

Medina Raptor Center

(330) 667-2386

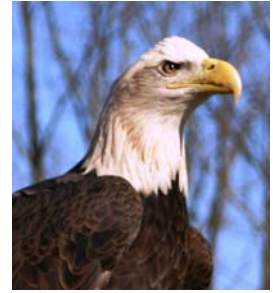
www.medinaraptorcenter.org

Summer 2008

LCRaptor@aol.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR,

Warm weather could not come soon enough. Winter's last days were difficult to endure for the caregivers here at the Center. The birds enjoy the cold more than the heat but managing their diets and care in the freezing weather is a challenge. Keeping these birds healthy is a daily responsibility. All their food is weighed and supplements given, such as glucosamine, as per the needs of each individual and fish oil for the birds with fractures and arthritis. We now have some senior educational birds to care for: Sierra is a fifteen year old screech owl and Victoria is a barred owl in her twenties. They need supplemental heat and extra medical care during the cold months. Migisi, the Eagle, has had a badly fractured leg that we have to make sure her perching is correct and that her diet is managed correctly. Special attention is given to each bird making sure all their diets and supplements meet their needs and they are weighed on a weekly basis to make sure they stay at a good weight.



We also make sure every program is carefully chosen and run with the bird's comfort and safety in mind. It takes about one year to train a bird to comfortably accept being put into a transport carrier and to tolerate people around them. No bird will be placed in a situation that does not fit their personality and that does not ensure their well being.

The majority of the injured wild birds that come here have had a conflict with humans in some way. Because of these daily conflicts, I wanted to write about the encroaching development in urban areas. The cohabitation of humans and nature is very fragile and can be difficult to manage. Our educational raptors and those birds that we are able to release are an important reminder of how critical it is to respect and appreciate the natural world we all share. I feel education is so very important. For this reason we have been increasing our programs and opportunities to share these beautiful birds with the public. We believe children will love and take care of those things they can understand and see so we must make it a high priority to educate children about nature and leave them with a lasting appreciation and sense of responsibility for the natural world around us. These magnificent birds help us to accomplish that.

Thank you,
Laura Jordan

The Medina Raptor Center

Established in 1990, the Medina Raptor Center is now one of Ohio's leading raptor rehabilitation facilities. We treat over 300 birds each year. Most come to us with human-related injuries, such as motor vehicle collisions, poisoning (often by pesticides), gunshot wounds, and cat attacks. All receive individual attention, appropriate veterinary care, physical therapy, training and conditioning before return to the wild.



Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured or orphaned birds. We work with songbirds, waterfowl, 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 50 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.

MRC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with all the required state and federal permits. It depends solely on the generosity of our contributors, the donations of services by skilled veterinarians and countless hours provided by our volunteers.

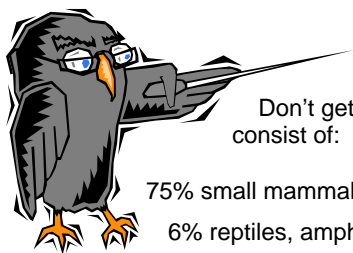
What to do if you find a baby bird . . .

So you found an orphan and you do not know what to do with it. The fact is, orphaned wildlife is rare. Most people don't understand that wildlife have a secretive and protective way to care for their young. Unless you see direct evidence (cat attack or hit by a car) our advice is always the same: Do Not INTERVENE. **Found an active nest?** Watch and enjoy it from a distance.

Federal and state law protects nests, eggs and babies. Do not disturb them. Taking wildlife into captivity is unlawful. **Broken or fallen nests?** Locate a box or basket that drains and place the nest in it in the shade. **Wildlife parents don't abandon-people misread situations.** Some birds do not incubate until the entire clutch is laid which can take up to two weeks. **Found an egg?** It was discarded or put there for a reason or it may even belong there. Leave it untouched. **Found a baby?** The parents will return once the baby is left alone. **"The mother has disappeared"**. Very rare. If she truly has don't forget most males will care for the babies.



