc.

Please Help RAPTOR Inc. by Updating Your Contact Information

Last month, when trying to notify our membership of a change of venue for the Denver Holt talk, we found out that we did not have current emails or phone numbers for many of our members.

Please email raptor@raptorinc.org to give us your email and phone number. Contact information is kept private and is not shared with other organizations.

Also, if you would like to help RAPTOR Inc. reduce our postal fee and carbon footprint, you can switch from postal to email delivery of the newsletter.

Contact raptor@raptorinc.org and we will be glad to help. Thank you for your assistance.



Mission: Since 1978, RAPTOR Inc. (Regional Association for the Protection and Treatment Of Raptors) has been dedicated to "the rehabilitation and return of raptors to their natural environment, the education of the public on the importance of raptors, and the preservation of their natural habitat".

What is Your Favorite Snack?



by **Jordan West**

After a quick rain shower, an adult male red-shouldered hawk drops down with talons extended to hunt earthworms that have been pushed from the waterlogged soil. This species absolutely loves earthworms as a snack and will take advantage of rainy conditions for this reason. (Photo by J. West)

Spring Online Auction

The first baby owlets are due to arrive any time at the Raptor Center and we are planning an online auction event to enable us to meet the needs of these precious little ones. We need your help to make it happen!

Please consider supporting RAPTOR Inc. during our Spring Auction Fundraiser by donating new auction items, making a monetary sponsorship donation, or bidding on auction items.

The auction goes live at 12 noon on May 16, 2022, and ends Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 8:00 pm. Your contributions will make an important impact.

Items can be dropped off on or before April 30, 2022, at the Raptor Center, or you may contact us (513 825-3325) to arrange for pickup.

Scan the QR code with a Smart Phone camera to visit the auction site, or visit our link at <https://raptorinc.betterworld.org/auctions/bid-birds2>.



Tributes

In Honor Of:	From:
Jeanne Menke	Edward Balogh
Marianne Lord	Northminster Church
In Memory Of:	From:
John Burkhardt	Gail & Terry Covert
Sandra Weiskittel	Bogey Benders Golf Club DCR Campfriends Demetria Wright Devine Family Glenn Downs & Allworth Financial Team Kathy Kremer Kelli Wuestefeld Kenneth Garbsch Lori Schneider Randy & Carol Ludwig Raymond A. Weiskittel family and sons (Raymond L., Terry, Roger, Rick, and Scott) Sarah Weiskittel Thorton Bartlett
Betty White	Jennifer Bennington Jacqui, Killen Michelle Hall Ryan Schisler Sandra Barkey Susan Smith Teena Schweier

Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

Date	Time	Event	Location
16-Apr-2022	2-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy River Center	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
24-Apr-2022	1-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
6-May-2022	6:30-7:30pm	W.M. Johnson Hills Park	7950 Bridle Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45244
7-May-2022	7:30-9:30am	Spring Grove Cemetery Norman Chapel – Bird Walk	4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45232,
14-May-2022	1-2pm	Grant’s Birthplace State Memorial	1551 OH-232, Moscow, OH 45153
15-May-2022	2-3:30pm	Deer Park Branch Library	4020 E Galbraith Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45236
21-May-2022	2-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy River Center	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
22-May-2022	10-11:30am	OVCC Photo Shoot at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
29-May-2022	1-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
1-Jun-2022	5-8pm	Rhinegeist Brewery Fundraiser	1910 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
18-Jun-2022	2-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy River Center	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
21-Jun-2022	2-3pm	Anderson Branch Library	7450 State Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45230
26-Jun-2022	1-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
29-Jun-2022	3:30-4:30pm	Madeira Branch Library	7200 Miami Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45243

(Contact sponsor for details and to see if reservations are required.)

RAPTOR Inc. Leadership, Staff, and Communications

RAPTOR Inc. Board

President: Marc Alverson
 Vice President: Dan Begin
 Treasurer: Robert E. Smith
 Secretary: Alice McCaleb
 Trustee: Rosie Ayers
 Trustee: Bob Dahlhausen, DVM
 Trustee: Zach Gambill
 Trustee: Jeff Hays
 Trustee: Joe Lucas
 Trustee: Open position

RAPTOR Inc. Staff

Cindy Alverson, Executive Director
 Jackie Bray, Associate Director

The Board of Trustees generally meets the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M. All RAPTOR members are welcome to attend.

