

# WINGBEATS



## Red-tailed Hawk Rescue

by Jordan West

When a RAPTOR Inc. volunteer transporter receives a call to help wildlife in need, the last thing you want is to be unable to get to the injured animal. That was the unfortunate case for this adult red-tailed hawk. The hawk was injured and trapped behind a barbed-wire fence. The original finders noticed a hole in the fence just large enough for the injured bird to fit through. The hawk was sitting next to the hole with its eyes closed. (It's never a good sign to be able to walk right up to a grounded bird of prey.)

When we first set out to pick up the raptor, I had high hopes that it would be in the same accessible spot and that I could reach through the fence and pull the hawk through the opening. However, the hawk had moved position and was leaning next to a tree

much farther away behind the fence. The business that owned the lot and fence was closed due to the holidays, so we decided to sit and watch her for a while.

The injured hawk woke up a bit and began to move back towards the fence line. I walked alongside to try to encourage her in the correct direction, but no luck. I also tried to use a fallen branch that was small enough to fit through the fence, to gently encourage her in the direction of the hole. No such luck again. It was getting dark, so we watched a while longer. Shortly thereafter, the hawk attempted to fly up into a tree -- but fell back to the ground.

*See Rescue on page 2*

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## A Third Chance...and Still Going Strong

By Cindy Alverson

This adult great horned owl was found on the steps of the James N. Gamble School and transported to the RAPTOR Facility by volunteer, Dan Begin, unable to fly. At the time, it was not known that this was actually our second encounter with this owl. This owl had been banded as an adult on November 19, 2013, when it was removed by volunteer, Jeff Hays, from the boiler chimney at St. William Church in Cincinnati.

Nine years later, this same owl was found less than five miles from where it was initially released. From the size of the band it was fitted with in 2013, we knew it was a female. This correlated with its weight at 1748 grams (about a pound more than most males).

During examination, the owl exhibited severe pain reactions in both wings, along

with swelling and scabbed areas present on the wings. Fortunately, there were no fractures. The owl received pain medication and antibiotics, and it was given time to recuperate from its soft tissue injuries, keeping in mind that breeding season was in the near future.

After three weeks of good nutrition (and gaining half a pound) this huge, active, and powerful owl had recuperated, to the point where she was flying laps in her mew. Jeff Hays had the honor, for the second time, of releasing this beautiful great horned owl back to its territory on November 3, 2022, in time for breeding season. For the owl's sake, we hope never to see this owl again.



*Jeff Hays with owl before release  
(Photo by RAPTOR Inc.)*

# “Birds Gone Wild!”

Presented by Masterworks for Nature to Benefit RAPTOR Inc.



## What

Join the artists of **Masterworks for Nature** for a light-hearted event featuring a variety of nature-inspired original artworks created by them.



## When

June 9 through July 1, 2023  
**Friday, June 9, 6-9p:** Opening Reception.  
**Saturday, June 10, 10a-4p:** Artists will sketch and paint the live, feathered ambassadors of RAPTOR Inc.



## Where

Hosted by:  
**The Eisele Gallery**  
6936 Madisonville Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45227

Masterworks for Nature participating artists: John Agnew, Kate Albert, Linda Howard Bittner, DeVere Burt, Ann Geise, Mary Louise Holt, Charley Harper (1922-2007), Margi Hopkins, Debbie Lentz, Chris Rowlands, John Ruthven (1924-2020) and Chris Walden.

**All sales will benefit the raptor rehabilitation and educational outreach programs of RAPTOR Inc.**

## Spring Online Auction

Baby season is here and we are hosting an online auction event to help us meet the needs of these precious little ones.

The auction runs from **noon, May 17, 2023 to 8pm, May 31, 2023**, and your contributions will make an important impact.

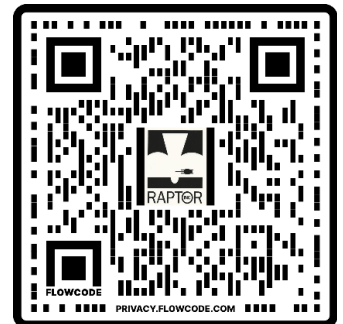
Please consider supporting

RAPTOR Inc. by donating **new** items, making a monetary sponsorship donation, or bidding on auction items. Some great suggestions include tickets to entertaining experiences, gift cards, artwork, wine or beer packages, bird-related items, professional services, or a themed basket.

