



**MEDINA RAPTOR CENTER eNewsletter**

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Fall/Winter2009

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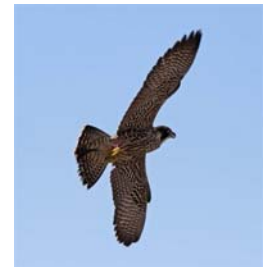
(330) 667-2386

Executive Directors Corner,

Thanks to everyone for their support financially, physically and emotionally. We had quite a busy year. Rehabilitation of raptors is a year-round commitment; however, the months of April through September are the busiest. This is due to the amount of nestlings and fledglings that fall from the nest due to the weather (winds and rain) or a larger sibling pushing them out.

The year in review:

So far this year we have helped a total of 433 animals. This total includes four Eagles, six Kestrels, five Peregrines, five Barn Owls, thirteen Barred Owls, fifteen Screech Owls, thirteen Great Horned Owls, three Vultures, forty-three Red-Tail Hawks, twenty-eight Red-Shouldered Hawks, three Broadwing Hawks, one Sharp-Shinned Hawk and fifteen Cooper's Hawks.



"Atlas" the Peregrine  
courtesy of  
Chad and Chris Saladin

As we go into the winter season most of our birds have been released. Our latest release was a kestrel that required long term care. She came to us last year with every feather burned. She had flown through a gas flare from a burn off. We had to wait for a complete molt before we could start conditioning her for flight again. What a great thrill it was to see her fly! She let us know with the kestrels' characteristic call of "KEE KEE KEE" that she never wanted to see us again. Maybe it was a thank you but whatever it was it is so good to see her flying once more.



Chelsea

Thanks to Hiram College who provided internship to Kim Sage and Chelsea Barattini. These young women worked side by side with me and received hands-on experience in raptor care and handling. They significantly lightened the load and helped ensure a successful rehabilitation season.

This past October I was invited to speak at the Michigan Wildlife Conference. It was great to meet others who are also committed to excellence as we are here in Ohio. I made a lot of new friends and we have agreed to network with each other so that we all can learn more.



Kim

We were busy on the educational front as well. Our outreach efforts have resulted in over 150 education programs and tours. MRC specializes in educational nature-based programs provided to the community. There is a fee for programs which is one way funds are generated to care for our birds. Our owl walks were a success and all our releases for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy were a wonderful success. A



Karen and Kathy

special thank you goes out to the Medina County Parks for inviting us to Wolf Creek with our educational owls. We met a lot of wonderful and caring people through the summer. Our school programs have started again and we are looking forward to seeing young and excited faces as they meet our beautiful educational birds for the first time. Our teachers, Kathy Sowash and Karen Morton bring a new excitement for learning whenever they enter the classroom. As retired teachers, we are lucky to have Kathy and Karen as such gifted experienced people with us. As good as Karen and Kathy are they seem to always be upstaged by their mesmerizing staff of educational feathered friends.

Our patients come to us in many ways. We have had people drive in from as far away as Holmes County and even Ashtabula County to bring in injured birds; rain or shine. These people are willing to take the time to help the animals and our thanks go out to all of you who care about these creatures.

We sincerely appreciate your support of our mission of rescue, rehabilitation and release. Your donations to the Medina Raptor Center go to work immediately to give patients excellent medical care and treatment. With the economic difficulties facing all of us this year we are also using part of our funding to help defray the costs of educational programs for local schools that can not afford presentations.

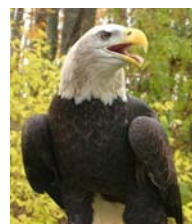
Thank you for your past support. I hope you can help us with our year-end campaign. Consider our Sponsor A Bird program for a unique Holiday gift. We are also offering PayPal on our website [www.medinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.medinaraptorcenter.org).

*Thank you, Laura Jordan*

### **What to Do If a Bird Strikes Your Window**

I receive several calls a week about how to deal with a bird that had struck a window. You can usually deal with it yourself if there is no evidence of severe injuries. Simply place the bird in a paper bag and put it in a quiet/dark area like a closet. Leave the bird alone (no peeking) for an hour to give it time to recover. Release the bird outside and if the bird cannot fly, then contact us.

### **Natures Calendar of Events**



Great Horned Owls will be calling now through January. Nesting time is January through February. The young owlets are in the nest sometimes during snow storms. The female owl will cover the baby owlets with her body to keep them warm.

Bald Eagles start nest building in January. Egg laying begins in February and March, the first sign of Spring. The first Red-Winged Blackbird was at the Center seen on February 16th. The first Turkey Vulture is seen on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Oh, maybe I'm wrong, maybe it's Buzzard Day on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Hinckley.

### **Upcoming Events**

Rocky River Nature Center Bird Of Prey Weekend is Sunday, February 6th, 2010 at 3 p.m. We will be giving a talk on raptors so please come and visit with us.