Contact Marc Alverson at marcalverson@cinci.rr.com for meeting time and location.

Thank You To Our Veterinarians!

Bob Dahlhausen, D.V.M.
 (513) 576-1990
 D.J. Haeussler, D.V.M.
 (513) 374-3963
 J. Peter Hill, D.V.M.
 (513) 793-3032
 Vanessa Kuonen Cavens, D.V.M.
 (513) 561-0069
 Paul Levitas, D.V.M.
 (513) 871-8866
 Ann Manharth, DVM
 (513) 248-0904

Communications

Gary Young, Newsletter Editor
 To submit articles or pictures for consideration in Wingbeats, email the article to:
raptor@raptorinc.org
 or by mail to:
 RAPTOR Inc.
 961 Barg Salt Run Road
 Milford, Ohio 45150
 To report an injured raptor in the Greater Cincinnati area call RAPTOR Inc.: (513) 825-3325

Mission

Since 1978, RAPTOR Inc. (Regional Association for the Protection and Treatment Of Raptors) has been dedicated to “the rehabilitation and return of raptors to their natural environment, the education of the public on the importance of raptors, and the preservation of their natural habitat”.

Financial Contributions

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR Inc. for the first quarter of 2022.

Osprey Level \$1,000 to \$9,999

Eisenberg, Judith
 Gast, Alan M.
 Kroger Cmty. Rewards
 Lucas, Joseph

\$500 to \$999

Grooms, Grant S.
 Harpster, Linda
 Lippard, Bruce
 Noll, Stuart
 Shadix, Lois
 Wainscott, Georgia

\$100 to \$499

Alverson, Tammy
 Annal, Eddie
 Appel, Marvin
 Aungst, Robyn & Pat
 Bartlett, Thornton
 Berry, Lisa
 Blair, Clara
 Bollmer, Kevin
 Bowling, Robert
 Boyd, MacKenzie
 Bressler, Tom
 Cole, Cathy
 Drosick, Karen
 Dunlap, Brenda
 Egan, Emily

Inson, Stephen
 Faske, Mona
 Freeman, Anita
 Gaines, Leigh
 Green, Leslie
 Hays, Doug
 Hetico, Rolf
 Jander, Thomas
 Jenkins, Kat
 Johnston, John
 Kelm, Dr. Gary
 Kifer, Teresa
 Koester, David
 Kosse, Ted
 Lindemann, Elizabeth
 Lisi, Richard & Carolyn

Little Miami Brewing
 Mancini, Donna
 McCaleb, Alice
 McFarland, Doug & Nancy
 McFerran, Cindy
 McHenry, Ronald
 Menke, Catherine
 Menke, Jeanne
 Michaelson, Susan
 Nau, Melinda & Donald
 Newberry, Stuart
 Paas, Jeff
 Pheanis, Emily
 Phillips, Roberta
 Philpot, Billy
 Puthoff, Harry

Quales, Danielle
 Quilligan, Dave & Janet
 Raser, Lori
 Robin, Judy
 Roos, Kathy
 Ruhlman, Jeff
 Ruhnke, Melissa & John
 Scallan, Carol
 Smile, Amazon
 Steinhilber, Norm & Trish
 Stephenson, Serena
 Stryker, Linda
 Tanner, Juliet
 Weiskittel, Raymond
 Wolfe, Robyn

In-kind Donations

AdventureKeen
 Anonymous Donor
 Bates, Katie
 Glassmeyer, Matthew
 Graves, John
 Hall, Michelle
 Kreimer, Lucy
 Overholt, John
 Puthoff, Harry
 Spring Grove Cemetery
 Patrons
 Tanner, Juliet
 Thompson, James



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

As we entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff and volunteers here at RAPTOR Inc. continued to navigate uncertain times. Because we are an animal rescue mission, we are considered to be an essential service. There-

fore, our daily rehab operations continued as usual. At the same time, the ways that we deliver our services to our local communities, continued to evolve, in order to meet government safety and health guidelines.

