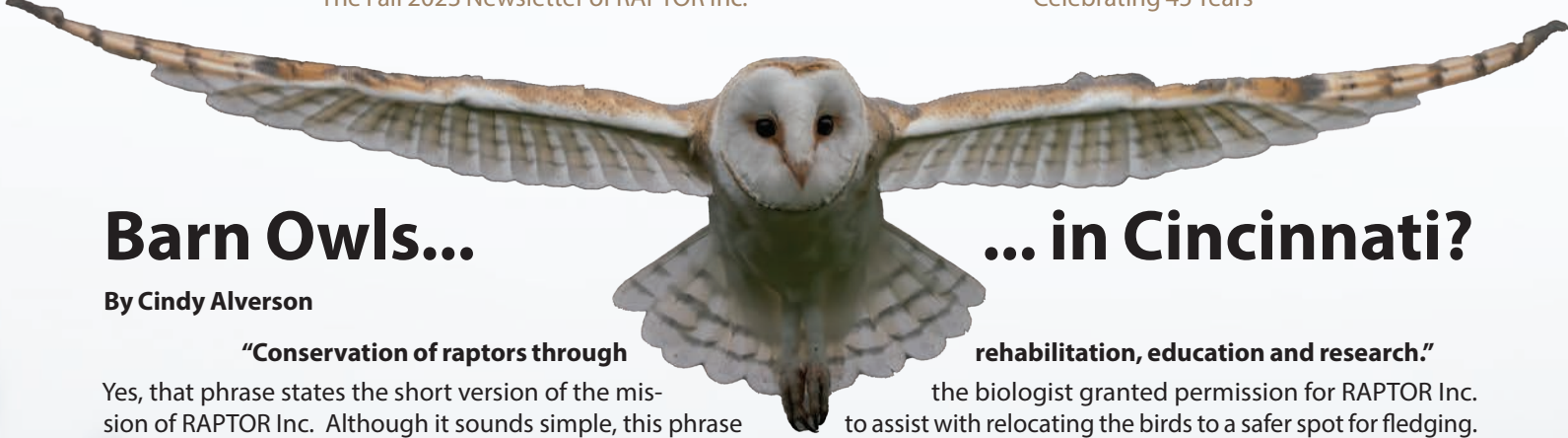


# WINGBEATS

The Fall 2023 Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 45 Years



## Barn Owls...

By Cindy Alverson

**“Conservation of raptors through**

Yes, that phrase states the short version of the mission of RAPTOR Inc. Although it sounds simple, this phrase encompasses many forms of protecting birds of prey and doing everything possible to ensure their survival.

Here is one recent example of our efforts, as focused on assisting barn owls in the field.

Thanks to a retired Ohio wildlife officer, Mike Serio, a RAPTOR Inc. member, we were made aware of a situation where nesting common barn owls needed some help. We learned that for the past several years, few (if any) owls had fledged from this particular nest site. The nest site was the floor of a dredge in the middle of a quarry surrounded on all sides by water. Not a forgiving spot to take your first flights as a fledgling owl; most of the previous owlets had drowned.

Barn owls are listed as a threatened species by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. In this case, the ODNR Wildlife Biologist was extremely interested in this documented case of barn owls nesting in the Cincinnati area. So,

## ... in Cincinnati?

**rehabilitation, education and research.”**

the biologist granted permission for RAPTOR Inc. to assist with relocating the birds to a safer spot for fledging.

Relocating the owlets to the closest land spot was the best option, because that spot would still be close enough so that the parent owls could hear the food-begging of their brood. A barn owl box was quickly made by volunteer, Joe Lucas, and with our bird bander, Jeff Hays, the owlets were banded and the box was placed on an unused structure about 8 feet high. The nest and structure were approximately 500 feet distant from the original nest location on the dredge.

