The Spring 2021 Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 43 Years

The Long Goodbye

By Virginia Blum

This hawk wouldn't budge. What started as a typical raptor release in French Park became something else altogether when this adult red-tailed hawk refused to leave the confines of its box. After slowly tipping the box over and opening the flaps, no bird appeared. We backed far away to give the bird space, but, still, it hid in the box. Finally, the rehabilitator lifted the bird out of the box; as she did, the bird pressed back against the gloves, beak agape, talons extended in protest. The hawk wasn't having any of this. The rehabilitator placed her on the ground and the hawk froze, crouched in the grass.

RT 21-12 was admitted to RAPTOR, Inc. for treatment on February 7, 2021. The hawk was found on the grounds of a golf course; while the hawk appeared to be in good condition, this hawk could not fly. X-rays confirmed that were no fractures so the hawk was treated for soft tissue injury. Treatment included medications, fluids, nutritional supplementation, and physical therapy. After weeks of supportive care, the hawk was ready for release.

But here the hawk was on the ground, staring at us through the grass. It would be an understatement to call this bird's release behavior unusual. Almost always, red-tailed hawks bolt from the box the second the box is opened. Yet, here was an example of what we have come to accept; that wildlife can be unpredictable.

After what seemed like ages (in hawk terms) RT 21-12 finally lifted off. The hawk flew directly to a nearby tree, and then another, and another. Red-tailed hawks are known to be perch-hunters. Perhaps this bird was looking for the perfect perch to be able to scan the landscape for unsuspecting prey.

And then, suddenly, the hawk soared. For what seemed like ages, the hawk circled above us, moving higher and higher, until it was just a dot in the sky.



Hawk camouflaged. Photo by Virginia Blum.



The hawk lifts off. Photo by Marc Alverson.



Notes from the Field

by Jordan West

An angelic specimen was returned to the wild today.

This leucistic red-tailed hawk was recently found grounded and in need of care. The hawk's unique and beautiful feather pattern is caused by leucism, a condition affecting the plumage, caused by a genetic mutation resulting in abnormal distribution of pigment, or melanin, in the bird's feathers. This condition varies and can affect only a small patch of the feathers or nearly the entire bird.

The hawk was found to have high levels of lead in its system; still, it received all of the care that it needed during its stay at RAPTOR Inc., where it made a successful recovery.

This may have been the most intricate and beautiful example of leucism in this species that I have ever seen!

Thank you to the concerned home-owners who originally found the bird, the transporter, and everyone involved with the hawk's rehabilitation at RAPTOR Incorporated.



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".

Remodel Accommodates More Raptors!

RAPTOR Incorporated's increased visibility and community awareness have resulted in our average number of injured bird admissions increasing from 200 birds per year to over 300. Often there have been over a dozen birds indoors in critical care at one time. The existing critical care room did double duty as the place where birds were examined and treated, but also as the place where they resided until they were able to be put outside in the mews. There was barely enough room for two rehabbers in the room with all of the birds.

Based on the need to provide more space for RAPTOR Inc.'s rehabilitation efforts, a study was undertaken to see whether the existing floor space could be reapportioned. We were hoping that rehab space could be expanded while still maintaining sufficient space for other much needed things (such as the food prep room, freezers, and the washer and dryer).

Fortunately, a design was worked out that swapped the old critical care room with the food prep room, and that converted the old lobby/work area to additional rehab space.

The new, smaller lobby is now at the other end of the Red Barn, with the new main entrance being the doors with the RAPTOR Inc. logo.

Construction was undertaken by Gallagher Contracting and Remodeling and the project was funded by a generous gift from Carole Lambert. Long-time RAPTOR Inc. supporters will recognize Gallagher Contracting and Remodeling as the builder of the present facility, including the cabin and all of the existing mews.

Work began on January 22nd and was completed on February 28th. The work was timed so that it could be completed with everything ready to go before our busy baby season, which begins each spring.

New Critical Care Room

The new critical care room now has enough space for several people in which to work at the same time. It often takes one person to securely hold a bird while another person performs assessments and treatment.

We can now accommodate this multi-tasking, plus having room for an additional person who may be in training or perhaps observing the procedure.

We also now have room to have the incubation chamber in the critical care room, where it is much easier to monitor birds needing additional heat and humidity.



New Critical Care Room

New Indoor Rehabilitation Area

The new rehabilitation area is much larger and can accommodate more birds in their carriers while they need to remain indoors. Many of these birds require hand feeding, wound care, and/or daily medical treatments. They now have a separate place that is calm and guiet.