Rehabilitation

2021 was a big year here at RAPTOR, Inc., as we admitted 387 raptors from 28 counties in Ohio and Kentucky—more injured raptors than any time in our 43-year history.

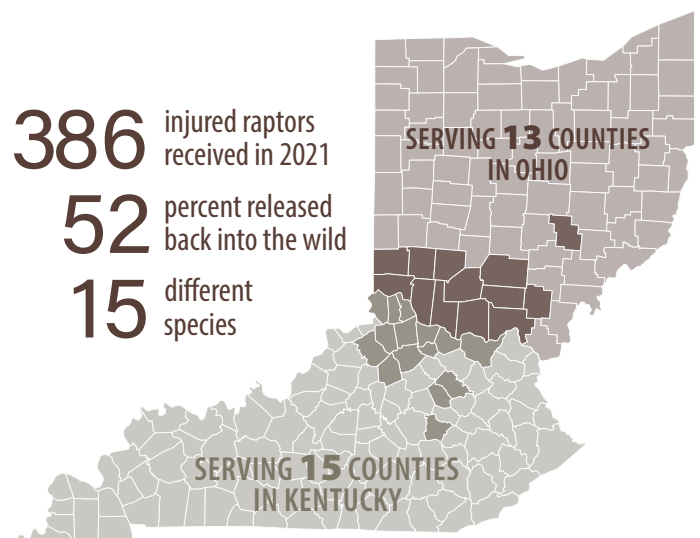
Admitting this number of birds in a year is a bittersweet accomplishment for our organization. We are thrilled that we can assist so many people helping the injured birds of prey, and we are thrilled to treat the birds so they can be rehabilitated and released back into the wild. On the other hand, it is tragic to see these beautiful birds in such sad shape and to know that many of their injuries were a result of human interference in their lives.

Regardless of the number of patients admitted, we are happy to help and provide the best care we can for each bird.

Of those birds that were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild, the average length of stay at the Raptor Center was 27 days. Length of stay varies widely due to the extent and complexity of their injuries, the particular specialists involved in giving care, and other factors.

Each bird is treated as an individual and a treatment plan is made according to its specific needs and injuries. An injured bird may just have had a slight impact and needs to recover two or three days from soreness and bruising while another bird may have suffered a broken wing and need weeks of care while the bones mend and physical therapy is performed. During that time, rehabilitators may need to give pain medications and antibiotics, provide fluids, and even hand-feed until the bird is eating on its own. It could be 5 -12 weeks before the bird can be released, depending on the size of bone that is healing and, later, the extent of flight conditioning needed to regain that particular bird's peak flight performance.

Besides an astronomical number of total raptor admissions, we also received record highs of individual species. Records were set for the highest number of admissions for Cooper's hawks, red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, black vultures, and turkey vultures.



Dr. Cummings removing a fish hook from a bald eagle. (Photo by M. Alverson)

Mid-June through mid-July, 23 fledgling Cooper's hawks were also received (compared to our usual admission of one) with fatal, unexplained seizures. Unfortunately, subsequent government testing was unable to identify a cause for these seizures.

With the record-setting year of admissions, there accompanied it a record-setting year of veterinarian assistance. Oftentimes, a bird would require multiple vet evaluations in order to monitor the progress of the treatment.

We would not be able to give our birds the care and expertise they so richly deserve without our veterinarians' time and talent.

A big "thank you" goes out to Dr. Bob Dahlhausen and Dr. Alison

Cummings of the Avian and Exotic Medical Center, Dr. Ann Manharth of Day Heights Animal Hospital, Dr. DJ Haeussler of the Animal Eye Institute, and Dr. Peter Hill of PetCare Animal Hospital. We thank all of our veterinarians from the bottom of our hearts.

Return to Normal in 2021

Our transport teams continued to adhere to social distancing guidelines with interacting with the public, when possible. Our teams worked to keep everyone healthy during the pandemic, both at RAPTOR Inc. facilities and while off-site.