The box was monitored and food was placed inside the box to subsidize as needed, as there was no evidence that the parents were regularly returning to the nest box in its land location. In fact, eventually we had to take more effective remedial action: namely, to ensure the survival of these young owlets, four owlets were moved to active barn owl nest boxes in central Ohio (where owl parents were taking care of their own broods).

*See Barn Owls on page 2*



## Pollinator Gardens: Conservation of Another Kind

by Emily Egan

RAPTOR Inc. is known for its commitment to rehabilitation and education of birds of prey. But did you know that another important piece of RAPTOR Inc. is its commitment to conservation? Conservation doesn't have to be one big thing, or limited to one aspect, such as birds. It can be something small that contributes to a larger piece of the ecosystem.

We're talking about the pollinator garden at RAPTOR Inc. Pollinator gardens are essential to an ecosystem. As pollinators move from plant to plant, they feast on pollen, packed with protein, and drink nectar the plants provide for energy. As each individual insect moves, they take pollen with them and deposit it on other plants, allowing those plants to reproduce.

Bees are the most important pollinators. They're the most numerous and most effective for pollinating crops and wild plants. Honeybees are most often talked about, but they're not the most effective pollinators. Native bees are better pollinators than honeybees and vitally important to pollinating plants across North American ecosystems. And some of these species are endangered.

While many species of bees are generalists, meaning they aren't picky about the flowers they visit, some species are specialized and need specific host plants to survive; likewise, certain flowers depend on pollination from one specific bee species.

*See Garden on page 3*

# Conservation in Action

Volunteers are precious to nonprofit organizations. They are the very backbone of all of our work. With our staff and volunteers donating over 6,500 hours of their time and talent each year, they are a treasure to the organization.

One of our transport team volunteers, and also a falconer, Tyler Rankin, recently shared his time and talent for the love he has for the conservation of raptors. After agreeing to respond to bring in three nestling kestrels, which had accidentally been removed from their nest during some home maintenance, Tyler noticed the adult kestrels nearby.

Discussing the best options for these birds with the RAPTOR Inc. staff, and

knowing that even Amazon wasn't able to get a nest box delivered quickly enough, Tyler took on the job of making an American kestrel box that very same day!

Tyler made it a family affair. With the "help" of his two young sons, Tyler made a nest box, and then he installed the box early that same evening. Tyler placed the nestlings in the box in a tree close to the original nest, so the kestrel parents would hear the vocalizations of the young. Within hours, the birds went from homeless to a new nest box, where the young birds spent the next week and a half, before fledging.



*Kestrels in their new home. (T. Rankin)*



## Barn Owls *(continued from page 1)*

This action was not a perfect solution to the problem, but it did result in four young barn owls surviving and being cared for by parents.

In preparation for next year, the barn owl box from this year was removed for some maintenance, such as cleaning and sealing, and another box is under construction to be installed on some nearby land of the original nest site.

With some luck, these barn owl nest boxes will appeal to the breeding barn owls next year as a safe place to raise their family.



*Building on top of dredge was the nest location. (C. Alverson)*



*Barn owl nestling from dredge. (C. Alverson)*



## Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

Date	Time	Event	Location
29-Oct-2023	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, Oh 45150
30-Oct-2023	5:30-7p	Georgetown Public Library	200 W Grant Ave, Georgetown, OH 45121
4-Nov-2023	11a-12p	Cheviot Branch Library	3711 Robb Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211
4-Nov-2023	12:30-3:30p	Stanbery Park Pumpkin Chuck	2221 Oxford Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45230
16-Nov-2023	7-9p	Miami Township Holiday Parade	SR 28 from Scene 75 to Meijer
18-Nov-2023	10:30-11a	Bookmatters Bookstore	6 Main St, Milford, OH 45150
26-Nov-2023	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, Oh 45150
28-Nov-2023	3:30-4p	Mt. Washington Branch Library	2049 Beechmont Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45230
21-Jan-2024	2-3p	Boone County Public Library – Scheben Branch	8899 U.S. Hwy 42, Union, KY 41091
2-Mar-2024	9a-3:30p	*Adams County Amish Bird Symposium	3735 Wheat Ridge Rd, West Union, OH 45693
2-Mar-2024	6-8:30p	*Spring Grove Cemetery Norman Chapel	4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45232
16-Mar-2024	10a-12p	Miami Township Easter Extravaganza	Civic Center, 6101 Meijer Dr, Milford, OH 45150
31-Mar-2024	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, Oh 45150

