



# Medina Raptor Center

[www.medinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.medinaraptorcenter.org)

eNEWSLETTER

[ljordan@medinaraptorcenter.org](mailto:ljordan@medinaraptorcenter.org)

Established in 1985, the Medina Raptor Center is a leading raptor rehabilitation facility. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured or orphaned wildlife. We specialize in birds of prey and treat over 400 birds each year. All receive individual attention, appropriate veterinary care, physical therapy, training and conditioning before returning them to the wild.

MRC is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization and permitted by state and federal agencies. We depend solely on volunteers and there is no paid staff. We operate on the donations of time and money.

## News from the Mews:



Happy Holidays to all. We are now approaching our slower (?) time of year. Bill and I are looking forward to spending time with family and friends over the next several months.

Birds don't take holidays or vacations from getting injured. This job is 24 hours a day and seven days a week. We are so grateful for our volunteer staff that have stepped up and filled in the schedule so Bill and I can spend time with our children and family.

This time of year we see starvation cases and lots of injuries from vehicle collisions. Last year we saw more birds come in during this time of year than any other fall and winter. I hope this year will be better with less injuries coming in. Most of the rehabilitated birds have been released for this year. We had many wonderful releases and have 11 birds wintering over until spring. Of course our twenty one wonderful educational birds are here year round.



We gave 160 educational presentations and tours for schools, and area park systems and girl scouts and boy scouts and many other organizations. We helped 415 birds this year so far, and many have already been released. We currently have 4 birds in training for new homes.

With this last storm that passed through Bill and I realized that we need a few things to ensure that we can stay open and continue to help injured birds. We are in need of a generator to help assure that the 5 freezers will stay on in case the power doesn't. As time goes by, we realize that a snow blower would be wonderful to keep the paths safe and clear! We still need to replace a small building that is one of our original structures here. Unfortunately it is rotting away and needs to be replaced. We always need help with carpentry projects and office work. This year saw us train three new teachers for our educational programs which will help free me up to stay home and manage the birds in rehab.

As always we could not fulfill our mission, of rescue and rehabilitation and release, without your help. Thank you for your continued support. The birds and all the volunteers here at the center want to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

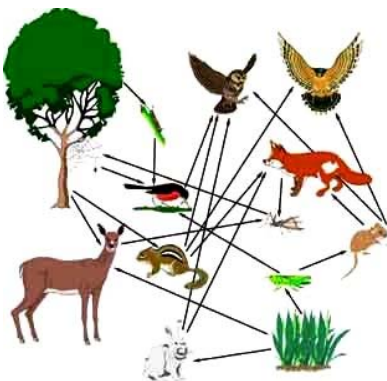
We spent \$10,596.29 on food for the raptors
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We spent \$2,553.00 on electricity
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We spent \$1700.00 on vet bills this past year
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Laura Jordan, MRC Executive Director

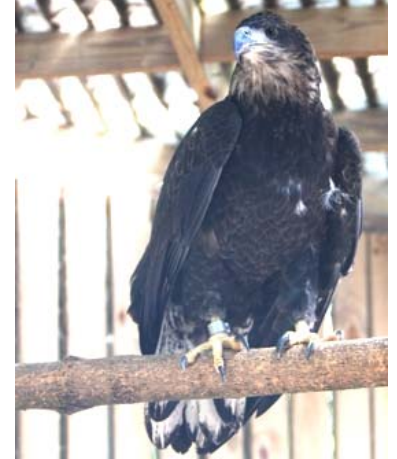
## Get The Lead Out & Help Our Wildlife



In many birds, the ingestion of one lead sinker or one lead bullet can be lethal. Birds with lead poisoning have body tremors and difficulty flying. Once they become weakened by the lead, they become more susceptible to the elements and more vulnerable to predators. They have trouble feeding, mating, nesting and caring for their chicks. Most of these birds die within weeks and it is a horrific death. Raptors, at the top of the food chain, suffer greatly from lead poisoning. We urge you to think about this as you head out to your favorite fishing or hunting spot. We also urge you to do what you can to help "get the lead out" of wildlife: 1). Use non-lead ammunition (there are numerous alternatives available). 2). Collect any spent slugs and any meat from wounds that may be contaminated with the lead. 3). Bury gut piles and dispose of carcasses so scavengers will not find them. 4). Switch to non-lead fishing weights available in tackle shops and retail stores. 5). Get rid of your old lead sinkers and jigs. 6). Help us spread the word: encourage other fishermen and hunters to get rid of their lead and tell them of the danger to wildlife with lead products; encourage local sporting good stores to expand their stock of non-lead alternatives. Remember, deaths due to lead poisoning can be prevented. Please help us in this important endeavor!

