

# WINGBEATS

The Winter 2024 Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 45 Years

## 2023: A Banner Year for Eagles

**By Marc Alverson**

After the successful rescue and release of two juvenile Bald Eagles from Scioto County earlier in the year, our third Bald Eagle for the year was admitted on November 8th. This also was a juvenile eagle; it was brought to RAPTOR Inc. by Kentucky Wildlife Officer Christon Cornett. Officer Cornett spotted the eagle successfully flying, but when it landed on a tree branch, it immediately fell to the ground on multiple occasions. The bird was brought to RAPTOR because we were the closest raptor rehabilitation facility to the site where the eagle was found in Cynthiana, KY.

Upon examination of the eagle, no wounds or broken bones were detected. When the bird was placed in an outdoor mew, obvious imbalance symptoms were observed as it moved about. This prompted an emergency blood draw by RAPTOR volunteer veterinarian Dr. Alison Cummings. Blood testing indicated a serious bacterial infection.

This diagnosis called for a two-week course of antibiotics.

The eagle made rapid improvement and was subsequently moved to RAPTOR's large flight enclosure for exercise and evaluation. Before long, the bird was able to get sufficient lift to fly up to the high perches (about 13 ft. high) and, later, after more flight conditioning, it was able to traverse the entire length of the flight enclosure and land securely on the perches at either end. After a total of 4 weeks of rehabilitation, this eagle was ready for release!

RAPTOR Inc. contacted KY Wildlife Officer Cornett to tell him the eagle was ready for release and to coordinate a trip to Cynthiana for the event. Since the eagle was found near the Southside Elementary School, Officer Cornett suggested that it would be a wonderful opportunity to make the release an educational event for the school. On December 11th RAPTOR volunteers packed up the eagle and met Officer Cornett, along with other KY wildlife officers, at the school. The entire school was assembled in the gym for a presentation by Officer Cornett on eagles and the details of this eagle's rescue and treatment.

*See Eagles on p. 5*





## Tales of Two Banded Hawks

By Emily Egan

The USGS Bird Banding Lab was established in 1920 and is the main data collection site for banded birds. Banding birds provides all kinds of information, including how far the bird traveled after banding, how long ago it was banded (which helps show life span/survival rate), and general raptor population growth.

In August 2017, RAPTOR Inc. received an injured immature red-tailed hawk, nicknamed Ozzie by the finder, after the hawk was found at Ivy Hills Country Club leaning on the patio furniture. The hawk was brought to our rehabilitation facility where she was found to have a left-wing injury. She was kept in our ICU for six days to allow her time to recuperate and gain strength, and then was moved outside for conditioning and to build up her endurance.

A month later in 2017, the hawk was finally strong enough to be banded with a USFWS band and released back at Ivy Hills.

Two years later, in 2019, photographer Jordan West, discovered Ozzie in Arlington Memorial Gardens by using his camera to zoom in on her band number. She had matured into an adult (getting that signature red tail) and was 20 miles from her original release site. She went on to breed and raise young there in 2020.

Ozzie was not seen between 2021-2022. But in 2023, she was sighted in a

new territory at Spring Grove Cemetery, about 6 miles away from Arlington Memorial Gardens.

Another banded red-tailed hawk was admitted to RAPTOR Inc. in September of 2022. As with Ozzie, this hawk was immature. It had just caught a rabbit when it got spooked and ended up tangled in a soccer net at Summit Country Day School in Cincinnati. Upon examination, no obvious injuries were noticed. So, the hawk was moved into an outside flight enclosure to evaluate its flight. A slight droop was noticed in its left wing, and although its flight was not affected by the droop, the hawk needed time to increase its flight endurance.

After 10 days of daily conditioning in the flight enclosure, this second banded hawk was released back to its home territory.

Fast forward to September 2023, when our bander received a notification that this band had been recovered. The report said the hawk was found in Brazil, Indiana, 178 miles away from the bird's 2022 release site. Unfortunately, the hawk was fatally injured after being hit by a vehicle. Still, knowing how far this hawk traveled to establish its new territory does provide us with valuable information on territory changes.



*Ozzie, photographed at Spring Grove Cemetery in 2023 (Jordan West)*

# American Ornithological Society to rename 70-80 species occurring in U.S. and Canada

By Tom Eisele

In a November 1, 2023 press release, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) pledged to rename approximately 70-80 bird species in the U.S. and Canada. The proposal was made in part to correct historical “mistakes” in naming and in part to encourage greater public interest in the current condition of birds in North America.

