

WINGBEATS

The Fall 2021 Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 43 Years

Bald Eagle Has New Home

Raptor was impaled by fishing lure

By Jackie Bray

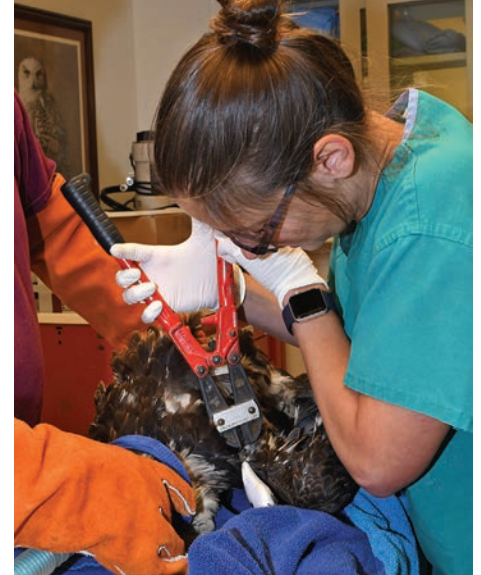
An immature bald eagle was brought to the RAPTOR Inc. center on August 12th by rescuers from the area of Rocky Fork State Park. The eagle had hooks from a large fishing lure impaling its mouth, eye, wing, and chest, pinning its head down against the side of its body. The more the bird struggled, the more tissue damage the hooks caused.

The eagle was rushed to Dr. Cummings, a veterinarian at the Avian and Exotic Medical Center in Milford, OH, who carefully removed the hooks under anesthesia and treated the bird's many wounds. RAPTOR Inc.'s rehabilitators continued the bird's treatment by

providing wound care, fluid therapy, antibiotics, eye drops, and medications for inflammation and pain.

Unfortunately, one of the hooks penetrated the bird's right eye. Once the eagle was stabilized, Dr. DJ Haeussler, a Veterinary Ophthalmologist at the Animal Eye Institute, was contacted to treat the bird's eye injury. Sadly, the injury caused irreversible loss of vision in that eye, preventing the eagle from ever being able to survive on its own in the wild. Dr. Haeussler provided treatment to ensure the eagle's comfort. We then began looking for an appropriate home for the eagle.

See Eagle, on page 3.



*Dr. Cummings removing the fishing lure.
Photo by Marc Alverson.*

Introducing Lazarus!

RAPTOR Inc.'s Newest Education Ambassador

By Marc Alverson

With the loss of RAPTOR's long-time red-tailed hawk, Scarlet, in June, due to a tumor, we began looking for a new red-tailed hawk education ambassador. A red-tailed hawk is a must-have bird, since they are the largest, and often the most visible, hawk in our area.

Our search turned up a male red-tailed hawk that had been found near death by a falconer. The bird recovered and was named "Lazarus" for his remarkable return to life.

Ultimately, the falconer found that Lazarus could not fly well and could not successfully hunt. This made him an ideal candidate as an education ambassador for RAPTOR. He was transferred to RAPTOR in late June.

Lazarus is a juvenile bird, having been hatched in the spring of 2020, and did not at first have the characteristic "red" tail that the hawks get after about a year and a half, when their adult plumage comes in.

Now his "red" tail feathers have come in and his breast is much more rusty-colored than it was, and he is looking good! As a male, he weighs in at about 2.5 lbs. – about a half pound less than Scarlet's (female) weight.

Lazarus is getting accustomed to handling and traveling in a carrier and is already being featured in RAPTOR Inc.'s education programs.

Be sure to check him out at the next open house or other public program!



*Lazarus in his new home.
Photo by Marc Alverson.*



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's Greyish & Whiteish & Streaky All Over?