Items can be dropped off on or before April 30, 2023 at the Raptor Center, or contact us to arrange for pickup.

Scan the QR code with a Smart Phone camera to visit the auction site or visit the link at <https://raptorinc.betterworld.org/auctions/2023>.

Thank you for your support!



## Rescue *(continued from page 1)*

The right wing was obviously injured, so she was not able to keep her balance on the flight attempt. We knew that we had to leave her overnight, which is never ideal. The best-case scenario would be that she huddled up next to a tree overnight and would not try to escape the fence, heading into traffic, or another situation where she would not be able to fly away.

I went back early the next morning and found the hawk still resting near the fence. I met with the receptionist of the owner's building, who was more than helpful, and I was given access to the grounds.

The hawk let me approach rather closely before trying to run and hop away from me. As soon as I laid hands on the hawk, she seemed calm and was rather easy to get placed into the transportation box.

Despite its injuries, this was one gorgeous and healthy-looking red-tailed hawk. The hawk will now receive care for its injuries during its stay at RAPTOR, Inc.

Fingers crossed that this beautiful hawk can make a full recovery. Many thanks go to the original finders of the hawk for notifying us of the injured bird and its location.



*Hawk prior to capture*

## Tributes

### IN HONOR OF



**Back to Basics Nature Alliance** from Olivia Garnich

**John Edelbrock** from Sandra Madsen

**Andrew Stevenson** from Colin Stevenson

### BIRD(TH)DAY TRIBUTE



**Ying Birdsflowers Lee**

from Mike Bourke, Roderick Briski, Mary Donaldson

**Mark Gilsdorf**

from Stephanie Bahrey, Liz Lemon, Sue Taylor

## Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

6-May	7:30-9:30a	Spring Grove Cemetery, Norman Chapel	4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45232
20-May	2-3p	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
28-May	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
1-Jun	10a-1p	Smale Riverfront Park	166 W Mehring Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202
2-Jun	10a-11 a	Beech Acres Park Amphitheater	6910 Salem Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45230
7-Jun	2-3p	Boone County Main Branch Library	1786 Burlington Pike, Burlington, KY 41005
8-Jun	3:30-4:30p	Rocky Fork Branch Library	11125 N Shore Dr, Hillsboro, OH 45133
8-Jun	5:30-6:30p	Hillsboro Branch Library	10 Willettsville Pike, Hillsboro, OH 45133
13-Jun	12-1p	Union Twp. Branch Library Ripley	27 Main St, Ripley, OH 45167
13-Jun	12-1p	Union Twp. Branch Library Ripley	27 Main St, Ripley, OH 45167
15-Jun	10:30a-11:30 a	Leesburg Branch Library	240 Main St, Leesburg, OH 45135
15-Jun	12:30-1:30p	Greenfield Branch Library	1125 Jefferson St, Greenfield, OH 45123
15-Jun	3-4p	Lynchburg Branch Library	102 Main St, Lynchburg, OH 45142
17-Jun	2-3p	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
21-Jun	1:30-3p	Anderson Branch Library	7450 State Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45230
25-Jun	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
30-Jun	10a-12:15p	Georgetown Public Library	200 W Grant Ave, Georgetown, OH 45121
1-Jul	2-3p	Lebanon Branch Library	101 S Broadway St, Lebanon, OH 45036
6-Jul	2-3p	Symmes Twp. Branch Library	11850 Enyart Rd, Loveland, OH 45140
11-Jul	5:30-7p	Mt. Orab Branch Library	613 S High St, Mt Orab, OH 45154
12-Jul	3:30-4:30p	Madeira Branch Library	7200 Miami Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45243
14-Jul	6-9p	Cincinnati Nature Center- Rowe Woods	4949 Tealtown Rd, Milford, OH 45150
15-Jul	2-3p	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
20-Jul	10-11 a	AJ Jolly Park - Newport Branch Library	1501 Race Track Rd, Alexandria, KY 41001
20-Jul	5-6:30p	Fayetteville-Perry Branch Library	406 N East St, Fayetteville, OH 45118
24-Jul	10:15 & 11:30a	MidPointe Library - Middletown	125 S Broad St, Middletown, OH 45044
26-Jul	10:15a, 11:30a, & 1p	MidPointe Library – West Chester	9363 Centre Pointe Dr, West Chester Twp, OH 45069
27-Jul	10:15a & 11:30a	MidPointe Library - Trenton	200 Edgewood Dr, Trenton, OH 45067
30-Jul	1p-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
31-Jul	3p-4p	Erlanger Branch Library	401 Kenton Lands Rd, Erlanger, KY 41018