Education

Another pillar of our organization is to provide community education. We were thrilled to open again the Raptor Center to the public for all scheduled Open Houses in 2021. To meet evolving social distancing guidelines, we only had to require advance reservations for the first (March) Open House of the year. Throughout the year, we welcomed 751 people to our Open Houses (compared to just 285 people in 2020).

To extend our education mission to our surrounding communities, RAPTOR Inc. continued to adapt to meet the changing needs of schools, libraries, and other community groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our educators were happy to wear masks and to adhere to social distancing protocols in place at program venues. RAPTOR

Inc. continued to offer virtual, online programs for groups of people who were not yet meeting in-person.

Return to Normal in 2021

RAPTOR Inc. successfully flexed to meet the needs of community groups. We have been able to provide valuable educational and entertaining programming during uncertain times. Whether these adaptations included wearing a facial covering, or maintaining social distancing from attendees, or holding a raptor program entirely outdoors -- regardless, RAPTOR Inc. educators continued to rise to the challenge.



233

hours of
educational programs



9,615

people
in attendance



9

open houses
were held



48

days facility was open
to the public

Research and Conservation

In the early years of RAPTOR Inc., a partnership developed between the Red-shouldered Hawk Study research team and RAPTOR Inc. Sharing the same mission and volunteers, RAPTOR Inc. has been able to help the research team with young hawks found in the nest which need medical attention. We also increase their banding of hawks for research. RAPTOR Inc. has been fortunate to have tree-climbers who are able to return birds to their natural nests and who know of various nest opportunities to use for foster nestlings.

Return to Normal in 2021

Due to the nature of field work, the "return to normal" has not had much impact on the research of raptors.





Carol and Tom Wick
(photo by Alverson)



(standing L-R) Ellen Garner Crawford, Marc Alverson, Jackie Bray, Jordan West, Mary Landis, (kneeling L to R) Alice McCaleb, Carly Dovale
(Rhinequest Fundraiser photo by C. Alverson)



Joe Lucas, Thomas Bray
(Halloween Open House photo by J. Bray)

Volunteers

RAPTOR Inc. would not be able to accomplish even a fraction of our mission without the steadfast devotion of our dozens of volunteers. In 2021, our 78 volunteers and interns lovingly provided over 7,353 hours of service through many different service areas, such as rehabilitation, education, transport of injured raptors, maintenance, and Saturday cleaning (just to name a few). Our six interns provided 1,102 hours of service alone.

We are very fortunate that we were able to provide our services where we could and, most importantly, that our volunteers and interns remained safe during these uncertain times. We thank the following volunteers for their dedication and service in 2021:

Nicole Addison	Kelsey Donahue	Mary Landis	Jonathan Perlman
Marc Alverson	Carly Dovale	Richard Landis	Danielle Quales
Stephen Ashworth	John Dransman	Michael Latour	Kira Rehn
Rosie Ayers	Lesley Dunlop	Elizabeth Lindemann	Ken Renner
Dan Begin	Tom Eisele	Gary Lord	Jeff Ruhlman
Kathryn Bennet	Kayla Ferdelman	Marianne Lord	Robert Smith
Lisa Berry	Cassidy Ficker	Jonas Locke	Zan Smith
Alison Bewley	Amy Foltz	Erin Lowery	Amy Snyder
Richard Binstadt	Ellen Garner Crawford	Joe Lucas	Andy Stevenson
Caroline Blang	Susan Gates	Alice McCaleb	Leena Taylor
Mandi Blankenship	Harrison Goston	Lauren Menker	Erin Tkatschenko
Megan Braemer	Mary Graber	Paul Menker	Mindy Weiss
Gay Bullock	Carolyn Hall	Linda Morrison	Noah Wenker
Kathy Caminiti	Michelle Hall	Donna Morsbach	Tom & Carol Wick
David Conzett	Charlene Howell	Dana Ogden	Sean Willingham
Keegan Coplinger	Katherine Jenkins	Steve Olden	Mike Wood
Bruce Cortright	Donald Kroner	Ken Pawloski	Jordan West
Robin Cotton	Jeff Kirssin	Stefanie Paeg	Gary Young
Mackenzie Danker	Kim Klosterman	Sue Pettigrue	
Jordan Della Bella	Lucy Kreimer	Roger Pennington	

Return to Normal in 2021

We are thankful that our volunteers stayed safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that they were able to actively contribute to the RAPTOR Inc. mission.