When it's time for their treatment, individual birds are taken to the critical care room. The new rehabilitation area also has room for rehab supplies and room to disassemble, clean, and reassemble carriers.

The Raptor Center's rehabilitators are breathing a collective sigh of relief!

New Lobby/Reception Area

RAPTOR Inc.'s new lobby area is smaller than it used to be, yet it retains the capability to meet with visitors, to provide a space to work on documentation (such as bird admission sheets or volunteer time reports), and to view the latest photographs on the big-screen monitor.

We are still putting on the finishing touches and hope, shortly to have our US Fish and Wildlife and Ohio Department of Wildlife permits on display as well as our RAPTOR Volunteer "Wall of Fame".

RAPTOR Inc. wishes to thank Carole Lambert, Dan Gallagher Contracting and Remodeling, and all of the volunteers who have helped with the moving, packing, cleaning, organizing, and setup of the new areas!

Spring Online Auction

The first baby owlet arrived on Saturday, March 20th, marking the official start of baby season. We are planning an online auction event to help us meet the needs of these precious little ones. We need your help to make it happen!

We are asking for new donated items to offer during the auction event. Some great suggestions include tickets to entertaining experiences, gift cards, artwork, wine or beer packages, bird-related items, professional services, or a themed basket.

The virtual auction will open at 12pm on May 16, 2021, and will close at 8pm on May 31, 2021.

Additional information related to the event can be found on our website at https://raptorinc.org/spring-online-auction/.

There will be some GREAT one-of-a-kind items available to bid on. As always, thanks everyone for your support!

Scan the QR code on the right to go to the auction site.



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Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

Contact sponsor for details, to ensure that the program is still scheduled, and to see if reservations are required.

15-May-2021	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140	
30-May-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
02-Jun-2021	1pm-2pm	Greenfield Branch Library	1125 Jefferson St, Greenfield, OH 45123	
10-Jun-2021	3:30-4:30pm	Rocky Fork Branch Library	11125 N Shore Dr, Hillsboro, OH 45133	
10-Jun-2021	5:30-6:30pm	Hillsboro Branch Library	10 Willettsville Pike, Hillsboro, OH 45133	
14-Jun-2021	5:30pm-6:30pm	Sardinia Branch Library	13309 Purdy Rd, Sardinia, OH 45171	
16-Jun-2021	3:30pm-4:30pm	Madeira Branch Library	7200 Miami Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45243	
19-Jun-2021	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140	
27-Jun-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
01-Jul-2021	4pm-5pm	Georgetown Branch Library	200 W. Grant Ave, Georgetown, OH 45121	
07-Jul-2021	6pm-7pm	Fayetteville-Perry Branch Library	406 N East St, Fayetteville, OH 45118	
09-Jul-2021	6pm-9pm	Cincinnati Nature Center Rowe Woods - Hoots & Hops	4949 Tealtown Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
12-Jul-2021	7pm-8pm	Mason Public Library (Virtual Program)	200 Reading Rd, Mason, OH 45040	
17-Jul-2021	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140	
25-Jul-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
13-Aug-2021	6pm-9pm	Cincinnati Nature Center Rowe Woods - Hoots & Hops	4949 Tealtown Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
17-Aug-2021	2pm-3pm	Union Township Branch Library (Virtual Program)	4450 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd, Cincy, OH 45245	
21-Aug-2021	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140	
29-Aug-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
19-Sep-2021	1pm-4pm	Greater Cincinnati Rose Association at Ault Park	5090 Observatory Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45208	
25-Sep-2021	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy - Great Outdoor Weekend	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140	
26-Sep-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House - Great Outdoor Weekend	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
16-Oct-2021	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy - Great Outdoor Weekend	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140	
31-Oct-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House - Halloween Celebration	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	
28-Nov-2021	1pm-4pm	RAPTOR Inc. Open House - Thanksgiving Celebration	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150	

In Kind Donors

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

Alverson, Tammy Begin, Dan Caminiti, Kathy Cortright, Bruce Dahlhausen DVM, Robert Dorrian, Joe Einson, Steve Locke, Jonas Lucas, Joe Morsbach, Donna O'Brien, Cathy Serio, Mike Slusarczyk, Sandy Terry, Debbie

Tribute

In honor of Gerald Kennedy from daughter, Kelly Hardy

RAPTOR Inc. Board

Hall, Michelle

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".

