

# Bald Eagle Released on Independence Day

Late on June 16, 2019, during a raging rainstorm, a young bald eagle crashed into a tree and then fell, landing on an unoccupied tent at Camp Friedlander Boy Scout Camp. Shocked Scout Leaders, Alex Vinolus and Daniel Tracy, realized that the bird was unable to fly and was possibly injured. They knew the bird was a large bird of prey, but they didn't immediately recognize it as a bald eagle because of its dark coloration. Bald eagles do not fully develop their distinctive white head and tail until they are approximately five years of age. Alex and Daniel immediately called RAPTOR Inc. for assistance. The Scout Leaders placed the bird safely in a box, and RAPTOR Inc. volunteers responded to transport the eagle to the raptor center for evaluation.

Thankfully, no serious injuries were found. The rehabilitators believe the bird's age (about 3 months old) and inexperience led to the bird's feathers becoming water-soaked during the storm. The increased weight from the water prevented the bird from regaining flight. After giving the bird time to dry out, to



Boy Scouts cheer as "Edgar" is released.

replace the natural waterproofing oils onto its feathers, and to build strength in RAPTOR Inc.'s large conditioning enclosure, the bird was ready for release.

After spending nearly two weeks recuperating at RAPTOR Inc., the eagle was returned to Camp Friedlander and released into its

familiar habitat. Hundreds of cheering boy scouts celebrated as the eagle, nicknamed Edgar by the scouts, flew effortlessly above the crowd to its freedom – a perfect celebration on the Fourth of July!

# Five American Kestrel Chicks Find New Foster Families

On May 24, 2019, five American kestrel chicks, approximately 15 days old, were admitted to the Raptor Center. The chicks had been illegally removed from their nesting site at a residence undergoing roof repairs in Western Hills. The chicks were healthy except for some external parasites, which were quickly treated. Our Executive Director, Cindy Alverson, reached out to some local bird banders to see if anyone knew of any active American kestrel nest boxes in the area where these

chicks could be fostered. Luckily, she found just the right place.

Cindy contacted Michael Hall. Michael is a bird bander sub-permittee of Dr. David Russell. Dr. Russell is a professor at Miami University and the Education/Research Director and Master Bander at Avian Research and Education Institute. Michael began working with Dr. Russell six years ago while Michael was finishing his BA degree at

Miami U. An avid birder and citizen scientist, Michael enjoys working closely with Dr. Russell on avian conservation projects. Michael currently monitors 24 American kestrel nest boxes and bands the chicks before fledging. In 2019 so far, Michael has banded 48 American kestrels. In 2018, he banded 55 chicks.

See **Kestrel Chicks** on page 2



**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".

## Kestrel Chicks (continued from page 1)

Michael had never worked with a raptor rehabilitator before and was excited for the opportunity to assist with the fostering of the chicks. Michael identified two nest boxes that had chicks approximately the same age as the orphans. He picked up the five orphaned chicks on May 28th, banded them, and placed two in one nest-box and three in another. To limit the burden of feeding placed on fostering parents, Michael chose boxes which only had a few biological nestlings to feed. On June 19th, Michael observed that all of the chicks from both nest boxes had survived and fledged.

One of the adoptive mothers

The chicks were seen flying in the area with the adult females. Michael was very pleased that the fostering had been successful and he looks forward to working with our raptor rehabilitators again next year!

Ideally, chicks should be returned to their original nest whenever possible. If this isn't possible, it is preferable to place the chicks in a foster nest rather than hand-rearing them. Hand-rearing chicks is time-consuming and resource-intensive. Raptor centers have limited resources that are best used on birds that require assistance. In addition,



Our five foster kestrel chicks

depending on the age of the birds when admitted, it is possible for hand-reared birds to become imprinted on humans, dramatically decreasing their chances of survival in the wild. Adult birds are best equipped to teach the chicks how to thrive in their natural habitat

Thanks to their adoptive parents, these American kestrel chicks are healthy and equipped to survive in the wild where they belong!



Kestrel chick stretching its wings



# **Thank You!**

# Thanks to Wild About Birds for hosting another great fundraiser!

Wild About Birds, 125 Main Street, Milford, Ohio 45150 Donations to RAPTOR Inc. supports local raptor conservation.