Shreve Migration Sensation is all day on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2010. We will be giving a program on the mysterious owls and will be providing children's programs throughout the day.

### **Introducing Our Newest Educational Birds, Rascal and Juniper**



Rascal, a red-phase Screech Owl, came to us from Stark County Parks as a very young owlet. Her left eye is permanently injured which prevents her from hunting in the wild. Rascal has joined Mischief on our educational staff.



Juniper, a Great Horned Owl, came to us from Grafton as a fledgling owlet. She was found in a field that had been recently sprayed with herbicide. Unfortunately, her eyes were damaged by the spray and she can not see well enough to be released. Juniper enjoys the company of Aspen, our resident Great Horned Owl, in a large enclosure.

### **Wish List for 2009**

Please take a moment and view on our website a list of items greatly needed for our center. We desperately need four energy efficient freezers. If you can donate any of these items please call us at 330-667-2386 or e-mail us at [ljordan@medinaraptorcenter.org](mailto:ljordan@medinaraptorcenter.org).

## Migration Experience by Debbie



A senior volunteer at the MRC took me on a field trip Sunday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> to view the fall migration of raptors. I had never been to one so I was looking forward to it. We went to southeast Michigan to the Lake Erie Metro Park site making sure we were there by 9am sharp.

Driving into the park we were greeted by a flock of blue jays resting at the park before taking off on their journey. That, in itself, was thrilling but just like a bell had sounded flock after flock after flock of raptors began to appear. First riding the thermal to the top, then like a train, streaming downward in a line to catch the next thermal to begin the process all over again. A few of these streams actually came right over where we were standing and viewing. I have seen pictures of these kettles of raptors but

they are no comparison to actual life. On that particular day, 16,292 Turkey Vultures were counted. 142 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 2 Northern Goshawks went over. 71 Red-tailed Hawks and 4 Golden Eagles and 1 Rough-legged Hawks were counted. 2 Swainson's Hawks were also counted. I suggest anyone that maybe interested should take one day to view this amazing event. Check out website: [www.smrr.net](http://www.smrr.net).

## Amazing Migration

Hundreds of species of birds migrate every year. There are about 300 species that migrate from northern part of the U.S. and Canada to South America, Central America and the West Indies for the winter. While enjoying the company of some of our most common summer residents such as Nighthawks, Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows realize that come fall, these species will begin their long mile journey across the Equator to Brazil.

- Turkey Vultures - 3700 miles to South America, a long way from Hinckley
- Ospreys - 2500- 6,000 miles to Brazil
- Short-Eared Owls - travel 3,000 miles; from Canada to the southern US
- Ruby Throated Hummingbirds - 3,500 miles to Central America
- Snowy Owls - 300-3,000 miles from the arctic tundra of Canada to northern US
- Chimney Swifts - (my favorite little flying cigars) will fly 1,900-6,000 miles to South America
- Tree Swallows - 600-3,400 miles to South America
- Barn Swallows - 1,550-6,800 miles to South America, WOW!
- **Arctic Tern – The complete migration round trip could be as much as 18,650 miles to 25,000 miles; almost the same circumference of the globe.** (Source: "The Complete Encyclopedia of Birds and Bird Migration" by Christopher M. Perrins & Jonathan Elphick)

The Bar-Headed Goose is the highest flyer at 29,000 feet. These geese have been seen flying over the Himalayas. Our Ohio mallards aren't too shabby either. They can fly as high as 21,000 feet.

Pretty amazing creatures aren't they? Scientists are keeping track of migration routes and species rather closely as habitat is diminishing quickly. This is impacting the number of birds in the wild. Other factors such as global weather changes play a role in number of birds migrating also. Species never seen in our area before are making a presence more frequently. Keep an eye on the skies; you may be surprised at what you will see.





### **Medina Raptor Center Sponsor A Bird Program**

Here's a great opportunity to find the gifts for those special people on your Christmas list. You can sponsor one of our educational birds to help with the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned birds. Our goal is to release most of our patients, but some can not be released due to permanent disabilities. Some of these animals become the Raptor Center's "educational staff" and ambassadors of their species, helping us teach about wildlife conservation.

Benefits...With a donation of \$50 or more, the sponsor will receive a certificate of sponsorship with a photo of the sponsored bird. Contributions to Sponsor A Bird are tax deductible as allowed by law. For larger donations we welcome the sponsor to visit and have a picture taken with the sponsored bird.

Our birds are permanent residents and available for sponsorship. The birds remain at the Center. Your donation goes toward food, medical, and housing expenses for the permanent residents and other patients. So looking for a special gift for someone who has everything? Sponsoring a bird in their name is an excellent choice.

**Medina Raptor Center**  
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