Distinguishing Peregrine Falcons and Cooper's Hawks

by Alison Bewley

You're strolling through your neighborhood when two blurs of feathers streak by. One is smaller, and you recognize it by sound: the fluttering whistle of a mourning dove's wings. The second blur, larger and in pursuit, registers as predatory. It's maybe crow-sized, you think, with greyish upperparts and a pale, streaked breast. It's gone almost as fast as you register that it's a raptor, careening after the dove and vanishing behind trees.

With the feathery blur seared onto your eyelids, you rush inside, hoping to identify your mystery raptor with the help of a field guide. Too small to be an eagle, not the right shape to be an owl, so that leaves . . . hawks, or maybe falcons—both predator and prey were moving very fast. Crow-sized and greyish and whiteish leaves you with Cooper's hawk (you're pretty sure it was too big to be a sharp-shinned) as an option.

Or a peregrine falcon.

As cool as it would be to tell your friends you watched a peregrine hunt, you want to be sure that's what it was. But the longer you look at neat illustrations or crisp photographs, the less clear your memory of the bird becomes—Cooper's hawks and peregrine falcons do share similarities. So how can you tell which it is?

It can be especially hard if you only catch a glimpse. But what if, instead, you see an injured bird on the ground and want to call it in to RAPTOR Inc.? How can you be sure your identification is the right one? Here are a few tips for distinguishing Cooper's hawks from peregrine falcons:

TIP ONE: Bird in Detail

If you can, take a closer look at the bird. Although Cooper's and peregrines are similar—they are both raptors, after all, and adult birds of both species can be as small as fourteen inches long—each species has unique field marks.

Adult Cooper's hawks, for example, have dark blue-grey upperparts with a black cap, while their underparts are pale with dense rusty barring. Their eyes are red, their dark beaks are smallish and sharply hooked, and they have long tails.

Adult peregrines, on the other hand, have dark grey upperparts with a black



Adult Cooper's Hawk.

helmet (not just a cap), while their underparts are pale with finer dark grey barring. Their eyes are darker than a Cooper's, their eye-rings and ceres are yellow, and their wings are pointed.

Juvenile birds can be more difficult to ID. Immature Cooper's have brown upperparts and white underparts with strong vertical brown streaking; immature peregrines have dark grey upperparts and buffy underparts more densely streaked with dark brown. Immature peregrines also have brown masks and whiskers and a paler eyebrow, giving them a more distinctive facial pattern. Immature peregrines have dark eyes, but immature Cooper's eyes are yellow.

TIP TWO: Bird in Context

If, for whatever reason, you can't take a closer look at the bird—maybe it's too far away, or it was moving too fast—you're not out of luck. Context clues might help you to identify your mystery raptor.

Question One: What is the habitat like?

In general, Cooper's prefer wooded habitats: anything from leafy backyards and subdivisions to deep forests. They most frequently nest in trees in dense woods on relatively flat ground.

Peregrines, on the other hand, prefer to both perch and nest very high up: on



Adult Peregrine Falcon. Notice the wing feathers extend nearly to the tail end.

cliffs or man-made cliffs (skyscrapers, water towers, power pylons, etc.).

Question Two: How does it move?

Although both Cooper's and peregrines feed primarily on other birds, they hunt in different environments in very different ways. Cooper's, as woodland accipiters, frequently fly in a flap-flap-glide pattern. When one hunts, it flies fast and powerfully and extremely agilely, able to pursue prey at maximum speed through thick forest.

Peregrines, on the other hand, are known for their spectacular stoops: at speeds between 150-200 mph, peregrines dive on their airborne prey and strike it with their talons, hard enough to either stun or kill. Peregrines will also hunt by picking birds out of flocks or by level pursuit.

Between field marks and habitat and behavior, it's possible to tell even similar species apart. So next time you see an Unidentified Flying Bird, or an injured raptor in need of assistance, take a closer look at its field marks, or see what you can piece together from context clues.

You can also check out Cornell's allaboutbirds.org for more ID tips (including side-by-side species comparisons), or download their free Merlin Bird ID app for portable assistance.