## 2019 Admissions

2010 Dispositions	0	Rough-legged Hawk:	0	Saw-whet Owl:	23	American Kestrel:
2019 Dispositions	0	Northern Harrier:	0	Snowy Owl:	1	Merlin:
Released: 55%	3	Turkey Vulture:	0	Short Eared Owl:	2	Peregrine Falcon:
Under Care: 23%	6	Black Vulture:	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk:	16	Eastern Screech Owl:
Transferred: 0%	0	Osprey:	10	Cooper's Hawk:	19	Barred Owl:
Education: 0%	0	Golden Eagle:	0	Broad-winged Hawk:	0	Barn Owl:
Died: 8%	3	Bald Eagle:	38	Red-shouldered Hawk:	13	Great Horned Owl:
Euthanized: 14%	62	Total: 1	27	Red-tailed Hawk:	0	Long-eared Owl:

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# All about Ospreys

By Kathleen M. Jenkins

Ospreys are large, dark brown raptors with a bright white underside, dark brown patches on each wing, and a wingspan of four to five feet. They're often called "fish eagles," because unlike the varied diets of other raptors, ospreys are almost exclusively fish-eaters. They can live almost anywhere there are safe nesting sites and shallow water with plenty of fish. In Ohio, they are more common in the Great Lakes area, but they can be seen in our area during spring and summer months.

Ospreys are often seen hovering high above water, watching for fish cruising near the surface. When they spot one, they fold their wings and dive, hitting the water talons-first. They're the only species of fishing bird that combines this diving behavior with a raptor's foot – a flexible toe they can move to grip a slippery fish with two toes pointing forward and two pointing back. Ospreys also have small, rough bumps like sandpaper on the bottoms of their feet, to help them hold onto their catch. After a successful catch, the osprey will turn the fish so it's pointing head first, making the catch more aerodynamic in flight and easier for the bird to carry.

Once an osprey has selected a mate, the pair builds a stick nest either over or near water. Unfortunately, they often choose cell phone towers or utility poles, and since they're large birds, this can result in electrocution. Many communities where ospreys are known to nest have begun erecting nesting platforms specifically for the birds, so as to reduce the risk. You can spot nesting platforms along waterways, roadways, and even hotel parking lots near water. The nests are large – up to five feet wide and two feet deep.

Once they have built a nest, the osprey pair will return to the same nest year after year, usually arriving from their South American wintering grounds in April or May. Interestingly, they migrate separately and arrive back at the nest site at different times. Ospreys lay one to four eggs, which both parents incubate. The female does the majority of incubation; the male supplies her with fish, then incubates the eggs while she flies off the nest to eat.

Eggs begin hatching at about 38 days, usually in the order they were laid. The younger ospreys are several days behind their siblings, which puts them at a distinct disadvantage in competition for food. It's unusual for more than one or two chicks to survive to fledging, though experienced pairs, like the Dunrovin Ranch nest cam pair in Montana, have been known to successfully fledge three. (The Dunrovin osprey cam is located at daysatdunrovin.com.)

Ospreys were once common throughout North America, but habitat destruction and the widespread use of pesticides like DDT caused their numbers to decline dramatically. In 1996, Ohio began a successful reintroduction program with a goal of 20 nesting pairs by 2010 – a goal achieved seven years early, in 2003. Watch for ospreys near water sources in our area .

# Rehabilitator's Note:

Although not a common bird in this area, RAPTOR Inc. receives an occasional injured osprey for rehabilitation every few years. They can be difficult birds to care for with their preference for eating live fish and not willing to change. We have had osprey who ate mammals willingly, those who would only eat live fish, and those who would settle for eating dead fish.



After parasite treatment and weight gain, this osprey regained flight and was released at Campbell Lakes Preserve in Harrison, OH.

## Amazon Wish List

RAPTOR Inc. is now 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, please visit <code>https://goo.gl/sOLVpG</code>. If a wish list item is purchased, it is shipped directly to our RAPTOR facility in Milford. How easy is that?

#### **RAPTOR Wish List**

To donate any of the items needed below, please email RAPTOR at: raptor@raptorinc.org or call 513-825-3325.

- Batteries AA
- Gas Gift Cards
- Latex or Nitrile exam gloves
  - large
- Lysol Disinfectant blue can
- Pine Bedding
- · Printer Paper
- Office Max Gift Card
- Shredded Paper (any color)
- · Stamps (Forever))

Thank you for all of your donations!

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#### By Thomas Eisele

# London Raptor

We are on a mission, my wife and I, as we walk sharply over the pavement stones—we are hunting the famed St. Paul's Cathedral in the middle of London.

We had come to the UK in observance of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force's efforts to fight Hitler's subjection of continental Europe. St. Paul's (which took three bomb hits during the London blitz) has a beautiful memorial chapel honoring the 28,000 Americans who died in the UK fighting to free Europe.

As we turn a corner two blocks from the cathedral, however, we are startled and stop in mid-stride. In front of us, staring us in the face, is another winged hunter, one we never thought we would see in the middle of London-town. A wonderful Harris's hawk is perched on the shoulder of a British bloke, who is scanning the sky. Looking, we wonder, for what? Not German bombers, to be sure. But what is up there, threatening the London landscape?