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2020 Annual Report

The annual report for 2020 is different from previous annual reports because of the huge impact from COVID-19. This report reflects the differences and adaptations that we needed to make to continue our mission of conservation of raptors in the year of a pandemic.

Because we are an animal rescue, we were exempt from state mandates and we could continue serving the community by rehabilitating raptors in need. Still, however, we needed to institute safety precautions to keep our volunteers safe.

Below you will find descriptions of the major branches of our mission of conservation of raptors, rehabilitation, education, research, and separate subsections describing the impact from COVID-19.

Rehabilitation

In 2020, 319 injured raptors across 14 different species were received, and a record 67% were released after treatment. Of the 14 different species of raptors that were admitted:

- 4 were bald eagles (with 2 released)
- 2 were osprey (with 1 released)
- 2 were barn owls
- 79 were red-tailed hawks (this is the largest number of this species ever admitted).

Impact from COVID-19

Being open to receive injured raptors during the pandemic, it was necessary for us to impose guidelines and precautions to keep us safe while picking up injured birds for transport. Similar protections were necessary during rehabilitation.

Because the COVID quarantine reduced driving, fewer birds were hit by vehicles during the early months of quarantine. In addition,

as people increased their time outdoors, more birds were rescued. On the negative side, we also were called by people who tried to raise raptors without the proper permits. As a result, two birds were raised by humans and imprinted, leading to the need for permanently placing these two imprinted raptors in education facilities.

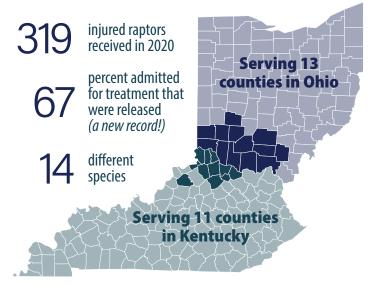
Food donations decreased during COVID-19. Routinely, we have traveled to Michigan for large donations of food for our birds. However, the two trips that we made in 2020 resulted in decreasing amounts of food received. This short-fall caused an increase in expenditure for food for the large number of injured or orphaned raptors we received.

Behind every bird we treat is a caring, animal-loving person. Here is what they have told us:

- "Thank you for sharing your love for all animal-kind!"
- "Thank you for your efforts and dedication each and every day!"
- "In these trying times, keep up the great work!"



Barred owl relocation after nest destroyed. Photo by Marc Alverson.





Great horned owl release. Photo by Jordan West.

Education

RAPTOR Inc. presented 133 hours of educational programs in 2020 to more than 5,800 people. A limited number of open houses were held, along with scheduled private tours for the public.

Impact from COVID-19

The pandemic significantly limited our ability to deliver educational programs in total. 118 hours of already-scheduled programming were cancelled. The negative impact on the amount of education we could provide to the community resulted in a substantial decrease in our revenue stream. Less than 6,000 guests were able to be a part of our presentations (compared to our average of 20,000 guests in previous years).

We adapted to the challenges of the pandemic in several ways. We developed a virtual programming studio and began delivering educational programming online. Several programs were delivered to out-of-state audiences. We developed a means to take reservations (while still restricting the number of guests) and adapted our Open House procedures so that we could safely offer the on-site event during the pandemic. We adapted our on-site and off-site procedures to deliver in-person programs safely. We added a red-shouldered hawk (Ruby) to our Avian Ambassadors. Two new exhibits were added in 2020: the owl standee, and a replica egg display (provided by the generosity of a donor).

Here's what our patrons have said about our educational presentations provided in 2020:

- · What an amazing experience!
- The staff are very informative and the passion for their work is apparent!



Our new egg display! Photo by Jordan West.



Kids love the owl standee! Photo by Jordan West.



hours of educational programs



5,815 people in attendance



6 open houses were held



35
days open for scheduled private tours

Research and Conservation

Birds which are admitted to the Raptor Center from Ohio may be banded before release to aid in movement and mortality studies, as well as studying the impact from rehabilitation at our facility. RAPTOR Inc. sponsored the Red-shouldered Hawk study in an effort to gain understanding of the survival of these hawks in the face of increasing urbanization. Below are examples of red-shouldered hawks which were banded and later recovered in 2020, showing the impact of getting a second chance at survival through rehabilitation.