## 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: Open position  
 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, DVM (513) 576-1990  
 D.J. Haeussler, DVM (513) 374-3963  
 J. Peter Hill, DVM (513) 793-3032  
 Vanessa Kuonen Cavens, DVM (513) 561-0069  
 Paul Levitas, DVM (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".



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



During 2022, increased biosecurity protocols were put into place since the threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) became a reality. Although no cases reached our doors, it still was a concern. 92 wild birds were tested positive for HPAI in Ohio, as close to Hamilton County as Franklin, Butler, and Brown counties.

This virus can withstand freezing temperatures. It unfortunately did not “die off” in the summer, with the warmer weather, as previously thought by the USDA. We will have to continue our vigilance in 2023 with preventive measures and biosecurity protocols.

## Rehabilitation

2022 was another busy year. Rehabilitators were challenged with over 300 raptors needing care, including nearly 100 very hungry nestlings and fledglings requiring multiple feedings each day. Serving 25 counties in Ohio and Kentucky, this year we admitted about 22% of our birds from Kentucky – a 4% increase from last year.

Two injured patients are rare species to this area – a northern saw-whet owl (which is admitted about every four to five years) and a Mississippi Kite (which had never been admitted in the past 45 years at our raptor facility.)

The northern saw-whet owl, with a fracture in its shoulder, was able to heal properly for release. The Mississippi kite had a more serious fracture which left it unable to sustain the flight needed to survive in the wild, so it was transferred to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens for exhibit with their bird show.

### Species Admitted in 2022

Species	Number	Species	Number
American Kestrel	23	Mississippi kite	1
Bald eagle	2	Northern saw-whet owl	1
Barred owl	42	Osprey	1
Black vulture	6	Red-shouldered hawk	58
Broad-winged hawk	2	Red-tailed hawk	64
Cooper’s Hawk	39	Sharp-shinned hawk	2
Eastern screech owl	17	Turkey Vulture	13
Great horned owl	39	<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>

## 2022 Birds Admitted by County

Ohio County	Number	Ohio County	Number
Hamilton County	89	Scioto County	1
Butler County	40	Clinton County	4
Warren County	27	Geauga County	1
Clermont County	35	Pike County	6
Brown County	13	Mason County	2
Adams County	8	Origins Unknown	8
Highland County	10	<b>12 counties in OH</b>	<b>244</b>

Kentucky County	Number	Kentucky County	Number
Boone County	15	Nicholas County	1
Kenton County	22	Grant County	5
Owen County	1	Scott County	2
Bracken County	3	Harrison County	2
Campbell County	9	Pendleton County	2
Powell County	1	Lewis County	1
Mason County	2	<b>13 counties in KY</b>	<b>66</b>

## Sponsorships for Rehab Birds

Sponsorships of birds are for those under care in rehabilitation and for those which have been banded and released back into the wild. We thank the following donors who have sponsored birds in our care and those donors of our **"Sponsor a Banded Bird"** program.

- Jessica Edelbrock
- Ellen Foley
- Diane & Steve Wiesner
- Wendy Smith
- Juliet Tanner
- Elena Egan
- Gary Rapien
- Sonja Kindl-Corbeil
- Nicole Giordullo
- Emily Egan
- Kathy McDonald
- James Griffin
- Bill Sachs
- John Johnston
- Steve Olden
- Elizabeth Buhr
- Anita Freeman
- Nycole Bee
- Emily Egan

## In-kind Donations

Over \$5,700 of in-kind donations were donated during 2022 for the treatments of our birds in need and for the expenses of our educational travel expenses and printing costs. Thank you to all of our donors for your kind deeds!



# Education

Returning to normal after the COVID pandemic, RAPTOR Inc. once again was able to provide over 300 presentations to the community. We hope to inspire children and adults alike to appreciate and understand the importance of raptors and their benefits to the environment.



