



# Medina Raptor Center

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

eNEWSLETTER

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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:

It's been a very busy winter for us. We have helped many birds and unfortunately, in many cases, they have been badly broken. Again we find ourselves thanking our wonderful veterinarians for their amazing and dedicated service to these beautiful birds.

A big "thank you" to all our volunteers who made it to the Center, trudging through the snow and ice, to feed and clean all the birds. This has been a very difficult winter and kudos to those hardy souls who did extra shifts for those who could not make it through the snow. Thank you to our wonderful rescuers who I usually call when there is a blizzard, raining, or it's just about time to sit down and have a delicious dinner. It takes many wonderful dedicated people to run this place and I thank every one of them. This is a team effort and we saw it especially this winter. Spring can't come soon enough!

Chad and Chris Saladin and Chelsea Barattini accompanied me to New York for the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference. All four of us had the honor of speaking at the conference this year. Chad and Chris assisted me in my talk about Peregrine Falcons. They showed their incredible photographs and described how easily it is for these birds to get injured. Chelsea (2009 summer intern from Hiram) was asked to talk about her research studies on cormorants in Canada done last summer. We had a wonderful time sharing and networking.



One more Peregrine gets to go free again. On a cold winters day about 25 people gathered at Sandy Ridge in Lorain Co. Metro Parks to release Ranger. Ranger came in from the Cleveland Terminal Tower nest site having flown into the Huntington Bank building. He had terrible head trauma but steadily improved. We wanted him to be released before the Peregrines in Cleveland became too territorial. Good luck Ranger. We look forward to seeing him flying around the area again soon.



We are preparing for another busy spring and summer. We have purchased medicines and food for helping the emaciated birds that will be coming in soon due to this harsh winter. I purchased frozen berries and dried/live insects in anticipation of injured songbirds coming in from migration. We are glad to be able to keep our doors open another year to aid these injured, misplaced and orphaned birds that will be coming in. Thank you again to our faithful donors who have continued to give us their support in these difficult economic conditions. ~ Laura Jordan, MRC Director

## Northern Goshawk



The Northern Goshawk is the largest North American accipiter. The Goshawk is between 20-25 inches tall, weighing 22-48 ounces with a wingspan of 40-46 inches. It maneuvers through dense woods, taking prey as small as squirrels and as large as pheasants, crows, and rabbits. Juveniles and adults have a barred tail, with dark brown or black barring. Adults always have a white eye stripe. In North America, juveniles have pale-yellow eyes, and adults develop dark red eyes usually after their second year, although nutrition and genetics may affect eye color as well. The Northern Goshawk is found across northern America and Eurasia. The United States Fish & Wildlife Service has listed the Goshawk as a

"sensitive species", while it also benefits from various protection at the state level. In North America, the Goshawk is federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.



## Migration News

It is becoming apparent that with the recent climate changes, scientists have seen changes in migrating habits. We are seeing that migrating birds are returning earlier than before. This is especially true with those species that travel a shorter distance in their migration routes. This change has not been seen in those species traveling a longer distance during migration though. Scientists have seen that the long-distance migratory species are returning to a much different environment than before, leaving them at a disadvantage. So with the inability to adapt to climate changes, many species of songbird populations have declined recently.

Another migration concern is the BP oil spill especially in regards to the Peregrine Falcon. Some scientists are very concerned that some migrating Peregrine Falcons passing through the Gulf on their way to their nesting sites in Alaska and Greenland maybe affected by remnants of the oil spill. These falcons may take advantage of a struggling bird that isn't flying so well and kill it first. The worry is from all the toxins from the oil spill that may wind up contaminating the falcon prey, entering their system and causing reproductive problems. For more information visit [sciencedaily.com](http://sciencedaily.com). Other issues that have come about for migrating birds are the loss of habitat due to strong storms. Their usual stopovers and sight patterns have now either been changed or lost. Hundreds of birds are killed in one night by flying into darkened buildings. Campaigns such as "Lights on at Night" promoted by Harvey Webster in Cleveland, Ohio, hope to eliminate dark buildings at night for these travelers. You can read more at [http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/03/post\\_252.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/03/post_252.html).

### Turkey Vultures



The Turkey Vulture is a bird found throughout most of the Americas. They have a wingspan of 67–72 in.(5-6ft), a length of 25–32 in., and weight of 1.9–5 lb. The breeding season of the Turkey Vulture commences in March and continues into June. Eggs are generally laid on a bare surface in the nesting site in a protected location such as a cliff, a cave, a rock crevice, a burrow, inside a hollow tree, an old barn, or in a thicket. Females generally lay two eggs, but sometimes one and rarely three. The eggs are cream-colored, with brown or lavender spots around their larger end. Both parents incubate, and the young hatch after 30 to 40 days. Lacking a syrinx—the vocal organ of birds—its only vocalizations are grunts or low hisses. Its life expectancy in the



wild ranges upward of 16 years, with a captive life span of over 20 years being possible. The Turkey Vulture is a scavenger and feeds almost exclusively on carrion. In flight, it uses thermals to move through the air, flapping its wings infrequently. The Turkey Vulture received its common name from the resemblance of the male Wild Turkey, while the name "vulture" is derived from the Latin word *vulturus*, meaning "tearer". In the United States the Turkey Vulture is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

### Rescue stories



We had a Red Tail brought in from Cleveland area having been beaten by a man with a rake for eating a pigeon. A passerby stopped the man from doing more damage to the bird and put the bird in a box. The gentleman and the injured bird made the hour drive down to Medina. We immediately took a look at the bird and discovered the hawk had a dislocated elbow. We received a little Gray Phase Screech Owl that was trapped in a building; starved and in need of water. After a period of rest he is now flying and back to his normal weight again. He is with two other Screech Owls that have also come in from starvation. We will release all of them in the spring. We rescued a beautiful, young Red-Shouldered Hawk from a barn in Valley City. Fortunately nothing was wrong with the bird. He had flown into the barn through the window and was

trapped. Because he was a first year bird and did not have a mate we released the bird far away from that area. He had been dining on the owner's chickens. We received a beautiful Goshawk from a friend of ours who said the bird had attacked a falconer's Goshawk in the cage. He suffered minor injuries but should be able to return to the wild this spring.

Medina Raptor Center

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

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## 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!

**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***