



## The Early Bird Gets the Nest

By Ellen Garner Crawford

**M**any of us spend our frigid winter days dreaming of spring: warm weather, budding trees, baby birds, and clear, blue skies.

So, it might surprise some to learn that one of your favorite raptors spends its winter on the nest. Great horned owls are one of the earliest nesters in our area, with courtship and vocalizations before any other bird species in Ohio.

But where does our largest resident owl reside in nesting season? We often think of nesting as a time for birds to carry sticks and leaves and other materials to their tree, carefully constructing their young's future home. But, unlike other bird species, owls do not often build their own nest. This includes great horned owls. Some great horned owls don't even line their nest. Others might embellish their nest with bark, leaves, feathers, or even their own pellets. Either way, most resident owl species in Ohio do not construct a stick nest themselves.

While about half of the great horned owls in Ohio prefer holes in trees, the other half must get more creative. The other half need to find existing stick nests. To be able to support a great horned owl, the nest has to be pretty sizable.

This means commandeering nests from red-tailed hawks, great blue herons, ravens or crows, and even eagles. Being at the top of the food chain and having a fearsome reputation, like "Tiger of the Sky", means most other birds won't willingly fight a great horned owl which they discover in adverse possession of their nest.

Eggs are then laid in January or February (despite the cold). Great horned owls' down feathers are able to keep their clutch of eggs warm—a toasty 98 degrees Fahrenheit—even when temperatures around them drop to below zero. About a month later, the eggs hatch. During the nestling and fledging period, the nest deteriorates and may not be reused.

What about the nest builders, such as red-tailed hawks? Luckily, red-tailed hawks don't lay eggs until March or April. Upon finding their previous nest occupied, a mated pair of red-tailed hawks will work together to build a stick nest over the course of 4-7 days, lining the nest with bark and dried plants. These 6.5 foot-high by 3 feet across nests are usually near the top of tall trees with a wide view of the hawks' territory. No wonder great horned owls love to move in!

*Sources: All About Birds, ODNR website, ODNR field guide, RAPTOR Inc.*

### Please Help RAPTOR Inc. by Updating Your Contact Information

Last month, when trying to notify our membership of a change of venue for the Denver Holt talk, we found out that we did not have current emails or phone numbers for many of our members.

Please email [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org) to give us your email and phone number. Contact information is kept private and is not shared with other organizations.

Also, if you would like to help RAPTOR Inc. reduce our postal fee and carbon footprint, you can switch from postal to email delivery of the newsletter.

Contact [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org) and we will be glad to help. Thank you for your assistance.



**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".

## What is Your Favorite Snack?



by **Jordan West**

After a quick rain shower, an adult male red-shouldered hawk drops down with talons extended to hunt earthworms that have been pushed from the waterlogged soil. This species absolutely loves earthworms as a snack and will take advantage of rainy conditions for this reason. (Photo by J. West)

## Spring Online Auction

The first baby owlets are due to arrive any time at the Raptor Center and we are planning an online auction event to enable us to meet the needs of these precious little ones. We need your help to make it happen!

Please consider supporting RAPTOR Inc. during our Spring Auction Fundraiser by donating new auction items, making a monetary sponsorship donation, or bidding on auction items.

The auction goes live at 12 noon on May 16, 2022, and ends Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 8:00 pm. Your contributions will make an important impact.

Items can be dropped off on or before April 30, 2022, at the Raptor Center, or you may contact us (513 825-3325) to arrange for pickup.

Scan the QR code with a Smart Phone camera to visit the auction site, or visit our link at <https://raptorinc.betterworld.org/auctions/bid-birds2>.



## Tributes

| In Honor Of:      | From:  |
|-------------------|--|
| Jeanne Menke      | Edward Balogh  |
| Marianne Lord     | Northminster Church  |
| In Memory Of:     | From:  |
| John Burkhardt    | Gail & Terry Covert  |
| Sandra Weiskittel | Bogey Benders Golf Club<br>DCR Campfriends<br>Demetria Wright<br>Devine Family<br>Glenn Downs & Allworth Financial Team<br>Kathy Kremer<br>Kelli Wuestefeld<br>Kenneth Garbsch<br>Lori Schneider<br>Randy & Carol Ludwig<br>Raymond A. Weiskittel family and sons<br>(Raymond L., Terry, Roger, Rick, and Scott)<br>Sarah Weiskittel<br>Thorton Bartlett |
| Betty White       | Jennifer Bennington<br>Jacqui, Killen<br>Michelle Hall<br>Ryan Schisler<br>Sandra Barkey<br>Susan Smith<br>Teena Schweier  |

## Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances

| Date        | Time        | Event   | Location                                     |
|-------------|-------------|---|--|
| 16-Apr-2022 | 2-3pm       | Little Miami Conservancy River Center           | 211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140         |
| 24-Apr-2022 | 1-4pm       | RAPTOR Inc. Open House                          | 961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150      |
| 6-May-2022  | 6:30-7:30pm | W.M. Johnson Hills Park                         | 7950 Bridle Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45244         |
| 7-May-2022  | 7:30-9:30am | Spring Grove Cemetery Norman Chapel – Bird Walk | 4521 Spring Grove Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45232, |
| 14-May-2022 | 1-2pm       | Grant’s Birthplace State Memorial               | 1551 OH-232, Moscow, OH 45153                |
| 15-May-2022 | 2-3:30pm    | Deer Park Branch Library                        | 4020 E Galbraith Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45236    |
| 21-May-2022 | 2-3pm       | Little Miami Conservancy River Center           | 211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140         |
| 22-May-2022 | 10-11:30am  | OVCC Photo Shoot at RAPTOR Inc.                 | 961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150      |
| 29-May-2022 | 1-4pm       | RAPTOR Inc. Open House                          | 961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150      |
| 1-Jun-2022  | 5-8pm       | Rhinegeist Brewery Fundraiser                   | 1910 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH 45202            |
| 18-Jun-2022 | 2-3pm       | Little Miami Conservancy River Center           | 211 Railroad Ave, Loveland, OH 45140         |
| 21-Jun-2022 | 2-3pm       | Anderson Branch Library                         | 7450 State Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45230          |
| 26-Jun-2022 | 1-4pm       | RAPTOR Inc. Open House                          | 961 Barg Salt Run Rd, Milford, OH 45150      |
| 29-Jun-2022 | 3:30-4:30pm | Madeira Branch Library                          | 7200 Miami Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45243         |

(Contact sponsor for details and to see if reservations are required.)

## 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: Zach Gambill  
 Trustee: Jeff Hays  
 Trustee: Joe Lucas  
 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](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”.

## Financial Contributions

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR Inc. for the first quarter of 2022.

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

Eisenberg, Judith  
 Gast, Alan M.  
 Kroger Cmty. Rewards  
 Lucas, Joseph

### \$500 to \$999

Grooms, Grant S.  
 Harpster, Linda  
 Lippard, Bruce  
 Noll, Stuart  
 Shadix, Lois  
 Wainscott, Georgia

### \$100 to \$499

Alverson, Tammy  
 Annal, Eddie  
 Appel, Marvin  
 Aungst, Robyn & Pat  
 Bartlett, Thornton  
 Berry, Lisa  
 Blair, Clara  
 Bollmer, Kevin  
 Bowling, Robert  
 Boyd, MacKenzie  
 Bressler, Tom  
 Cole, Cathy  
 Drosick, Karen  
 Dunlap, Brenda  
 Egan, Emily

Inson, Stephen  
 Faske, Mona  
 Freeman, Anita  
 Gaines, Leigh  
 Green, Leslie  
 Hays, Doug  
 Hetico, Rolf  
 Jander, Thomas  
 Jenkins, Kat  
 Johnston, John  
 Kelm, Dr. Gary  
 Kifer, Teresa  
 Koester, David  
 Kosse, Ted  
 Lindemann, Elizabeth  
 Lisi, Richard & Carolyn

Little Miami Brewing  
 Mancini, Donna  
 McCaleb, Alice  
 McFarland, Doug & Nancy  
 McFerran, Cindy  
 McHenry, Ronald  
 Menke, Catherine  
 Menke, Jeanne  
 Michaelson, Susan  
 Nau, Melinda & Donald  
 Newberry, Stuart  
 Paas, Jeff  
 Pheanis, Emily  
 Phillips, Roberta  
 Philpot, Billy  
 Puthoff, Harry

Quales, Danielle  
 Quilligan, Dave & Janet  
 Raser, Lori  
 Robin, Judy  
 Roos, Kathy  
 Ruhlman, Jeff  
 Ruhnke, Melissa & John  
 Scallan, Carol  
 Smile, Amazon  
 Steinhilber, Norm & Trish  
 Stephenson, Serena  
 Stryker, Linda  
 Tanner, Juliet  
 Weiskittel, Raymond  
 Wolfe, Robyn

