



HackBack

The Newsletter of RAPTOR, Inc.

Celebrating 30 years

HackBack

www.raptorinc.org

Fall 2010

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Condor Recovery Program: Diary of an Intern

I have now officially been here at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex near Fillmore, California for two months and I have gotten to do so much! Most of my days involve doing telemetry to see which condors are around.

But we also do quite a bit of feeding, which involves going out after dark to place calf carcasses at specific feeding sites on and off the refuge.

These carcasses are generally stillborn calves from local dairy farms, which are interesting to collect, and we keep them in a freezer until we feed them out.

The explanation for the carcass in the photo (see page 4) is that the condors, even though we place out dead calves for them, will still find other things around the area to feed on whether it be hunter gut-piles or a cow that died of natural causes on a ranch.

Since half of our population has GPS transmitters we can home in on suspicious behavior (several hits on one location in a short time frame).



California Condor Photo Courtesy Ron Austing©

Continued on page 4

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Chip Fast is the perfect example of how busy and fulfilling life can be during retirement. After more than 20 years of running his own brokerage company and courier service, Chip decided to try his hand at volunteering.

Fortunately for us, Chip saw our birds at a presentation six years ago, and has been involved transporting birds and spending Saturday mornings at RAPTOR, Inc. ever since. Chip derives much enjoyment from cleaning mews, picking up injured birds, and meeting a diverse group of RAPTOR volunteers.

Continued page 3

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. Board

Dan Gallagher, President
John Baumgartner, Vice-President
Jeff Hays, Treasurer
Mark Alverson, Secretary
Cindy Alverson, Dir. of Bird Care
Marilyn Arn, Trustee
Dan Begin, Trustee
Linda Fowler, Trustee
Melinda Simon, Trustee

The Board of Trustees generally meets at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month. All RAPTOR members are welcome to attend. Call Jeff Hays at 513.821.9822 to meeting time and location as they are sometimes rescheduled.

Susan Williams, Education Program Director - 825-3325
Peggie Flierl, Wild About Birds (Dispatch) - 513-248-2044

Kathy McDonald,
Newsletter & Web
<http://www.raptorinc.org>

Raptor Email: jlhays@fuse.net.

To submit articles or pictures to be considered for the HackBack, send email to: whocooksforyou@gmail.com.



To report an injured raptor in the Greater Cincinnati area call RAPTOR, Inc.
513-825-3325
www.raptorinc.org

Raptor Volunteer Wanted

Raptor is looking for someone to produce the quarterly newsletter, The HackBack. This publication is one way that we reach our members and tell them news about the happenings at Raptor, Inc., as well as to educate the public about birds of prey and the role they play in our environment.

Currently, the newsletter is done in MS Publisher. If you prefer to use other software, feel free, otherwise, you can request a template to help you get started. Please contact Kathy McDonald at 513.941.6497 for more information.

Consulting Veterinarians

Bob Dahlhausen, DVM

513-576-1990

Joseph Grossi, D.V.M.

513-772-6060

J. Peter Hill, D.V.M.

513-793-3032

Vanessa Kuonen, D.V.M.

513-683-7703

Paul Levitas, D.V.M.

513-871-8866

SCHEDULE A BIRD OF PREY PROGRAM FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION !

Learn about the fascinating world of birds of prey by scheduling an education program by RAPTOR, Inc. A trained education specialist will bring live birds of prey to your location and present a one hour informative and educational program to your group. Programs feature information about hawks, owls, vultures, eagles, and falcons.



For more information call
RAPTOR, Inc. at 513.825.3325.

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR, Inc.:

C.O. Harrison School PTA
Imago Inc.
Barry Feist
Linda Stryker
Deborah Schumann
Stanley Fetters
Cincinnati Museum Center
Sunrock Farm, Wilder Kentucky
The Friends of the Public Library Cincinnati
Ohio
Cincinnati Nature Center
Adams County Farm Bureau
Duke Energy Foundation
Wild About Birds in Milford Ohio

Mt. Moriah United Methodist
Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation
Duke Energy
Wild About Birds, Milford, OH

Volunteer Profile *Continued*

RAPTOR, Inc. is not the only organization that benefits from Chip's enthusiasm. Chip is also a volunteer educator at the Cincinnati Zoo, tutors students, and volunteers at a boys' camp and the regional horse rescue.. When not volunteering, Chip enjoys spending time with his wife of 38 years, Linda, and his son and daughter who reside in Illinois and Georgia, as well as playing tennis and keeping up with the ever-familiar, and endless, honey-do list!