Notes from the Field:

Merlin Released Back into the Wild!

By Jordan West

A female merlin, which was found grounded in the street, now has another chance at life in the wild.

The original finder, Mike Baker, found the immature falcon and contacted RAPTOR Inc. for assistance. Fortunately, this tough little falcon suffered only mild neurological injuries and responded well to treatment. Needing only a short time to recover from the incident, she gained some weight and bounced back very quickly.

Merlins are small falcons that arrive during fall and spend the winter in our area. Merlins are slightly larger than our year-round American kestrels. They are commonly found hunting sparrows and other small songbirds in cemeteries during their

winter stay. I had the chance to release this recovered merlin at a cemetery where I have been observing and photographing merlins for the past few years.

Upon being released, the female merlin flew directly to the exact perch that I hoped for, a perch that seems to be favored by any raptor visiting the cemetery. Thanks to Steve Barnett and Ann Oliver for joining and helping to photograph the release.

All in all, this rescue was a great success, from the initial rescue to the release with happy onlookers -- not including, however, the blue jays and adult male kestrel who showed up to voice their displeasure with their new falcon neighbor!



Ready or not, here I come! Photo by Steve Barnett



What kind of neighborhood is this? Photo by Jordan West.

Eagle (continued from page 1)

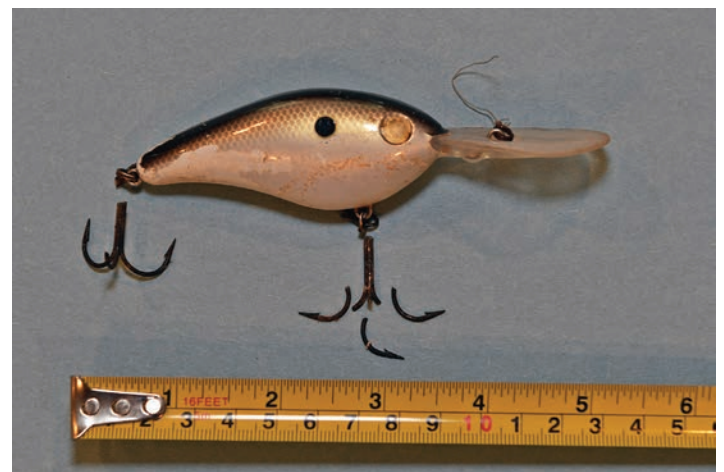
Hueston Woods State Park recently built a new large flight enclosure at their Nature Center suitable for eagles, and Park employees were eager to provide this magnificent bird with a permanent home.

In October, Shawn Conner, Naturalist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and an experienced Raptor Rehabilitator at Hueston Woods, transported the eagle to their facility and introduced the immature eagle to their resident bald eagle. The eagles are getting along well and can be viewed by the public during the Nature Center's hours of operation.

In many instances, the raptors admitted to our rehabilitation hospital have sustained injuries from contact with people. By taking a few simple precautionary actions, we can significantly reduce our negative impact on wildlife and help preserve these magnificent creatures for future generations.

For additional information, visit our website at <https://raptorinc.org/raptor-conservation/>.

Bird of prey conservation is the cornerstone of our mission at RAPTOR Incorporated. In addition to being the premier site for treating injured raptors in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area, RAPTOR Inc. conducts educational programs to increase awareness of the importance of raptors to our environment. We also participate in field projects to aid in their protection.



Fishing lure that impaled eagle.

We rely on the generosity of our supporters to carry out our mission because we do not receive any tax support or public funds. Donations help us purchase needed items such as food, medical supplies, and maintenance equipment.

If you would like to contribute to our mission, donations can be made online at <https://raptorinc.org/raptor-support/donation/>. We greatly appreciate our supporters!

Mysterious Disease Harming Raptors

By Cindy Alverson

Mysteries -- we may love to read them, think about them, and try to solve them. But those are fiction. In the real world, sometimes mysteries are difficult to solve, and they may never be solved, or at least, not quickly.