## Happy Ending for a Non-Releasable Eagle

The Medina Raptor Center has been very successful at rehabilitating endangered species. So it was no surprise when, in October of 2006, we received a call about an injured Bald Eagle in Holmes County. On her arrival at MRC, it was determined that she had a left wing fracture and two metacarpal fractures. She was treated by our avian veterinarian and returned to the center to recuperate. Her progress was slow but steady and she was eventually flying well and catching live prey in our large flight cage. In early 2008, this beautiful Eagle was ready to be released back to the wild. She was taken to Funk Bottoms which is a great Eagle habitat but she wouldn't (or couldn't) fly. Back to the MRC she came for more conditioning and a weight management plan. In June of 2008, she was released again – this time in Wellington, Ohio. All was well until we got a call about a Bald Eagle food begging from people in a park. Once again, she was caught and brought back to MRC. Unfortunately, during her lengthy recovery, she had become habituated to humans which meant she would be unable to survive in the wild. Luckily, we had established a great relationship with the American Eagle Foundation in Tennessee. We contacted them for suggestions and they offered to take our Eagle. They would try further conditioning and re-evaluate her for release. If they determined that she could not be released, they would give her a permanent home at Dollywood's Eagle Mountain Sanctuary. This is a 30,000 square foot natural outdoor aviary that re-creates Eagles' natural habitat. If she couldn't live in the wild, this was the next best thing. We were thrilled and off to Tennessee she went. Sadly, they also determined she was un-releasable. She was taken to Eagle Mountain Sanctuary to live with other Bald Eagles. To our surprise, we were notified earlier this year that our Eagle had found herself a mate and laid eggs. The American Eagle Foundation decided to make her part of their Bald Eagle breeding program. She will now be instrumental in maintaining and increasing the Bald Eagle population in Tennessee. What a happy ending for an un-releasable Eagle. And guess what they named our Eagle? They named her "Medina" and we couldn't be prouder!



For more information on The American Eagle Foundation, please go to [www.eagles.org](http://www.eagles.org).

## Life As a Raptor Rescue Volunteer



My name is Steve Pavelka and I am a Raptor Rescue Volunteer for The Medina Raptor Center. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year of volunteering and 3<sup>rd</sup> year with my own Ohio Category II & Federal permit under MRC to work with raptors. The life of a Raptor Rescue Volunteer can take you down many paths. During the first 10 months of 2010, I have traveled 3,850 miles and put in over 300 hours. This includes 32 raptor rescues which is a big part of what I do. I have had the opportunity to rescue just about anything you could imagine from Hummingbirds to Herons and Swans as well as Owls, Hawks, Eagles and Falcons. Of course, most of my calls come in during evening hours or during inclement weather. But neither rain, snow or darkness deter me from helping the birds. I've had to go into deep into water to rescue a floundering baby Great Horned Owl...and then catch the property owner as he fell down a steep hill trying to help me. I've untangled Coopers' Hawks from fencing and Red Tail Hawks

from soccer nets. I've picked injured Owls up off the side of the road and I've searched through wooded areas for injured birds. I've worked very closely with ODNR personnel; other MRC volunteers and even my own wife, Leslie who lets me keep mice in the freezer! One thing is for sure – the life of a Raptor Rescue Volunteer is never dull. The Medina Raptor Center is committed to the rescue and rehabilitation of injured Birds of Prey...and I'm proud to be a part of that.



## An Interesting Rescue

I received a phone call from a farmer in Seville who told me two owls were trapped in his combine. He told me he had driven his combine to his house from the field where he had been combining soybeans. He heard some noises and when he investigated he found two owl faces, mostly eyes, staring up at him.