Band 2206-77881: Fledgling RS 10-07 received a second chance after being fostered into a new nest in May of 2010. Trapped as a living bird for a genetic study in December 2020, this hawk is still surviving after 10 years.

Band 2206-77790: RS 15-14 was admitted as an adult for rehabilitation in July 2015 with a leg injury and was treated and released. This bird was found fatally injured in July 2020, yet it had survived and thrived for 5 years after its initial injury.

Feathers and biological specimens were donated to:

- Cincinnati Museum Center
- Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Feather Repository
- Boise State University
- USFWS National Eagle Repository
- St. Xavier High School

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2020 Annual Report

Volunteers

An annual impact report would not be complete without a heartfelt mention of our wonderful volunteers! RAPTOR Inc. would not be able to accomplish everything we do without their passion and dedication to our mission. In 2020, we had 87 volunteers and interns who lovingly provided over 5,200 hours of service through many different service areas such as rehabilitation, education, transport of injured raptors, maintenance, and Saturday cleaning (just to name a few). Our five interns provided 603 of those hours of service. We are very fortunate that we were able to provide our services where we could, and most importantly, that our volunteers and interns remained safe.

We thank the following list of volunteers for their dedication and service in 2020:

We thank the following list of vo	lunteers for their dedicati
Abbott, Vicki	Dovale, Carly
Alverson, Marc	Dransman, John
Ashworth, Stephen	Dunlop, Lesley
Ayers, Rosie	Eisele, Tom
Begin, Dan	Elam, Sarah
Bennett, Kathleen	Eulberg, William
Berry, Lisa	Everson, Kathy
Bewley, Alison	Ferdelman, Kayla
Bezerra, Susan	Foltz, Amy
Binstadt, Richard	Gambill, Zach
Blang, Caroline	Gates, Susan
Blankenship, Bryan	Graber, Mary
Blankenshp, Mandi	Hall, Carolyn
Blum, Virginia	Hall, Michelle
Botz, Julia	Hays, Jeff
Bray, Thomas	Howell, Charlene
Connolly, Lauren	Jenkins Kat
Conzett, David	Kaplan, Brian
Cortright, Bruce	Klosterman Kim
Curry, Wynne	Kreimer, Lucy
Dahlhausen DVM, Robert	Landis, Richard
Della Bella, Jordan	Landis, Mary
	1.0

Simon, Irwin
and the second s
Simon, Melinda
Smith, Hanna
Smith, Robert
Smith, Zan
Stevenson, Andy
Tassone-Roy, Lindsey
Taylor, Leena
Wanies, Danielle
Weiskittel, Sandy
West, Jordan
Wick, Carol & Tom
Wood, Michael
Wright, Dee
Young, Gary
Zarnowiecki, Jim
Interns
Alcock, Luke
Benges, Harly
Donahue, Kelsey
Reinert, Holly
Thies, Luke

Impact from COVID-19

Although the availability of our volunteers decreased, this was offset by the good fortune that the volunteers remained safe and healthy.

Sponsorships

Since 1994, RAPTOR Inc. has been banding the birds rehabilitated and released in Ohio. Over time, this tells us how successful our rehabilitation efforts are, as well as providing information on raptor movement. Thank you to the following patrons who are involved with the "Sponsor a Banded Bird" program in 2020.

Alspaugh, Alexandria	Gast, Catherine	Mahon, Sarah	Oberlin, Kyle
Auer, Mary	Herron, Jennifer	Mai, Robert	Stickles, Robyn
Culbertson, Suzanne	Hoffower, Kate	Malanchuk, Pam	Wright, Charlie
Drosick, Karen	Kayse, Regina	Malosh, Alexander & Anna	_
Dunning, Spencer	Madden, Jamie	Menke, Jeanne	



RAPTOR Inc. qualifies as a top-rated non-profit



Greatnonprofits.org offers candid reviews of nonprofits annually

Lifetime Members

Although we are grateful for all memberships which provide the funds for our conservation efforts, we wanted to recognize all of our Lifetime members who are committed and remain loyal supporters through the years:

Alverson, Cindy & Marc Austing, Theresa Bailey, Dan Barkalow, David Bauer, Dorothy E. Beatty, Brett Becker, Jim Berger, Judith Blankenship, Bryan Blum, Virginia Bollmar, Kathryn Boyer, Margaret R. Bryan, Trish and Rick Butler, Don & Dolores Butler, Joel Butorac, Madison Cagle, Claudia

Carnahan, Mark Case, Denis

Clark, Charles & Debra

Clark, Paul

Connelly, Mr. & Mrs Michael A.