### In-kind Donations

AdventureKeen  
 Anonymous Donor  
 Bates, Katie  
 Glassmeyer, Matthew  
 Graves, John  
 Hall, Michelle  
 Kreimer, Lucy  
 Overholt, John  
 Puthoff, Harry  
 Spring Grove Cemetery  
 Patrons  
 Tanner, Juliet  
 Thompson, James



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

As we entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff and volunteers here at RAPTOR Inc. continued to navigate uncertain times. Because we are an animal rescue mission, we are considered to be an essential service. There-

fore, our daily rehab operations continued as usual. At the same time, the ways that we deliver our services to our local communities, continued to evolve, in order to meet government safety and health guidelines.

## Rehabilitation

2021 was a big year here at RAPTOR, Inc., as we admitted 387 raptors from 28 counties in Ohio and Kentucky—more injured raptors than any time in our 43-year history.

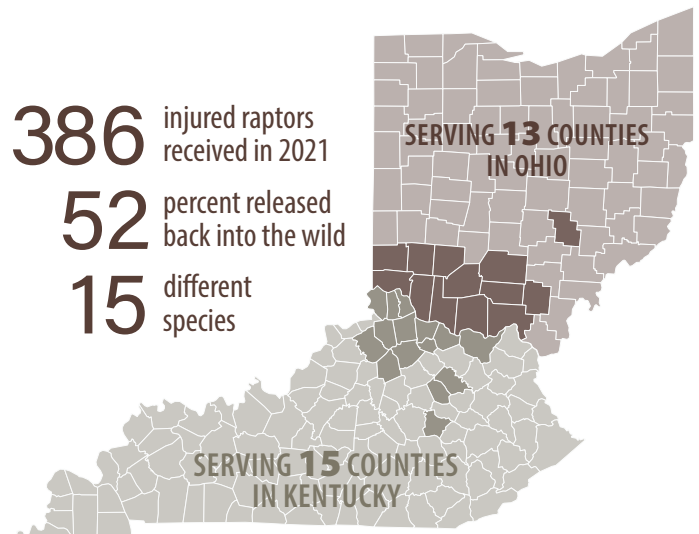
Admitting this number of birds in a year is a bittersweet accomplishment for our organization. We are thrilled that we can assist so many people helping the injured birds of prey, and we are thrilled to treat the birds so they can be rehabilitated and released back into the wild. On the other hand, it is tragic to see these beautiful birds in such sad shape and to know that many of their injuries were a result of human interference in their lives.

***Regardless of the number of patients admitted, we are happy to help and provide the best care we can for each bird.***

Of those birds that were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild, the average length of stay at the Raptor Center was 27 days. Length of stay varies widely due to the extent and complexity of their injuries, the particular specialists involved in giving care, and other factors.

Each bird is treated as an individual and a treatment plan is made according to its specific needs and injuries. An injured bird may just have had a slight impact and needs to recover two or three days from soreness and bruising while another bird may have suffered a broken wing and need weeks of care while the bones mend and physical therapy is performed. During that time, rehabilitators may need to give pain medications and antibiotics, provide fluids, and even hand-feed until the bird is eating on its own. It could be 5 -12 weeks before the bird can be released, depending on the size of bone that is healing and, later, the extent of flight conditioning needed to regain that particular bird's peak flight performance.

Besides an astronomical number of total raptor admissions, we also received record highs of individual species. Records were set for the highest number of admissions for Cooper's hawks, red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, black vultures, and turkey vultures.



Dr. Cummings removing a fish hook from a bald eagle. (Photo by M. Alverson)

Mid-June through mid-July, 23 fledgling Cooper's hawks were also received (compared to our usual admission of one) with fatal, unexplained seizures. Unfortunately, subsequent government testing was unable to identify a cause for these seizures.

With the record-setting year of admissions, there accompanied it a record-setting year of veterinarian assistance. Oftentimes, a bird would require multiple vet evaluations in order to monitor the progress of the treatment.

We would not be able to give our birds the care and expertise they so richly deserve without our veterinarians' time and talent.

A big "thank you" goes out to Dr. Bob Dahlhausen and Dr. Alison

Cummings of the Avian and Exotic Medical Center, Dr. Ann Manharth of Day Heights Animal Hospital, Dr. DJ Haeussler of the Animal Eye Institute, and Dr. Peter Hill of PetCare Animal Hospital. We thank all of our veterinarians from the bottom of our hearts.

