



Medina Raptor Center

www.medinaraptorcenter.org

eNEWSLETTER
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Established in 1990, the Medina Raptor Center is one of Ohio's leading raptor rehabilitation facilities. We treat over 450 birds each year. All receive individual attention, appropriate veterinary care, physical therapy, training and conditioning before return to the wild.

MRC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with all the required state and federal licenses. We depend solely on volunteers and there is no paid staff. The Center functions on the donation of services by skilled veterinarians and countless hours provided by our volunteers.

Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured or orphaned birds. We work with many songbirds and specialize in birds of prey. Professional medical treatment is donated by a number of local veterinarians. Our job is to provide the birds with post-treatment care (such as wound management, medications and physical therapy) in order to return them to the wild. This treatment is provided at our small medical facility and through the use of more than 40 cages of various sizes for therapy and flight work. We also utilize falconry equipment and techniques to provide physical conditioning and flight practice for the birds.

News from the Mews:

Spring is finally here, and we are preparing for the rush of baby season. Like all of you, we are happy to have finally thawed out. The last of the heated water bowls are back in storage. The Center's residents have had to deal with a very snowy winter. Because snow and ice piled up on the roofs of some of the flight cages, several birds lived in partial darkness until the thaw. I am glad to say that the days are warmer here at the Center and the birds can enjoy the sunlight once again.



On another spring note, Migisi, our educational bald eagle, laid three eggs this spring. The last egg arrived on April 5th. Along with the egg, Migisi's nest also contained a ball, a Kong dog toy and a fuzzy bowling pin, all of which she was incubating.

We continue to provide training to our Hiram College biology students and to new rehabilitators in our area. Kim Sage, a former Hiram intern, is off to the World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, Missouri for a summer internship. We wish her the best with this great opportunity. Our new Hiram interns start in May, and we look forward to another wonderful summer of sharing our knowledge and experience with new, eager friends.

Our work at the Raptor Center would not be possible without your generous support. The invaluable help we receive from our veterinarians enable the birds to fully recover so they may be returned to the wild. The backbone of the organization is our incredible volunteer staff who gives their time so freely to help these birds.

Have a wonderful summer, Laura Jordan, MRC Executive

Director

Our Centers' Loss

On Thanksgiving Day this past November, the Center suffered the unexpected loss of "Cricket," its one and only Saw Whet Owl. Cricket hatched in 2003, and in October of the same year, he was brought to the Center after being hit by a car and suffering nerve damage to one of his wings. Due to the nerve damage, Cricket was non-releasable and was trained as one of our educational program ambassadors. Cricket was wonderful to work with and was loved by young and old alike and will be missed.



MRC 2009 Overview

All our birds have been released from 2009 and we are ready to start the new season. We have yellow-bellied sapsucker, female mallard with a broken leg (who produced an egg for us), a wide variety of baby Great Horned Owls, and two Peregrine Falcons from other facilities that are here to be conditioned to be released back to the wild.

Migisi has been busy participating in educational programs all winter. You can check out our scheduled program details at the website listed above. Migisi has been playing a large part in educating the public on the benefits of our local raptors and the important roles they play in the ecosystem. Without raptors, we would surely be overrun by rodents and other small animals and insects.

Even though most of our birds don't enjoy the cold temperatures, "Ella," our educational Snowy Owl, finds the winter months quite comfortable. She spent the winter in her new cage, built by an Eagle Scout and his troop for the Center. Coming from the arctic tundra, Ella is accustomed to the frigid temperatures.



Medina Raptor Center's Wish List and Upcoming Projects

In addition to a never-ending supply of mice and insects and fruit, the Center is in need of many other items vital to its success as a year-round rehabilitation facility. Some basic needs are office supplies like computer paper, photo paper, and blank CDs. For our food preparation area, a small shop vacuum would be greatly appreciated to aid with the cleaning. A leaf blower would be a tremendous help to blow leaves and needles off the roofs of the outdoor cages.

Upcoming projects to be completed include netting replacement in two of our flight cages, as well as the rebuilding of our live mouse storage shed, the "Mouse House." A new enclosure also needs to be built to accommodate the rehabilitation of injured swans. In addition to these projects we would love to be able to provide free educational programs to children in the Medina School District. We are hoping to be able to start this in the fall of 2010 if you would like to earmark a donation for any of these projects.

The Medina Raptor Center would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated in the past; you have made this entire facility possible. Thank you.

Releases



The best part of our job is the day birds that we have cared for are ready to be released.

When an injured raptor comes into the center, it is evaluated and if needed, taken to a qualified veterinarian. At that time the necessary steps are taken to ensure the bird is pain-free and given the best medical care to begin its road to total recovery. Sometimes the stay is short and other times it is extended with physical therapy rehabilitation in flight cages.



But once we get the "green flag" from the vets, it is a wonderful day! We choose the best weather conditions to allow the bird enough time to acquaint itself once again to the great outdoors. We try to release in the general area the bird was found but if that isn't possible, we choose the best habitat for the specific species of raptor. We have a success rate of approximately 85% and that is considering we take in over 450 raptors/birds a year!

Egg Laying – Nesting – Baby Bird Season

With springtime comes new beginnings and that doesn't exclude the raptors. From February on to the end of June, we can expect to see babies. Even our own "mamas" here at the center are laying their eggs and we have lots of girls around here! What should you do if you see a baby on the ground? Well, the best thing is to leave it alone if at all possible. Parents are usually very near by feeding and caring for these youngsters.

Please do not disturb an active nest. Federal law protects the nest, eggs and babies and adults. All birds are protected except the pigeon, the English Sparrow and the European Starling. Broken or fallen nests can be replaced by a substitute nest nearby in another tree. These nests need to be able to drain; baskets and hanging flower baskets make good substitutes.

If you find a baby down put it back in the nest. Birds do not have a strong sense of smell so you can pick it up and return it to its mother. If it is injured please call us at 330-667-2386 and we can guide you further.

Let us all join in to keep our property "wildlife friendly" by providing water in the form of garden ponds or birdbaths, and to provide shelter in the form of native plants and bushes and grasses. There are numerous websites that give us great examples to encourage birds to set up housekeeping in your area.



***"Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that has."
~ Margaret Meade***