The mistakes are thought to be matters of bias, perhaps, or of a failure to be sensitive to the impressions and feelings of communities which were not made a part of the original naming process. One example, in this regard, was the 2020 renaming of a prairie songbird, changed from “McCown’s Longspur” to “Thick-billed Longspur.” McCown had been a general in the Confederate Army, and the bird’s name was believed to be insensitive or inappropriate.

The second basis for the perceived need to rename some North American bird species was the goal of encouraging greater public interest in birds. The AOS proposes to constitute a wide panel of experts and lay-people to direct the renaming process,

one part of which will be seeking public participation. It is thought that by bringing more people into the renaming process, there should be heightened interest in the birds being renamed, and in North American birds in general.

The need now for a re-focus on bird species in North America seems unquestionable, given the dramatic loss in birds in recent decades.

It is estimated that North America has lost nearly 3 billion birds since 1970. This alarming trend may be addressed partially by generating greater public interest in North American birds.

One traditional convention tied to naming birds has been to name a bird species after the person credited with discovering the bird, or otherwise describing the basic characteristics of that bird species. The AOS believes, however, that this naming convention directs attention away from the bird species itself and toward the discovering person. Instead, today, the AOS wishes to re-focus our attention on the identifying

features or markings or characteristics of each bird species itself. The thought is that, by doing so, the watcher’s attention will be more focused on what makes a particular bird species different or unique. The hope is that this will engender greater public interest in birds.

The AOS press release did not list the bird species to be renamed. One example in the raptor category, however, is understood to be the Cooper’s hawk. So, at least some species of raptors will be a part of the renaming process. (A tentative list of possible bird names to be revised is given below.)

One cautionary note: the scientific names of birds will be unaffected by the AOS renaming project.

In addition, it is stated that certain bird names based on geographic locations (for example, the “American Crow” or the “Carolina Chickadee”) will remain unchanged.

When RAPTOR Inc. learns more information about this AOS program, we will update you with that new information.

## Some Bird Names Likely to Change



### RAPTORS

Cooper’s Hawk  
Gundlach’s Hawk  
Steller’s Sea-Eagle

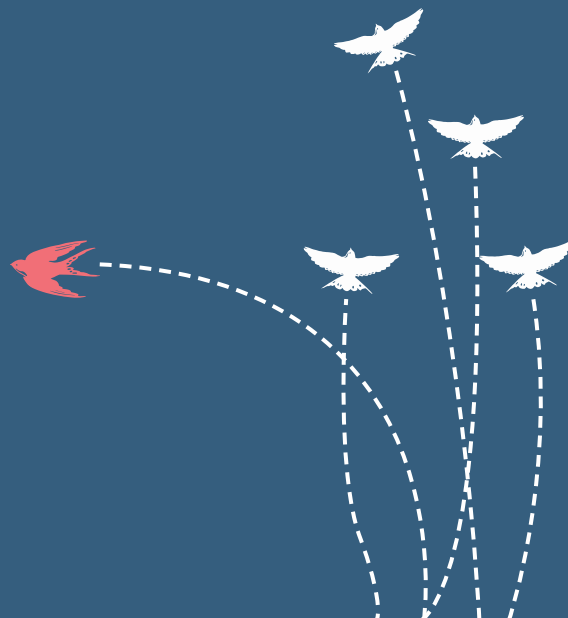
Harris’s Hawk  
Ridgway’s Hawk  
Swainson’s Hawk



### NON-RAPTORS

Say’s Phoebe  
Bewick’s Wren  
Lawrence’s Goldfinch  
Ross’s Goose  
Gambel’s Quail  
Bachman’s Sparrow

Nutting’s Flycatcher  
White’s Thrush  
Wilson’s Plover  
Barrow’s Goldeneye  
Audubon’s Oriole  
Townsend’s Warbler





# Tributes



## IN HONOR OF

Kathleen LaDow from David LaDow  
Papa Smurf from Sarah Taylor  
Kat Jenkins from Ronald Butler  
Richard Haynes from James Meinberg  
Jeanne Menke from Edward & Christina Balogh  
Zan Smith (volunteer) from Emily Williams  
Mike Wood (volunteer) from Ruth Sherbon



## RELEASE TRIBUTES

Great Horned Owl #162 from Mark Mixell

## Cincinnati Zoo Grant Provides Raptor Center with Equipment to Assist with Rehabilitation

By Jackie Bray

Wildlife conservation is at the core of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's mission. The organization provides support for many in-situ conservation projects around the world; the zoo also has provided support for several of RAPTOR Incorporated's projects.