## Return to Normal in 2021

Our transport teams continued to adhere to social distancing guidelines with interacting with the public, when possible. Our teams worked to keep everyone healthy during the pandemic, both at RAPTOR Inc. facilities and while off-site.

## Education

Another pillar of our organization is to provide community education. We were thrilled to open again the Raptor Center to the public for all scheduled Open Houses in 2021. To meet evolving social distancing guidelines, we only had to require advance reservations for the first (March) Open House of the year. Throughout the year, we welcomed 751 people to our Open Houses (compared to just 285 people in 2020).

To extend our education mission to our surrounding communities, RAPTOR Inc. continued to adapt to meet the changing needs of schools, libraries, and other community groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our educators were happy to wear masks and to adhere to social distancing protocols in place at program venues. RAPTOR

Inc. continued to offer virtual, online programs for groups of people who were not yet meeting in-person.

## Return to Normal in 2021

RAPTOR Inc. successfully flexed to meet the needs of community groups. We have been able to provide valuable educational and entertaining programming during uncertain times. Whether these adaptations included wearing a facial covering, or maintaining social distancing from attendees, or holding a raptor program entirely outdoors -- regardless, RAPTOR Inc. educators continued to rise to the challenge.



**233**

hours of  
educational programs



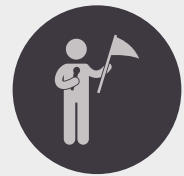
**9,615**

people  
in attendance



**9**

open houses  
were held



**48**

days facility was open  
to the public

## Research and Conservation

In the early years of RAPTOR Inc., a partnership developed between the Red-shouldered Hawk Study research team and RAPTOR Inc. Sharing the same mission and volunteers, RAPTOR Inc. has been able to help the research team with young hawks found in the nest which need medical attention. We also increase their banding of hawks for research. RAPTOR Inc. has been fortunate to have tree-climbers who are able to return birds to their natural nests and who know of various nest opportunities to use for foster nestlings.

## Return to Normal in 2021

Due to the nature of field work, the "return to normal" has not had much impact on the research of raptors.





Carol and Tom Wick  
(photo by Alverson)



(standing L-R) Ellen Garner Crawford, Marc Alverson, Jackie Bray, Jordan West, Mary Landis, (kneeling L to R) Alice McCaleb, Carly Dovale  
(Rhinequest Fundraiser photo by C. Alverson)



Joe Lucas, Thomas Bray  
(Halloween Open House photo by J. Bray)

## Volunteers

RAPTOR Inc. would not be able to accomplish even a fraction of our mission without the steadfast devotion of our dozens of volunteers. In 2021, our 78 volunteers and interns lovingly provided over 7,353 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 six interns provided 1,102 hours of service alone.

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 during these uncertain times. We thank the following volunteers for their dedication and service in 2021:

|                    |                       |                     |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Nicole Addison     | Kelsey Donahue        | Mary Landis         | Jonathan Perlman |
| Marc Alverson      | Carly Dovale          | Richard Landis      | Danielle Quales  |
| Stephen Ashworth   | John Dransman         | Michael Latour      | Kira Rehn        |
| Rosie Ayers        | Lesley Dunlop         | Elizabeth Lindemann | Ken Renner       |
| Dan Begin          | Tom Eisele            | Gary Lord           | Jeff Ruhlman     |
| Kathryn Bennet     | Kayla Ferdelman       | Marianne Lord       | Robert Smith     |
| Lisa Berry         | Cassidy Ficker        | Jonas Locke         | Zan Smith        |
| Alison Bewley      | Amy Foltz             | Erin Lowery         | Amy Snyder       |
| Richard Binstadt   | Ellen Garner Crawford | Joe Lucas           | Andy Stevenson   |
| Caroline Blang     | Susan Gates           | Alice McCaleb       | Leena Taylor     |
| Mandi Blankenship  | Harrison Goston       | Lauren Menker       | Erin Tkatschenko |
| Megan Braemer      | Mary Graber           | Paul Menker         | Mindy Weiss      |
| Gay Bullock        | Carolyn Hall          | Linda Morrison      | Noah Wenker      |
| Kathy Caminiti     | Michelle Hall         | Donna Morsbach      | Tom & Carol Wick |
| David Conzett      | Charlene Howell       | Dana Ogden          | Sean Willingham  |
| Keegan Coplinger   | Katherine Jenkins     | Steve Olden         | Mike Wood        |
| Bruce Cortright    | Donald Kroner         | Ken Pawloski        | Jordan West      |
| Robin Cotton       | Jeff Kirssin          | Stefanie Paeg       | Gary Young       |
| Mackenzie Danker   | Kim Klosterman        | Sue Pettigrue       |                  |
| Jordan Della Bella | Lucy Kreimer          | Roger Pennington    |                  |

## Return to Normal in 2021

We are thankful that our volunteers stayed safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that they were able to actively contribute to the RAPTOR Inc. mission.