When we arrived I was surprised to find two very large Great Horned Owls stuck inside this huge machine. We have no idea how they got in there. I expected to see screech owls, which are little troublemakers and are often found in places they shouldn't be. These birds were huge and an obvious female and male. Getting them out of this predicament proved to be challenging. I brought my volunteer Mark Campbell with me and he was willing to climb up on this machine and see what he could do. I had brought one cage (for screech owls) and two nets and my big gloves and another set of small gloves.

Mark was able to bring one bird up and out with the aid of two nets and the large gloves. The other one was easier to remove. Both owls were in good shape except for a slight scratch on the female's eye. Both owls were then put into one cage and probably thought they had better living conditions in the combine. We brought them home and kept them for about ten days to make sure the female's eye was fine.

Then we returned them to the farm where they originally discovered the combine probably filled with mice chomping on soybeans. Both flew beautifully and were glad to be home again.

Their release can be seen on our website and Facebook page at [www.medinaraptorcenter.org](http://www.medinaraptorcenter.org)



## Autumn Splendor and Raptors Galore!



Does seeing a soaring Red Tail take your breath away? Does seeing a colorful little Kestrel bobbing on a wire make you smile? Does seeing a Bald Eagle perched in a tree stop you dead in your tracks? If you answered “yes” to any or all of these questions, you really need to experience a Fall Raptor Migration.

In the Fall, thousands of Raptors fly over official hawk watch sites on their journey south. They migrate to follow their food source, not because the weather gets cold and snowy. The Raptors use “thermals” which are warm columns of air that rise from the ground to provide “lift”. Raptors follow these thermals up almost like an elevator and then veer off to catch the next thermal for another lift.

These thermals allow the birds to glide through the air without burning energy on their journey allowing them to use that important energy for hunting and hard flying when necessary. Some of the birds just go to the southern parts of the United States. Others go all the way to Central or South America.



September brings huge numbers of Broad Wing Hawks, Sharp Shinned Hawks, Kestrels, Osprey and Bald Eagles. October’s numbers are not as large but the variety of species increases. October brings Peregrines, Merlins, Turkey Vultures, Cooper’s Hawks, Red Tails & Red Shoulders. November brings the “big boys” through – Golden Eagles, Northern goshawks and Rough Legged Hawks. Most hawk watch sites have experienced “counters” to help you identify and learn about the various species. So, if you love raptors, grab your binoculars and field guide; plan a trip to one of the hawk watch sites in easy travel distance. You will experience something that you will never forget.

Recommended Hawk Watch Sites Within Easy Driving Distance:

- Lake Erie Metropark (Brownstown, Michigan)
  - Holiday Beach (Ontario, Canada)
- These are little farther to travel, but worth the trip:
- Cape May (Cape May Point, New Jersey)
  - Hawk Mountain (Kempton, Pennsylvania)
  - Hawk Ridge (Minnesota)



Medina Raptor Center  
P.O. Box 74  
Spencer, Ohio 4275



## Medina Raptor Center Sponsor a Bird Program

The Sponsor a Bird Program is one way you can participate in the conservation of these magnificent birds of prey. By sponsoring one of the permanent residents at the Medina Raptor Center, you support the care and feeding of the Center's patients and permanent residents. A sponsorship packet comes along with each donation. Sponsor A Bird Programs make great gift ideas, too, with the holidays fast approaching. For Christmas delivery, please respond prior to December 10th.

**Sponsorship Donation of \$50.00 for any bird of your choice:**

Screech Owl	Peregrine Falcon
Barred Owl	Red-Tail Hawk
Great Horned Owl	American Kestrel
Snowy Owl	Turkey Vulture
Barn Owl	Red Shouldered Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Rough-Legged Hawk
Cedar Waxwing	American Bald Eagle donation is \$200.00

**Yes: I'd like to sponsor a bird:**

The type of bird we wish to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ "or" please choose a bird for us:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person receiving sponsorship (if different)

Name (for certificate): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check/cash in the amount of \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$200 \_\_\_Other

(Thank you for your support and please make checks payable to the Medina Raptor Center.)

Remember all donations will go toward the purchase of food and medication for the Center's patients and permanent residents. Contribution sot Sponsor a Bird are tax deductible as allowed by law.

**Medina Raptor Center, P.O. Box 74, Spencer, Ohio 44275**