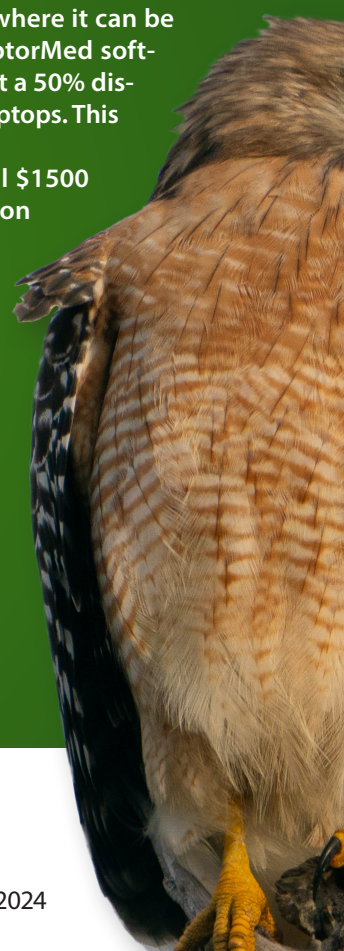
One of the ways that the zoo supports conservation is by providing staff members with the opportunity to request financial support for conservation projects that are personally important to them. During last year's grant cycle, Senior Aviculture Keeper and RAPTOR Inc. Volunteer, Kimberly Klosterman, submitted a proposal to the zoo to purchase \$2200 in software and computer equipment, in order to assist RAPTOR Inc. with our management and rehabilitation efforts.

As a nonprofit organization with limited resources, RAPTOR Inc. is always looking for opportunities to improve our quality of care and efficiency while also conserving resources. This grant purchased RaptorMed Software and 2 refurbished laptop computers, which are being used to improve communication, record keeping, and treatment consistency at the Raptor Center. The purchase is also helping us to reduce the need to store boxes and boxes of old paper records: we now have placed important information

from our old records into a database where it can be easily searched and analyzed. The RaptorMed software was offered to our organization at a 50% discount, and we purchased refurbished laptops. This made the project very cost-effective.

In March, we received an additional \$1500 from the Cincinnati Zoo's Conservation Committee to use where it was most needed. The additional funds were used to purchase food for the birds under care at the Raptor Center. The average cost to feed the birds at the center is approximately \$1900 per month. The additional grant money was a very pleasant surprise and very much appreciated!

We are incredibly grateful for the additional funds and for the support that the Cincinnati Zoo and the Conservation Committee has shown our organization for many years.





# Special Feathered Guests at Open Houses

By **Cindy Alverson**

The Open Houses concluded in 2023 with some special feathered guests.

The October Open House featured a return of a Mississippi kite which RAPTOR Inc. had rehabilitated and transferred to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens in December of 2022. The kite was transferred to the zoo sporting her immature brown plumage; upon her return visit, she had molted out those feathers and replaced them with adult grey feathers, looking like a completely different bird.

Staff, volunteers, and guests were thrilled to see the return of Oz in all her splendor. Thank you to the zoo for sharing Oz, who is currently part of their Ameritas Wings of Wonder Bird Experience.

For our November Open House, we welcomed Tyler Rankin, a RAPTOR Inc. volunteer, and a falconer who brought two Harris's hawks – his falconry birds. Volunteers and guests enjoyed hearing about his experiences as a falconer and his hunting experiences.

Harris's hawks are not local birds, but hawks which are prevalent in the south-west. They are different than our local hawks in that they nest in social units and hunt cooperatively. Thank you to Tyler for sharing his beautiful Harris's hawks and his falconry experiences.



Oz sporting adult plumage (RAPTOR)

## Eagles *(Continued from page 1)*

The students were also treated to a surprise visit from Hera, RAPTOR's education ambassador Great Horned Owl. After the assembly in the school's gym, the entire school moved outside to the bleachers of the school's near-by football field.

With a large American flag displayed by KY wildlife officers, the eagle was released by Officer Cornett. It flew strongly with a nice fly-by of the assembled students in the

bleachers. This was surely an event that will be well-remembered by the students and faculty of the school.

Nothing like a story like this to make everyone appreciate saving raptors – especially our national emblem, bald eagles! And RAPTOR has further cemented our reputation as a first-class raptor rehabilitation facility, with a very good track record of rehabilitating bald eagles.