\*Contact Sponsor for details and to see if reservations are required



## Volunteer Spotlight: Paul Menke and Cindy and John Edelbrock

By Emily Egan



**Above left:** Paul Menke

**Above right:** Cindy and John Edelbrock (photos RAPTOR Inc.)

RAPTOR Inc. wanted to recognize our wonderful volunteers who contributed to getting our pollinator garden up and running, as well as maintaining the garden throughout the summer.

Paul Menke, the nephew of one of RAPTOR Inc.'s amazing veterinarians, Dr. Ann Manharth, made the pollinator garden his project for his senior year of high school. He spent time edging the existing garden space and tilling for the new section dedicated to milkweed. When that was completed, he planted butterfly milkweed and a Viburnum bush, and set up the insect watering station, all donated by Dr. Manharth.

Cindy and John Edelbrock, the mother and father-in-law of one of RAPTOR Inc.'s volunteers, Jessica Edelbrock, also put a great deal of time and resources into the garden. They brought in soil, and mulch, unloading it all from their truck and putting it in the native garden area to help the plants thrive. They also supplied native flowers for the garden and labeled each plant, so folks knew what was growing where.

As of the time this article is being written, the pollinator garden is thriving. The spring plants have gone to seed, which the local birds love, the summer plants are in full bloom, and the fall plants, which are important pollinators before winter, have

grown tall and are beginning to bud. And best of all, it's full of bees and there's evidence of some Monarch caterpillars living on the Swamp Milkweed!

Thank you, Paul, Cindy and John, for all of your hard work and dedication getting this garden thriving, and for helping RAPTOR Inc. to practice conservation in our own local ecosystem.

### Garden *(continued from page 1)*

The host plants, and any plant native to your area, provide the healthiest habitat for these bees. Wild bees and other pollinators worldwide are in decline, which weakens the ecosystem. Pesticide poisoning and habitat loss are the main reasons for their decline.

Bee populations are critical to our agriculture and ecosystems. One of the easiest ways to help these populations is to create a garden of native flowering trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that will become a wildlife habitat for bees and other pollinators at a local level. At the same time, please provide water and don't spray pesticides.

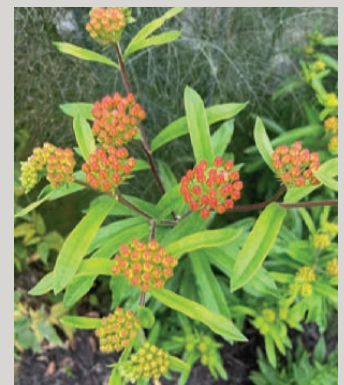
For more information, visit these websites:

<http://www.helpabee.org/specialists-vs-generalists.html>

<https://nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Pollinators>



Garden in bloom. (E. Egan)



Swamp Milkweed. (RAPTOR Inc.)

# Red-shouldered Hawk Rescue

By Emily Egan

In February, RAPTOR Inc. received a phone call from a concerned homeowner. There was a red-shouldered hawk couple that had been constructing a nest in her backyard, and when the homeowner looked outside, she noticed one of the hawks tangled in some string and dangling from a tree, about 30-40 feet off the ground.

Enter our local hero, Jay, from Madison Tree Care, who met a RAPTOR Inc. volunteer at the house. They had a plan to get the hawk down safely. Using a throw line, Jay was able to break the branch of the tree. Down came the hawk, with the string still entangled around its wing.