That is the situation with the bird disease which has been prevalent in the eastern United States. In Ohio, the disease has mostly concentrated in central and southwestern Ohio. The disease affects several species of songbirds, such as common grackles, blue jays, European starlings and finches. It affects adults, as well as hatchlings and fledglings. Symptoms included crusty eyes, blindness, neurological problems, eventually leading to death.

Testing the songbird carcasses through multiple labs has not revealed any answers to what causes the disease. Tests have been conducted for the following pathogens: avian influenza virus, West Nile Virus and other flaviviruses, Newcastle disease virus and other paramyxoviruses, Salmonella and Chlamydia (bacterial pathogens) and Trichomonas parasites. Electron microscopy and additional diagnostic tests (including microbiology, virology parasitology and toxicology) are ongoing.

There are now developing, however, significant concerns that this mysterious disease is harming some species of raptors.

RAPTOR Inc. has admitted 24 fledgling Cooper's hawks this year which were exhibiting neurological symptoms. Unlike the songbird disease, we did not see any raptors with eye problems. Some of the cases were severe (seizures) and the hawks expired within a few hours; other cases were milder (balance problems).

But, ultimately, none of them survived, despite our best care and treatment.

At RAPTOR Inc., these symptoms were seen only in Cooper's hawks, but other raptor centers in Ohio have admitted some other species of hawks with these symptoms.

It is not known if there is any correlation between the mystery songbird disease and the disease affecting raptors. It certainly seems to be a possibility they are related, since Cooper's hawks consume other birds as the majority of their diet. But, if that were the case, why are only the fledglings affected with the disease and not the adults? Are we witnessing a case of natural selection, in which the inexperienced fledglings have caught and ingested a higher percentage of the sick and weakened songbirds as prey?

RAPTOR Inc. submitted four fledgling Coopers' hawk carcasses to Ohio Department of Natural Resources for testing. DNR conducted the same tests as for the songbirds on two of the carcasses, but results so far are negative (with some additional testing pending). The other two hawk carcasses that we submitted were frozen; this gives DNR more opportunities to test for newly discovered diseases, or for using different testing methodologies in the future.

So, it looks as though this mystery disease -- for songbirds as well as raptors -- is not likely to be solved at this time. Hopefully, the virus or bacteria causing this disease will expire and not return. If, however, we see a return of this disease, we hope that science will have answers and solutions to this mystery.

Tributes

Due to the popularity of tributes we receive, we are expanding tributes to include those who support our mission by celebrating with bir(d)thday fundraisers. We want to thank and acknowledge all those who chose to celebrate their bir(d)thdays by supporting RAPTOR Inc.!

Tribute To:	Tribute From:	Celebrating Bir(d)thdays:	From:
Gay Bullock	Charlotte Brooks	Jaik Faulkner	Cece Laird Mark Lutz
Jane Conzett	Susan Michaelson	Donald Morse Jr.	Bob Placier Kathy Morse Slusher
Jill Cook	Susan Michaelson	Sean O'Hara	Carol Couch Dana Brown
Catherine Menke	Kendra Schroer	Kat Jenkins	Celia Butler Elizabeth Butler Heather Butler Sue Kessinger Cobb Cathy Cornwell Eric Gregory
Turkey Vulture TV 21-16	Kimberly & Hallie Boso		Karen Grennan Judy Huneke Kate Kreimer Leila RS Nancy Meyer
			Nicole M. Robertson Alyssa Schneider Blair Skidmore Larry Steinberg Karen Sullivan

Eagle . . . Lights, Camera, Action!

By Danielle Quailes

Each year, more and more bald eagle nests seem to pop up in southern Ohio. The Little Miami Conservancy (LMC) has provided us with a close-up view of one of these nests.