RAPTOR Inc. was thrilled to give forever homes to two new educational ambassadors, Hera, a great horned owl, and Noah, an American Kestrel.

## RAPTOR's Education Programs



**19,291**

Attendance at presentations



**337**

Hours of educational programs



**78**

Programs at the RAPTOR facility



**9**

Open Houses were held



**1,488**

Attendance at Open Houses



Crafts to make...



Exhibits to touch...



Wings to try on...



Falcons to admire.

Nearly **1,500** attended our **9** Open Houses, enjoying the docent-led activities and tours of our education ambassadors.

Our Open Houses have something for everyone!

# Conservation



## Zoo Partnership

In 2022, RAPTOR Inc. was awarded a grant from the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Internal Conservation Fund to purchase RaptorMed Software and two laptops to improve our communication, record keeping, treatment consistency, and volunteer management at the Raptor Center. The Cincinnati Zoo has been a generous partner and supporter of RAPTOR Inc. for many years, funding an incubator and laboratory equipment. We have treated injured wild birds found on zoo grounds and we have transferred non-releasable birds to the zoo's collection, most recently a Mississippi Kite that is now part of the Bird Show. We are proud to be a conservation partner with the zoo and look forward to many more future collaborations.



## Community Litter Collection

Partnering with the Ohio Department of Transportation, RAPTOR Inc. collects litter four times a year from the side of a community road to help with raptor conservation. Birds of prey are often hit by vehicles as they are swooping down to seize a small rodent. Since rodents snack on morsels left on litter at the sides of roads, removing the litter decreases opportunities for birds of prey to hunt roadside.



## Expanded Research Area

2022 marks the first year that rehabilitated birds which were admitted and released back into Kentucky will be banded. The proper permits were awarded to our bird bander, Jeff Hays, to band the birds from Kentucky for research purposes.

# Volunteers

A BIG thank you goes out to all of the following passionate, dedicated and hard-working volunteers and interns! In 2022, these caring volunteers devoted over 6,600 hours of their time and talents to RAPTOR Inc. They performed services such as education to the community, transportation of injured birds, rehabilitation of our birds in care, grounds maintenance and the cleaning and care of our birds in the outside areas to name some of the on-site work. Off-site work includes jobs such as editing or writing for the newsletter, and social media management. Many of the jobs are not glamorous, but are critical to the health of the birds in our care and the growth of our organization.

Nicole Addison  
Marc Alverson  
Rosie Ayers  
Lena Bauer\*  
Andrew Beaver  
Dan Begin  
Jordan Della Bella  
Kathryn Bennett  
Alison Bewley  
Richard Binstadt  
Cassandra Board\*  
David Board\*  
Megan Braemer  
Kaitlyn Brock  
Gay Bullock  
Arriane Byrum\*  
Kathy Caminiti  
David Conzett  
Bruce Cortright

Robin Cotton  
Carly Dovale  
John Dransman  
Jessica Edelbrock\*  
Elena Egan\*  
Emily Egan\*  
Liam Ehrman  
Tom Eisele  
Amy Foltz  
Ellen Garner Crawford  
Susan Gates  
Tess Grant\*  
Jeff Hays  
Charlene Howell  
Kat Jenkins  
Jeff Kirssin  
Kim Klosterman  
Mary Landis  
Richard Landis

Michael LaTour  
Elizabeth Lindemann  
Jonas Locke  
Marianne Lord  
Gary Lord  
Erin Lowery  
Joe Lucas  
Megan Mahon  
Sue Martin\*  
Alice McCaleb  
Paul Menker  
Linda Morrison  
Donna Morsbach  
Dana Ogden  
Steve Olden  
Stefanie Paeg  
Ken Pawlowski  
Jonathan Pearlman  
Angela Pipozar

Daniella Quales  
Ryan Randall  
Jamie Ratliff\*  
Kira Rehn  
Lucy B. Renner  
Ken Renner  
Jeff Ruhlman  
Robert Smith  
Zan Smith  
Andy Stevenson  
Erin Tkatschenko  
Minday Weiss  
Jordan West  
Carol & Tom Wick  
Robyn Wolfe  
Mike Wood  
Gary Young

\* = new volunteers

## 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.!**

RAPTOR  
INC.