Gulls. It doesn't take long for us to discover, the problem is gulls. Screeching, swinging overhead, or sitting atop the chimneys and rain-pipes arrayed across the roofs, gulls nest and scavenge and screech and let their droppings go, splattering sight-seers and customers and building residents below.

London landlords don't like gulls. But gulls enjoy resting on and nesting on and generally accommodating themselves on the welcome roof-tops of London buildings. So there is a love-hate relationship going on here. And in the vicinity of St. Paul's Cathedral the gull problem is exacerbated by the proximity of the Thames River. No more than 100 yards separates St. Paul's from the Thames. To an ambling gull, this distance is no more than a hop, skip, and a small jump.

How to deal with the noisy and dirty gulls? Discourage them from nesting on and using the roof-tops. A Harris's hawk will do this quite nicely. The hawk doesn't have to harm the gulls, and rarely does the matter come to such a crux. Rather, the hawk dissuades the gulls from staying. The gulls go elsewhere, over to someone else's buildings, perhaps 10 blocks away, or two miles down the road, as the gull flies.

Landlords don't much care where the gulls go, so long as they leave the immediate premises. Then it is someone else's problem. Short-sighted, you say? Well, isn't that the norm for us, the way we humans usually act?

Sandy and I talk briefly with the British bloke. What is his main strategy in discouraging the gulls? He says that he begins by simply walking around with the Harris's hawk on his shoulder, as it were "showing" the hawk to the gulls resting on the surrounding buildings and roof-tops.

Typically, the gulls start screeching, sending warning cries or signals to all the gulls and other birds in the area: "A hawk is here! Danger! Fly away!" Most of the time, this will suffice to clear the neighborhood of gulls. The fellow with his hawk has to return periodically,



St. Paul's Cathedral



British bloke and his Harris's hawk

of course, and sometimes in heavily gull-infested areas, he has to parade the hawk every day for a week or two. Eventually, the gulls get the message and usually leave.

Sometimes, however, the gulls have already established a nest and are reluctant to leave. In such hard cases, the Harris's hawk is sent aloft. Initially, the hawk circles and swoops and dive-bombs the nesting gulls. Fairly soon, the gulls leave. If they don't, then some very few times, they and their nests are plundered by the hawk.

It is pest-control, London style. And it seems to work. The British bloke tells us that he has been doing this work for decades, and he makes a nice little living, thank you very much.

We leave him and the hawk to their work, and slowly walk toward St. Paul's and its memorial chapel.

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# AV Equipment Enhances Programming

At the 2019 International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) Conference in Orlando, Florida, the Education Committee awarded RAPTOR Inc. a generous \$1000 grant to purchase audio-visual equipment to enhance our organization's public presentations. The funds were used to purchase a laptop computer, a projector, and portable voice amplifiers. The new equipment will help us make a lasting impression on our audiences, so they can take the information they learn in our programs and apply it to protect local wildlife.

One of the best ways to reach audiences on a meaningful level is to create an immersive personal experience where they can appreciate the beauty and magnificence of these creatures. Meeting a bird of prey in person can be a powerful experience. With the integration of the AV equipment into the programs, the educators are able to share close-up views and unique behaviors that are generally not seen during demonstrations. Imagine seeing a 6-foothigh video projection of an Eurasian Eagle Owl flying directly at you in slow motion, each feather making minute adjustments, as it extends its talons out to make a perfect landing. No matter how many times I watch it, it still gives me chills!

All of us who work in the conservation field had a transformative experience at some point that led us on the path to becoming the conservationists we are today. Creating these "Wow" moments in our audience members can transform their lives and lead to meaningful conservation breakthroughs in the future.

Our organization currently conducts approximately 350 educational presentations annually, reaching around 20,000 people each year. We are always striving to enhance the effectiveness of our programming and increase the reach of our messaging.

The laptop, projector, and voice amplifiers are portable in size and weight, so they can be easily used at the majority of our programs.



Emily Pheanis using the AV equipment

The portable amplifiers allow us to speak to larger groups and to move around the venue, keeping both hands untethered by a traditional microphone cord. The equipment also allows us to give powerful presentations without using a bird on the glove, which is important at venues that do not permit live animals or venues where the welfare of the bird could be negatively affected.

We would like to thank the IAATE Education Committee for their generous grant that made the purchase of the AV equipment possible. The equipment has enhanced our programming and fundraising efforts tremendously and we look forward to developing new and exciting programs that increase our conservation impact.



## Would You Like to Live at RAPTOR?

RAPTOR Inc. is looking for a new tenant for the cabin located on the RAPTOR property in Milford. The cabin is a one-bedroom apartment on the grounds of the raptor center. This opportunity is available to one or two adults with no children or dogs. The monthly rent is \$575, which includes utilities, although Internet connectivity is limited and cable TV is not available. In exchange for the attractively low rent, the tenant is responsible for daily feeding of the raptors during the week. The garage below the cabin is not included in the lease. The wooded setting adjacent to the Cincinnati Nature Center is quiet and surrounded by woods and nature. The ideal tenant would be an interested participant in RAPTOR and would enjoy being around the birds.