On September 23, LMC installed a camera at a nest in Loveland, Ohio. RAPTOR Incorporated partner, LMC, thoughtfully chose this installation time as a time of year when there is the least amount of activity around a bald eagle nest. The camera is now up and running, and ready for action!

Bald eagles nest in forested areas close to water. They typically choose the tallest living tree that has accessible branches in which to build their enormous nests. The bald eagle nest is made of interwoven sticks and small branches. The inside of the nest is lined with grass, corn stalks, and other softer organic materials. The bowl of the nest is filled with moss – which can help stave off insects – and downy feathers from the adult eagles.

So long as a nesting site has been productive in the past (i.e., it has produced young), a bald eagle pair will usually return to that nest year after year. A bald eagle pair may continue to use the same nest until the nest has grown so large that the tree can no longer support it. Most pairs of bald eagles stay together for many years, or at least until one mate dies or otherwise fails to return to their nest site. When this happens, research shows that the remaining bald eagle can find a new mate fairly easily.

In the one to three months prior to mating, the male and female work together to perform a bit of “sprucing up” to their



Little Miami Conservancy Eagle Cam

nest. This practice is part of their pair bonding. This pre-mating “sprucing up” may involve adding one to two feet of new material to their nest for the year; this activity begins in our area around December or January.

“We patiently/eagerly await the return of the Little Miami Bald Eagles to this nest for another active season!” is the message that LMC shares on their YouTube channel.

Here at RAPTOR Inc., we too are excited to follow along for the activity that will soon be unfolding on the LMC Eagle Cam. Follow for yourself on the LMC YouTube page here:

<https://bit.ly/3c8g3ak>

Source: National Eagle Center (NationalEagleCenter.org)

Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

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

14-Nov-2021	1-2pm	Anderson Urban Farm	2550 Bartels Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45244
18-Nov-2021	7-9pm	Miami Township Clermont Cty Holiday Parade	Old SR 28 - Miami Plaza to Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Rd.
20-Nov-2021	11-11:30am	Miami Township Hamilton County Library	8 N Miami Ave, Cleves, OH 45002
20-Nov-2021	3-4pm	Covington Branch Library	502 Scott Blvd, Covington, KY 41011
28-Nov-2021	1-4pm	RAPTOR Open House - Thanksgiving Celebration	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
2-Dec-2021	10-10:30am	Miami Township Hamilton County Library	8 N Miami Ave, Cleves, OH 45002
17-Jan-2022	2-3pm	Erlanger Branch Library	401 Kenton Lands Rd, Erlanger, KY 41018
5-Mar-2022	9am-3:30pm	Adams County Amish Bird Symposium	3735 Wheat Ridge Rd, West Union, OH 45693
14-May-2022	1-2pm	Grant's Birthplace State Memorial	1551 OH-232, Moscow, OH 45153

2021 Admissions

American Kestrel	23	Saw-whet Owl	0	Rough-legged Hawk	0	2021 Dispositions Released 47% Euthanized 22% Died 21% Transferred 0% Education 1% Under Care 9%
Merlin	1	Snowy Owl	0	Northern Harrier	0	
Peregrine Falcon	0	Short Eared Owl	0	Turkey Vulture	15	
Eastern Screech Owl	24	Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	Black Vulture	10	
Barred Owl	24	Cooper's Hawk	51	Osprey	1	
Barn Owl	2	Broad-winged Hawk	5	Golden Eagle	0	
Great Horned Owl	34	Red-shouldered Hawk	58	Bald Eagle	1	
Long-eared Owl	1	Red-tailed Hawk	70	Total	320	

RAPTOR Wish List

RAPTOR Inc. needs the following items for our bird care facility. To donate any of these items, please email RAPTOR at: raptor@raptorinc.org or call 513-825-3325.

Latex or Nitrile exam gloves (any size)	Paper Towels
Lysol Disinfectant Spray	Office Max Gift Card
Pine Bedding	Stamps (Forever)
	Volunteers–Retired Teachers

Thank you for all of your donations!