~Marilyn Arn



BIRD CARE REPORT

Cindy Alverson, Bird Care Director

2010 Admissions	
American Kestrel	20
Peregrine Falcon	1
Eastern Screech Owl	10
Barred Owl	16
Barn Owl	0
Great Horned Owl	10
Long-eared Owl	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0
Cooper's Hawk	13
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	16
Red-tailed Hawk	20
Turkey Vulture	6
Black Vulture	1
Golden Eagle	0
Bald Eagle	1
TOTAL	115

2010 Disposition Percentages		
Released	51	43%
Euthanized	32	27%
Died	12	10%
DOA	8	7%
Transferred	3	3%
Education	0	0%
Covered Bridge	12	10%
TOTAL	118	100%

Annual Members Picnic - Good News, Bad News



Hi Folks, The bad news is that we will not be hosting a Members Fall Picnic this year at the Red Barn. The good news, is that the Red Barn will soon be under construction and we are working hard to make our new center a reality. Look for the continuation of our picnic tradition next year, and hopefully, the unveiling of our new center. Thanks for your understanding and for supporting the efforts of Raptor, Inc.

Dan Gallagher, President.

CONDOR RECOVERY PROGRAM

from page 1

In this case a condor was feeding on a heifer that apparently died calving on a nearby ranch. And while it is usually something not to be worried about, there is still the danger of lead. Plus it is just good to know what food the birds are finding to eat on their own.

~Andrea Kroner



Andrea with calf.

RAPTOR, Inc has had the pleasure of having Andria Kroner as one of our dedicated volunteers since 2004 and Andria continues to volunteer whenever she returns from her field studies. This article was her latest experiences serving as an intern at the Condor Recovery Program run by the US Fish and Wildlife.



Andrea and Condor.

MEET THREE RAPTOR RESIDENTS

Scarlet :

At five years old, Scarlet, a Red-tailed Hawk, is still a young bird. As she is about 90% flighted, she is fun to try and catch as she swoops back and forth in her mew. But once she is on the glove, she settles in quickly. It is less of a surrender, and more of a transfer of her will to mine. She is strong and proud and an easy bird for audiences to identify at programs.



Scarlet, courtesy Susan Williams.

Isis:

This is who I call RAPTOR's "flagship" bird. Leucistic animals are not albino, but able to present some pigment. Isis has small brown spots on the back of her head, and her eyes are fierce pools of ocean blue. Stronger than any of our other birds, she has gone through many a glove with her two-inch talons. More quirky and jumpy than the others, she needs a bit of extra time to settle down at programs. She is fond of "marching", lifting her feet and trying to get more of her jesses free from my hand. Isis never fails to draw gasps of awe and disbelief at programs.



Isis, courtesy Susan Williams.

Lucy:

My favorite, my one-and-only, my moon-and-stars. A seven-year old Peregrine, she hatched in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and made her way to our airport where she ran into something that partially severed her left wing. In many ways, she reminds me of a parrot, from the way she climbs her mew ladder, to the way she will "step up" onto my hand. No chasing Lucy. She is nervous and sweet, proud but shy.



Lucy courtesy Susan Williams.

~Susan Williams
Education Director

If you would like to meet some of our birds and learn more about birds of prey, schedule a **RAPTOR**, Education Program for your school or group today. Call **513.825.3325** for details.

MISSISSIPPI KITE NESTING IN OHIO

A Mississippi Kite nest, with two young, was discovered in August, in northern Hocking County, Ohio by Elizabeth van-Balen Delphia. The nest, which was located on private property, was the first actual nest ever found in Ohio. Nesting had been confirmed in southern Hocking County in 2007, based on adults feeding young, but the actual nest was not located.