If interested, please contact Cindy at 513-509-2469 or email at raptor@raptorinc.org.

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## Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

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Event Sponsors	Date	Time	Address
RAPTOR Inc. Open House	25-Aug-19	1pm-4pm	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
Elmwood Place Library at the Town Hall	7-Sep-19	2pm-3pm	6120 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45216
Mason Public Library	10-Sep-19	7pm-7:30pm	200 Reading Rd, Mason, OH 45040
*Cincinnati Nature Center Hoots & Hops	13-Sep-19	7pm-10pm	4949 Tealtown Rd, Milford, OH 45150
*OVCC Photo Shoot at RAPTOR Inc.	15-Sep-19	10am-11am	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
Greater Cincinnati Rose Assn at Ault Park	22-Sep-19	1pm-4pm	3651 Observatory Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45208
Madeira Farmers Market	26-Sep-19	4pm-6pm	Dawson Rd, Madeira, OH 45243
Little Miami Conservancy	28-Sep-19	2pm-3pm	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
RAPTOR Inc. Open House	29-Sep-19	1pm-4pm	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
Immanuel Presbyterian Church Apple Fest	5-Oct-19	12pm-2pm	3445 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220
*OVCC Photo Shoot at RAPTOR Inc.	13-Oct-19	10am-11am	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
Little Miami Conservancy	19-Oct-19	2pm-3pm	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
*Veterans Park Anderson	25-Oct-19	6pm-6:30pm	8531 Forest Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45255
RAPTOR Inc. Open House	27-Oct-19	1pm-4pm	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
Walnut Hills Library	14-Nov-19	3:30pm-4:30pm	2533 Kemper Ln, Cincinnati, OH 45206
Felicity Branch Library	23-Nov-19	1pm-2pm	209 Prather Rd, Felicity, OH 45120
RAPTOR Inc. Open House	24-Nov-19	1pm-4pm	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150
*Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival	4-Jan-20	2pm and 5pm	Christ Church Cathedral, 318 E 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
*Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival	5-Jan-20	2:30pm and 5pm	Christ Church Cathedral, 318 E 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202
*Amish Bird Symposium	7-Mar-20	9am-3:30pm	3735 Wheat Ridge Road, West Union, OH 45693
* Classian : the survey are seen if		otal al	

<sup>\*</sup> Check with event sponsor to see if reservations are required

## **Financial Contributions**

Thanks to the following individuals for their in-kind donation to RAPTOR Inc. for the first and second quarter of 2019.

Alverson, Mr. & Mrs. David Ayres, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Badovick, Linda Marie Balassone, Jean Begin, Daniel Bobnick, Steve - GE Match Brinke, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bullock, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Caminiti, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Coy, Keith Cubbison, Chris Dandrow, Jonathon Dils, Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Dykstra, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edwards, Allison Zent Einson, Stephen Eulberg, Mr. & Mrs. William Farfsing, James Frost, Christina Gilmore, Joan Ginter, Judy Harper, Charley Art Studio Hensley, Michelle Hodge, Sheryl Hoeper, Brenda Houben, Mr. & Mrs. David Houlilhan, Victoria Howell, Mr. & Mrs. Dpug Huber, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Jaspers, Dennis

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#### Osprey Level \$1000 and up

Blum, Virginia Butler, Joel Johnson & Johnson: Matching grant Linder, Alan B Lucas, Joe

#### In Kind Donations for Second Quarter of 2019

Animal Hospital of Mt. Lookout Square Hall, Michelle Lucas loe Seafood Station Wright Brothers Air

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## About RAPTOR, Inc.

#### **RAPTOR Inc. Board**

President: Jeff Hays Vice President: Marc Alverson Treasurer: Robert E. Smith Secretary: Alice McCaleb Trustee: Rosie Ayers Trustee: Dan Begin

Trustee: Bob Dahlhausen, DVM

Trustee: Joe Lucas Trustee: Gary Denzler

#### 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

Joseph Grossi, D.V.M. (513) 772-6060

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 HackBack, 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







RAPTOR	Inc. N	/lem	bersl	hip

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	<b>Eagle</b> and <b>Lifetime</b> Memberships, please indicate T-Shirt Size: (S, M, L, XL, XXL)
Eagle and Lifetim	e Memberships also include perks	from the level(s) above.
Pate:		
lame:		
Address:		
City:		State: Zip:
Phone:	Email:	
		☐ Check if you prefer <u>postal</u> delivery of

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.!

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HackBack



time on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

Even if you can't make the picnic, join us any