# Sponsorships

In 2021, sponsorships were made in two primary areas: bird banding and rehabilitation. Bird banding helps us to track how successful our rehabilitation efforts are, and it provides information on raptor movement. We thank the following "Sponsor a Banded Bird" donors:

|                       |                    |                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Catherine Adams       | Mary & Terry Kropp | Ben Von Handorf        |
| Barry & Martha Clark  | Jamie Madden       | John Weber             |
| Justin Clark          | Tracy Mayer        | Laura & Jim Whalen     |
| Joseph C. Grossi, DVM | Nick Pettry        | Polly Whittaker        |
| Ricki Huff            | Gary Rapien        | Lauren & Bob Woodiwiss |
| Donna Johnson         | Juliet Tanner      |                        |

The following caring individuals donated toward the care and treatment of the bird under rehabilitation:

|                   |                  |                       |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Todd Birch        | Carol & Tom Feld | Becca Kemer           |
| Tim Bond          | Christy Hall     | Deb Krehbiel          |
| Hallie Boso       | Denise Hall      | Linda Krekler         |
| Jamie Bueter      | Joann Hall       | Jo & John Miller      |
| Tom Carter        | Paul Hines       | Darci & Steven Newman |
| Kelly Conly       | Greg Holman      | Gayle Pille           |
| Vince Cook        | Amanda House     | Jared Pratt           |
| Stefanie Dean     | Andrea Jaeger    | Rusty Reinhart        |
| Jessica Edelbrock | Donna Johnson    | Tammy Kinman Ruppert  |



## Lifetime Members

Although we are grateful for all memberships that provide the funds for our conservation efforts, we would like to specifically recognize our new Lifetime Members who joined RAPTOR Inc. in 2021:

|                |                      |                 |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Barker | William Holmes       | Sherri Smith    |
| Robin Cotton   | Gary & Marianne Lord | Sean Willingham |
| John Graves    | Nathan McNamara      |                 |
| Greg Holman    | John Miller          |                 |

For a complete list of RAPTOR Inc. Lifetime Members, please refer to the Spring 2021 newsletter available on our website.

## RAPTOR Inc. 2021 Financial Report

| <b>2021 Revenue</b> | <b>Amount (\$)</b> | <b>% of Whole (%)</b> | <b>2021 Expenses</b>                     | <b>Amount (\$)</b> | <b>% of Whole (%)</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Memberships         | 22,145             | 5                     | Bird Care                                | 67,052             | 43                    |
| Contributions       | 53,284             | 12                    | Educational Programs                     | 10,710             | 7                     |
| Programs            | 25,448             | 6                     | Facilities Maintenance                   | 14,348             | 9                     |
| Fundraising         | 28,503             | 6                     | Administration                           | 26,049             | 17                    |
| Interest & Dividend | 297,650            | 65                    | Bank Charges & Fees                      | 29,908             | 18                    |
| Grants              | 14,550             | 3                     | Marketing/Fundraising                    | 9,409              | 6                     |
| Misc.               | 8,399              | 2                     |  |                    |                       |
| Corporate Support   | 5,409              | 1                     |  |                    |                       |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>455,388</b>     | <b>100</b>            | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>154,476</b>     | <b>100</b>            |
|                     |                    |                       | <i>Cost of Food in 2021: \$18,012.45</i> |                    |                       |

**Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!**

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**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Red-shouldered Hawk: \$50
- American Kestrel: \$50
- Great Horned Owl: \$50
- Eastern Screech Owl: \$50
- Red-tailed Hawk: \$50
- Cooper's Hawk: \$50
- Barred Owl: \$50

**Yes, I would like to sponsor a banded bird of the species checked below:**

If the bird you sponsor is recovered, you will be notified of the date and location of the recovery.



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
- Age (if known)
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife band number