Photo courtesy Ron Austing©

Mississippi Kites catch large insects on the wing, and appeared to be feeding the young annual cicadas. They don't arrive at our latitude until June, which is quite late for raptors; but it makes sense given their feeding habits – it's hard to find large insects until late summer. They are strictly summer residents, and will migrate to South America for the winter. Their usual summer range is in the southern United States, extending up the Mississippi River as far as the lower Ohio Valley. But they have nested at one site in Indiana for several years, and it appears that they may be extending their range northward.

~ Ned Keller

GREAT OUTDOOR WEEKEND

September 25, 2010

Raptor, Inc will be at two locations on Saturday, September 25.
Programs are Free For complete listing: <http://www.greatparks.org>

Site Location - North Central Region Winton Woods, Winton Visitor Centre

10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231 (Greenhills)

Birds of Prey Workshop

Saturday, Set program time 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Presented by: Raptor, Inc. and Ohio Young Birders Club - SW. Meet at the Winton Woods Visitor center to learn more about Raptors: Hawks, Owls, Eagles, Vultures and Falcons. Speakers will present workshops on various topics including Hawks in Flight ID; Raptor Vocalizations, Raptors in the Field: Where to Find Them. Raptor, Inc. will be there with live birds of prey. Presenters: Ned Keller, Jeff Hays and Susan Williams. Families and young nature lovers of all ages are welcome.

Use this phone on day of event: (513) 521-7275. For entire family, Stroller accessible, Wheel-chair accessible, Restrooms available, Indoors, program happens rain or shine.

Wild about Raptors!

Site Location - East Region
Cincinnati Nature Center, Rowe Woods
4949 Tealtown Road, Milford, Ohio, 45150 (Milford)

Ongoing throughout day between 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Presented By: RAPTOR Inc..

Hawks, Owls, Falcons, oh my! Come and meet some very cool birds of prey from RAPTOR, Inc. These birds are non-releasable and as part of our education program, they are fascinating ambassadors of the importance of predators in the environment.

Use this phone on day of event: 513.831.1711. For entire family, Stroller accessible, Wheel-chair accessible, Restrooms available, Program happens rain or shine.

Raptor Wish List

RAPTOR could use the following items for our bird care facility. Donations are welcome and appreciated!

If you would like to donate any of these items, call Raptor at 513.825.3325.

- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ Cardboard tubes (from toilet paper and paper towels)
- ✓ High Efficiency laundry detergent
- ✓ Bleach
- ✓ Dry Dog Food
- ✓ Anti-bacterial liquid soap
- ✓ Large Plastic Dog Carrier
- ✓ Lawn Mower
- ✓ Yard Rakes
- ✓ Broom
- ✓ Simple Green Cleaner
- ✓ Pedialyte



Thank you for your support of RAPTOR, Inc.!

RAPTOR, Inc. MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

The mailing label on this issue of the HackBack shows the expiration date of your annual membership in RAPTOR, Inc. If your membership will be up for renewal soon, you can help us save time and expense by renewing your membership now. If you don't need the form yet, consider passing it on to someone else who might be interested in becoming a new member! You can also use this form to give us your new address if you have moved. Your membership dollars provide for the care, treatment and feeding for our birds as well as the continuation of our education programs.

Student - \$ 5.00 ____	Basic - \$25.00 ____	3 Year Rate - \$50.00 ____
Contributing - \$60.00 ____	Sponsor - \$100.00 ____	Life - \$500.00 ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail Completed form along with check or money order to:

Raptor, Inc., 1586 Covered Bridge Rd., Cincinnati, OH, 45231 Attn: Membership.

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR, Inc.!

RAPTOR, Inc.
1586 Covered Bridge Road
Cincinnati, Oh 45231

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 individual of the species checked below:

- _____ \$20 American Kestrel
- _____ \$20 Eastern Screech Owl
- _____ \$20 Cooper's Hawk
- _____ \$20 Barred Owl
- _____ \$25 Red-shouldered Hawk
- _____ \$25 Great Horned Owl
- _____ \$25 Red-tailed Hawk



Name _____
Address _____
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., 1586 Covered Bridge Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231, Attn.: Jeff Hays**