After being safely boxed up, the red-shouldered hawk was transported to RAPTOR Inc., where the rehab team was able to remove the string from his right wing, examine the bird for injuries, and give it fluids for dehydration. The hawk was very feisty, showing normal disposition, and fortunately did not suffer any

broken bones or permanent injuries -- only displaced feathers which needed to be preened into normal placement.

The hawk was placed in a crate to rest overnight, and the following day was moved outside to one of the flight enclosures to determine how well he could fly. He was able to fly, but did have (as expected) a noticeable right wing droop.

One week of exercise and the adult red-shouldered hawk was back to normal with no wing droop, flying well with solid landings. He was banded and released in Milford at his home territory, so that he and his mate could continue with their job of nest construction.

Recently, we were happy to learn from the caring homeowner that this banded adult and mate hatched 3 chicks this year, and the homeowner had the joy of watching the hawks raise the fledglings. What a happy ending!



Hawk tangled in tree (M. Sammond, Homeowner)



Damaged feathers (E. Egan)

## 2023 Admissions

American Kestrel	24	Golden Eagle	0	Red-tailed Hawk	60
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	<b>3</b>	Great Horned Owl	40	Rough-legged Hawk	0
<b>Barn Owl</b>	<b>6</b>	Long-eared Owl	0	Saw-whet Owl	0
Barred Owl	27	<b>Merlin</b>	<b>1</b>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	0
Black Vulture	11	Northern Harrier	0	Short Eared Owl	0
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Osprey</b>	<b>2</b>	Snowy Owl	0
Cooper's Hawk	28	<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	<b>2</b>	Turkey Vulture	13
Eastern Screech Owl	18	Red-shouldered Hawk	60	<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>

### Interesting Note

So far in 2023, we have received many birds (highlighted in **bold green**) which are not always received each year - uncommon admissions for RAPTOR Inc. Except for the osprey and the broad-winged hawk (which is still under care and expected to be released within a week), **all** were able to be returned to the wild.

# RAPTOR Inc. Hosts 2nd Annual Raptor 5K Walk/Run

By Jackie Bray

On September 9, 2023, RAPTOR Inc. hosted our 2nd Annual Raptor 5K Walk/Run at Miami Meadows Park in Milford, OH. All proceeds support local bird of prey conservation. We started the event by taking a moment to recognize the significance of the upcoming September 11th Anniversary and to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our first responders. Representatives from Miami Township Fire & EMS served as our honored guests and assisted us with the start of the race. The event also included an awesome raffle and after-party featuring personal encounters with our magnificent Avian Ambassadors.

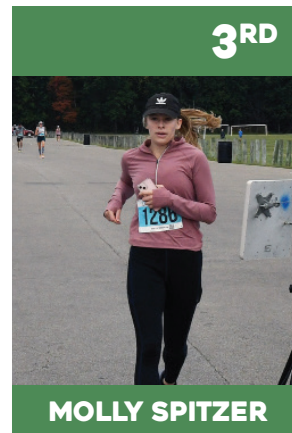
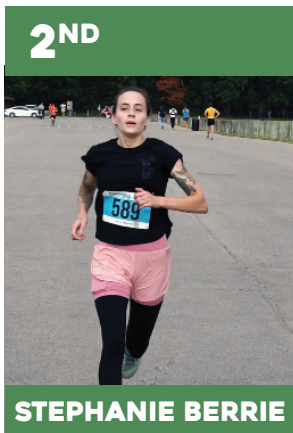
The top 3 male and top 3 female runners received a unique handmade ceramic mug created by Whistle Stop Clay Works and gift certificates from Tri-State Running Company. Our winners were: Men's Division – 1st Paul Lewandowski, 2nd Colin Reusch, 3rd Chris Green. Women's Division – 1st Sara Webb, 2nd Stephanie Berrie, 3rd Molly Spitzer. Congratulations to all!