Sponsorships

In 2021, sponsorships were made in two primary areas: bird banding and rehabilitation. Bird banding helps us to track how successful our rehabilitation efforts are, and it provides information on raptor movement. We thank the following "Sponsor a Banded Bird" donors:

Catherine Adams	Mary & Terry Kropp	Ben Von Handorf
Barry & Martha Clark	Jamie Madden	John Weber
Justin Clark	Tracy Mayer	Laura & Jim Whalen
Joseph C. Grossi, DVM	Nick Pettry	Polly Whittaker
Ricki Huff	Gary Rapien	Lauren & Bob Woodiwiss
Donna Johnson	Juliet Tanner	

The following caring individuals donated toward the care and treatment of the bird under rehabilitation:

Todd Birch	Carol & Tom Feld	Becca Kemer
Tim Bond	Christy Hall	Deb Krehbiel
Hallie Boso	Denise Hall	Linda Krekler
Jamie Bueter	Joann Hall	Jo & John Miller
Tom Carter	Paul Hines	Darci & Steven Newman
Kelly Conly	Greg Holman	Gayle Pille
Vince Cook	Amanda House	Jared Pratt
Stefanie Dean	Andrea Jaeger	Rusty Reinhart
Jessica Edelbrock	Donna Johnson	Tammy Kinman Ruppert



Lifetime Members

Although we are grateful for all memberships that provide the funds for our conservation efforts, we would like to specifically recognize our new Lifetime Members who joined RAPTOR Inc. in 2021:

Michael Barker	William Holmes	Sherri Smith
Robin Cotton	Gary & Marianne Lord	Sean Willingham
John Graves	Nathan McNamara	
Greg Holman	John Miller	

For a complete list of RAPTOR Inc. Lifetime Members, please refer to the Spring 2021 newsletter available on our website.

RAPTOR Inc. 2021 Financial Report

2021 Revenue	Amount (\$)	% of Whole (%)	2021 Expenses	Amount (\$)	% of Whole (%)
Memberships	22,145	5	Bird Care	67,052	43
Contributions	53,284	12	Educational Programs	10,710	7
Programs	25,448	6	Facilities Maintenance	14,348	9
Fundraising	28,503	6	Administration	26,049	17
Interest & Dividend	297,650	65	Bank Charges & Fees	29,908	18
Grants	14,550	3	Marketing/Fundraising	9,409	6
Misc.	8,399	2			
Corporate Support	5,409	1			
Total	455,388	100	Total	154,476	100
			<i>Cost of Food in 2021: \$18,012.45</i>		

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!

In the event your selection is not available, we will contact you to arrange an alternative. Sponsoring a bird is tax deductible. All proceeds benefit RAPTOR Inc. Complete this form, enclose a check or money order, and mail to: **RAPTOR Inc., 961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

- Red-shouldered Hawk: \$50
- American Kestrel: \$50
- Great Horned Owl: \$50
- Eastern Screech Owl: \$50
- Red-tailed Hawk: \$50
- Cooper's Hawk: \$50
- Barred Owl: \$50

Yes, I would like to sponsor a banded bird of the species checked below:

If the bird you sponsor is recovered, you will be notified of the date and location of the recovery.



Since the fall of 1994, RAPTOR Inc. has been banding most rehabilitated birds released back into the wild. Over a long period of time, this will help us determine how successful our rehabilitation efforts are. You can get involved with our "Sponsor a Banded Raptor" program. Sponsors will receive a fact sheet on the selected species and a certificate with the following information:

- Species and date of release
- Weight at time of release
- Age (if known)
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife band number

Sponsor a Banded Raptor