Eagle release at Southside Elementary

## 2023 Total Admissions

American Kestrel	30	Great Horned Owl	47
Bald Eagle	4	Merlin	1
Barred Owl	39	Osprey	2
Black Vulture	13	Peregrine Falcon	2
Barn Owl	6	Red-shouldered Hawk	75
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Red-tailed Hawk	81
Cooper's Hawk	44	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Eastern Screech Owl	21	Turkey Vulture	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>385</b>

*A record number of red-shouldered hawks were admitted to RAPTOR in 2023*

### Notes for 2023

1. Two raptors were transferred to educational facilities in Ohio. A red-tailed hawk was transferred to the Thomas Shisler Wahkeena Nature Preserve in Sugar Grove, Ohio, and a Turkey Vulture was transferred to Wild Hearts African Farm in Lewisburg, Ohio.
2. The average length of stay for a bird that is releaseable is 18 days.
3. A record number of red-shouldered hawks were admitted.

## 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?

## Financial Contributions

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

### Osprey Level \$1,000 to \$9,999

Hayden, Margaret  
Hayden, Tracy  
Johnston Foundation

### Kroger, Community Rewards

Lindner, Brad & Marsha  
Miller, Jo & John  
Schiff, Jr, Robert  
SEC Charitable Corporation  
Stevenson, Andy  
Stryker, Linda

### Peregrine Falcon Level \$500 to \$999

Begin, Leslie & Daniel  
Brinker, Steve  
Brooks, Charlotte  
Butler, Ronald  
Flierl, Peggie  
Garnett, William  
Johnston, Laurie

Jones, Avery Mae  
Kreimer, Lucy  
Myers, Kathy & Bob  
Rupel, Jeff  
Smith, David  
Sonder Brewery  
Varga, Rosemary & Frank  
Wolf, Martin

### Gifts \$100 to \$499

Albert, Kate  
Animal Hospital of Mt. Lookout Square  
Axt, David & Susan Wilkinson  
Ayers, Rosemarie  
Beer, Amira  
Berger, Judith  
Binstadt, Richard  
Bohl, Julie  
Borisch, Bonnie  
Charley and Edie Harper Foundation

Cole, Amy  
Conner, Richard  
Conradi, Joanne  
Cortright, Bruce  
Dailey, Andrea  
Deardurff, Dayle  
Deatrick, John  
Doellman, John  
Dorman Products  
Earls, Joanne  
Eckhoff, Maria  
Einson, Stephen  
Faller, Susan Elisabeth  
Farfsing, Jim & Becky  
Farrell, Donna  
Griesser, Joe  
Harpster, Linda  
Havlick, Wendy  
Houlihan, Tori  
Kelling, Chris  
Kirchmer, Cynthia  
Krisher, Mary  
Kropp, Mary & John

Lentz, Debbie  
Liming, Clayton  
Magenheim, Kathryn  
Mancini, Donna  
Manharth DVM, Ann  
Maslowski, Steve & Karen  
McFerran, Cindy  
McHenry, Ronald  
Miller, Meredith  
Miller, Michael  
Mills, Kevin  
Morgan, Donna  
Nau, Melinda & Donald  
Pawlak, Katherine  
PayPal Giving Fund  
Puthoff, Harry  
Quales, Danielle  
Rinsky, Ben  
Roos, Kathy  
Rosenzweig, Shirley  
Scallan, Carol  
Sherbon, Ruth  
Singer, Gary & Mary

Singleton, Karen  
Smith, Sheri  
Stenger, James  
Story, Amy & Leland  
Tanner, Juliet  
Throp, Judith  
Van de Wall, Allan  
Weber, John  
Webster, Julie  
White, Hamilton  
Williams, Emily

### In-kind Donations

Alverson, Tammy  
Dahlhausen DVM, Robert  
Einson, Steve  
Lucas, Joe  
Meyer, Nancy  
Mueller, Michael  
Purtee, Nancy  
Shupe, Eli & Family

## 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  
Michelle Rahtz, 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".



## Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances\*

Date	Time	Event	Location
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
7-Mar-2024	4-7p	Little Miami Brewing Event Center- Business Expo	310 Mill St, Milford, OH 45150
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
20-Apr-2024	2-3p	Little Miami Conservancy River Center	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
27-Apr-2024	12-3p	Smale Riverfront Park Arbor Day Event	166 W Mehring Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202
28-Apr-2024	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, Oh 45150
4-May-2024	7:30-9:30a	Spring Grove Cemetery Early Morning Bird Walk	4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45232
18-May-2024	2-3p	Little Miami Conservancy River Center	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
26-May-2024	1-4p	RAPTOR Inc. Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, Oh 45150
6-Jun-2024	10a-1p	Smale Riverfront Park Family Fun Day	166 W Mehring Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202
14-Jun-2024	2-3p	Blanchester Branch Library	110 N Broadway St, Blanchester, OH 45107
15-Jun-2024	2-3p	Little Miami Conservancy River Center	211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140

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

### 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. 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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MILFORD, OH  
PERMIT NO. 16

## 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.