For their generous support, we wish to thank all of our event sponsors – Trayak, Wild Birds Unlimited Cincinnati, Wild Birds Unlimited Florence, Hadronics, Cincinnati Nature Center, Wild Birds Unlimited West Chester, Midwest Best BBQ, The Red Poppy,

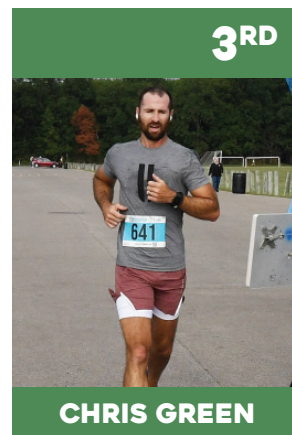
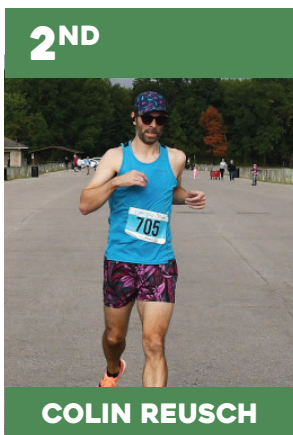
RDI, Danielle Quales, Tri-State Running Company, Whistle Stop Clay Works, Angel's House of Music, Day Heights Veterinary Clinic, Avian and Exotic Medical Center, The Animal Eye Institute, Pet Care Animal Hospital, and The Book Matters.

Last, we wish to thank the 192 runners who participated in the event and the numerous RAPTOR Inc. volunteers who worked so hard to make the event such a success. This year's medals and the t-shirts featured images of a peregrine falcon. Which local raptor species will be featured next year?

## WOMEN'S RESULTS



## MEN'S RESULTS



## 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.

- Dog Food (dry, for large dogs)
- Duct Tape
- Gas Gift Card
- Latex or Nitrile exam gloves (any size)
- Office Max Gift Card
- Paper towels
- Stamps (Forever)

Thank you for all of your donations, including those who donate through the Amazon Wish List! Due to changes at Amazon, we unfortunately no longer receive information on the names of Wish List donors.

## 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 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?

## Tributes

### IN MEMORY OF



**Dona Fling** from Judith Throp



## Financial Contributions

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their financial contribution to RAPTOR Inc. for third quarter of 2023.

Berube, Aimee  
Blair, Clara  
Brasier, Dylan  
Cochrell, Annmarie  
Esham, Debra & George  
Fryman, Shelly  
Geise, Ann  
Hardy, Michael  
Hays, Jeff & Lisa  
Hill, Brenda  
Kaya, James

Kinman Ruppert, Tammi  
Long, Mary  
Mixell, Mark  
Nolan, Edward  
Rohde, Angie  
Roos, Kathy  
Shutter, Haley  
Stehlin, Sandy  
Throp, Judith  
Woolery, Jenny & Tom

**Peregrine Falcon Level \$500 to \$999**  
Dayton Foundation Depository  
Hayden, Margaret  
Osprey Level \$1,000 to \$9,999  
Farrell, Donna  
Moore, Mark

**Bald Eagle Level \$10,000 and above**  
Martha Morse Beck Von Peccoz Animal PLC Foundation

**In-kind Donations**  
Alverson, Tammy  
Dahlhausen DVM, Robert  
Egan, Emily  
Einson, Steve  
Fryman, Shelly  
Leach, Wendy & Robert  
Oexmann, Deb  
Wright Brothers, Inc.



## 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: Jeff Hays  
Trustee: Joe Lucas  
Trustee: Mark Moore  
Trustee: Open position

### RAPTOR Inc. Staff

Cindy Alverson, Executive Director  
Jackie Bray, Associate Director  
Emily Egan, Administrative Assistant  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 a stunning Raptor note card set

**Eagle and Lifetime Memberships (below) also include perks from the levels above.**

**\$100 Eagle Membership**  
plus receive a 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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.!

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

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

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.!**

RAPTOR  
INC.