Cov, Keith

Dahlhausen DVM, Robert

Daley Jr., Clayton Davis, Dennis Deatrick, Linda & John

Denzler, Gary Doellman, John Dunlop, Lesley Eisenberg, Judith Farrell, Donna & Tom Fast, H. J. Chip

Fitzgibbon, Matt Flierl, Peggie Fowler, Linda S. Gartland, Glenn Gast, Alan M. Gates, Susan Grady DVM, Karl S. Gray, Meredith Griesser, Joe Grooms, Grant S.

Grossi DVM, Joseph C. Hampel, Robert Hansford, Carol Harding, Mrs. R. F. Hardtke, Vivian M. Harper, Brett Hartkemeier, Sarah Hartle, Mike & Anna Hays, Jeff & Lisa Hild, Don Hill DVM, Peter Holman, Greg Jenike, Dave Jenny, James Johnston, Laurie

Keller DVM, Gary L. Kelly, Andrew Kitao, Kathy Knueven, Karen Kreger, James Krone, Libby & Bruce

Lambert, Carole

Landis, Mary & Richard

Lawson, Tony Levitas DVM, Paul Lindner, Brad & Marsha

Lippard, Bruce Locke, Erica & Jonas Lucas, Joseph Mahlman, Andy Majoewsky Azalia Manharth DVM, Ann Marksteiner, Joe & Cathy Maslowski, Steve & Karen McFarland, Doug & Nancy

McIntire, S. W. Miller, Michael Moore, Herschel Moore, Mark Morrow, Kevin

Moss, Gates and Barbara Mueller, Michael Myers, Bob & Kathy O'Neil, Frank & June Ogden, Dana Palmer, Dick & Peggy Piepmeier, Mark

Polasky, Les Powers, Tom Ray, John

Rowe, Diana & Basil Russell, David

Sadler, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Schiff Jr, Robert Schisler, Ryan Schmied, Lee

Schneider, Chuck Schumann, Debbie

Serio, Mike

Seymour, Jon & Jackie

Shadix, Lois Sherbon, Ruth

Silverstein, Martin & Sherie Simon, Irwin & Melinda Slusarczyk, Sandra, Smith, Robert E. Smith, Zan St. Clair, Phyllis Stanforth, Bill Stevenson, Andy

Stratman, Edward & Jamee

Styer, David Terry, Debbie Thomas, Janet Wakeman, Barry Walden, Chris Werthaiser DVM, Mark

Wick, Carol & Tom Swigard, Dan Wilz, Marty Wolf, Martin Wood, Michael

Woodiwiss, Bob & Lauren

Wright, Charlie Wright, Dee Ziegler, James C.

Financial Report

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

2020 Revenue	Amount (\$)
Memberships	18,566
Contributions	46,157
Programs	13,925
Fundraising	11,061
Interest & Dividends	145,159
Grants	2,600
Miscellaneous	6,900
Corporate Support	4,463
Total	248,831

2020 Expenses	Amount (\$)
Bird Care	56,423
Educational Programs	15,354
Facilities Maintenance	10,705
Administration	33,362
New Facility Fees	15,880
Marketing/Fundraising	6,790
Total	138,514

990 available upon request

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Sponsor a Banded Raptor

Raptor" program. Sponsors will receive a fact sheet on the selected species and a certificate with the following information: time, this will help us determine how successful our rehabilitation efforts are. You can get involved with our "Sponsor a Banded Since the fall of 1994, RAPTOR Inc. has been banding most rehabilitated birds released back into the wild. Over a long period of



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

Thank you for your support of R	I.ɔnl AOT9A		
RAPTOR Inc., 961 Barg Salt R	un Road, Milford, Ohio 45150		
	onplete, we will contact you t omplete this form, enclose a che	o arrange an alternative. Sponsor sck or money order, and mail to:	IIA .əlditəubəb xat si brid a gni
Phone:	μ _∃	:lis	
City:		:91a1è	:qiZ
Address:			
Name:			
☐ Вед-shouldered Наwk: \$50	Great Horned Owl: \$50	☐ Red-tailed Hawk: \$50	
Merican Kestrel: \$50 □	☐ Eastern Screech Owl: \$50	Соорег's Наwk: \$50	Barred Owl: \$50
Yes, I would like to sponse	or a banded bird of the specie	s cyecked pelom:	101 001
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