Amazon Wish List

RAPTOR Inc. is listed on the Amazon Wish list. For a complete listing of all of the items we use for rehabilitation, and to provide our volunteers with all of the necessities they need to care for our birds, please visit our website, raptorinc.org. Click on the tab, Support Us (not the dropdown) and click on the Amazon Wish List Icon midway down the page. This is will take you directly to the RAPTOR Inc. Wish list. If any of these wish list items are purchased, they are shipped directly to our RAPTOR Inc. facility in Milford. How easy is that?

Financial Contributions

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR Inc. for the third quarter of 2021.

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

Farrell, Donna & Tom
Lambert, Carole
Miller, Jo
Kroger Community Rewards

Falcon Level \$500 to \$999

Blum, Virginia
Cotton, Robin
Haynes, Dick & Nancy
Lord, Gary & Marianne

\$100 to \$499

Amazon Smile
Baker, Mike
Bond, Tim
Brooks, Charlotte
Butler, Heather
Egan, Elena
Freeman, Anita
Hall, Christy
Hall, Denise
Hardy, Michael
Lawler, Kathleen
Liming, Clayton

MacAoidh Jergens, Andrew
McCoy, Linda
Phillips, Roberta
Rubenstein, Mary & Bob
Schafer, James
Whalen, Laura & Jim

In-kind Donations

Alverson, Tammy
Glassmeyer, Matthew
Lucas, Joe
Morsbach, Donna
Smith, Zan

RAPTOR Inc. Board

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



RAPTOR Inc. is Here to Serve You!

The end of the year is fast approaching and that means we will be reaching out to remind you that it is time to renew your membership (if you have a student, hawk, owl or eagle membership). As you reflect on why you are a member and what RAPTOR Inc. has done for you, please note that this organization is not only about raptors—we are about serving you!



Found an injured raptor?
Call us; we want to help you.



Want to help prevent raptor injuries and meet new people? Join us for our litter pick-up four times a year.



Want to know about raptors and conservation? Visit one of our public presentations listed in the newsletter.



Want to have a fun afternoon and see some cool birds? Come to an Open House; we would love to meet you!



Want to be a part of our good work?
Renew your membership today!

Renewal is easy. Go online: <http://raptorinc.org/raptor-support/membership/> or mail the completed membership form included with this issue.

RAPTOR Inc. Membership

Renewal notices are sent out at the end of the year for annual collection for the following year. Dues paid after September 1 will be credited for the following year. Please use the form below to become a member or update your contact information. You can also become a member online at our website: www.raptorinc.org.

If you don't need the membership form, pass it on to someone who might be interested in becoming a member of RAPTOR Inc. Your membership dollars provide for care, treatment, and feeding of our birds as well as the continuation of our education programs.

Mark the membership level you request. All membership levels include electronic (default) or postal delivery of the newsletter, as well as an invitation to the Fall Picnic. Members are also invited to attend Board meetings and may nominate candidates to serve on the board.

\$10 Student Membership
(1 year - up to age 18)

\$25 Hawk Membership
(1-year)

\$50 Owl Membership
plus receive stunning Raptor Notecard Set

\$100 Eagle Membership
plus receive Charley Harper designed T-Shirt

\$500 Lifetime Membership
plus personalized tour for 5

Eagle and Lifetime Memberships, please indicate T-Shirt Size: (S, M, L, XL, XXL) _____

Eagle and Lifetime Memberships also include perks from the level(s) above.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Check if you prefer postal delivery of Wingbeats

I would like more information about making a planned gift to RAPTOR Inc. Please call me | Please email me

I have already included RAPTOR Inc. in my will or estate plan. Please call me | Please email me

Mail this completed form with your check or money order to:

RAPTOR Inc., 961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150

Attn: Membership

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!

Sponsor a Banded Raptor

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!