So grab your bird books and binoculars and enjoy watching. Trust the parents to do the best – unless you're a bird, they have to be better than what you can do! You can help by planting native bushes like dogwoods, viburnums, junipers or hawthorns. These are fruit-bearing bushes that provide food for birds, especially during the winter. Provide water in the form of ponds or birdbaths. Provide shelter in the form of bushes and shrubs. Evergreens provide year-round protection from predators and the elements.



The Importance of Birds of Prey

Don't get caught believing that hawks and other birds of prey are eating game birds or pets. Their diets consist of:

75% small mammals like rabbits, mice, rats, squirrels, moles. 16% grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars.
6% reptiles, amphibians. 2% starlings, flickers, coots, pigeons and 1% fish.

Remember rodents can produce a litter every six weeks at approximately twelve per litter which equates to nine litters a year producing at least 108 offspring for just one rodent.

Breaker's Story



Our "feel good" story is about Breaker. Breaker, a **Peregrine Falcon** that came into our center in 2006, lost all his tail feathers and his left wing feathers in a battle with another Peregrine. Breaker was a youngster about to enter his first winter. He was hatched from a nest at the Eastlake FirstEnergy Plant. He was found injured below the I-480 Bridge in Cleveland. He was brought to us by two young men who seemed to know the bird was special because of the different colored bands on his legs. Breaker needed a lot of time to re-grow his feathers. Raptors only molt once a year so Breaker was going to be down for a long time. We needed to keep him active and at the same time, safe so we created perching in a cage that was suitable for his needs and yet gave him exercise. His feathers started to grow back, one by one, and in the Fall of 2007, we were able to ship him to The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota for proper falcon training. When you are dealing with the fastest birds in the world, you have to make sure they are given the best conditioning possible before release. Breaker did so well with his training that The Minnesota Raptor Center asked us if he could be sent to Topeka, Kansas and released there. There was a problem nest site where a male had been killing his young. So it was decided that Breaker be shipped and replace the male causing trouble at the nest site. The problem male was captured and put into an educational program. Breaker was released at the site March 17, 2008. So far all

is well and Breaker is doing what all Peregrines should do – flying fast and free and raising more Peregrines. It was a pleasure to take part in this wonderful story. Good Luck, Breaker!

Progress of our Eagle, Migisi

We have all worked very hard with the training of our eagle, Migisi, but she has put forth the most effort of all. She has tolerated, most admirably, all the new situations we have put before her in preparing her to becoming a program bird. She perches to come to the fist, she goes for walks with handlers and she even enters and leaves her new travel carrier without issues. Migisi does very well at programs run at the MRC and we are looking forward to taking her to programs off campus in the very near future.

She is also a TV star! Check out this link:

http://videos.cleveland.com/plaindealer/2008/05/training_migisi.html.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH -

Mentioned somewhere in this newsletter tells how long it take for a cigarette butt to decompose.

Help keep our planet green – do your part and others will follow your good example.

Welcome Wynton and Isadora

New to the Center this spring are a couple of Trumpeter Swans named Wynton and Isadora. Wynton, named after Wynton Marsalis (famous trumpeter) was walking the streets of Canton in Stark Co. He was picked up by a good Samaritan, and a brave one at that, and taken to Sanders Wildlife Center. From there he was transported to Dr. Riggs where he was given a complete exam. He was healthy and friendly and was taken to the Medina Raptor Center. In order to keep him here on the pond, we needed to find him a friend. So after much searching we found the perfect one for him, a twelve year old female that has never laid eggs. She came with her passport and legal papers and even though Wynton has no history, she seems to love being with him. As they peacefully float around the pond, we are glad they are here and that we were able to provide them a home.



Trumpeter Swans are the largest of North American native waterfowl and one of our heaviest flying birds. They are federally and state endangered species. These swans inhabit lakes, ponds, large rivers and coastal bays. They forage mainly for plant material and have been known to cultivate tubers such as sweet potatoes. Most southern populations do not migrate but the northern ones move south in late fall just before the ice forms.

Raccoons and Opossums and Skunks – OH My!

We receive about 15 to 20 calls a day. Most of these calls are concerning nuisance animals, not birds. We try to resolve these conflicts in a humane manner or send these calls to the proper people but most of the time, the answers given are not the answers that the people wish to hear. So with this article, I would like to give you some facts concerning these furry creatures. We will start with raccoons. Raccoon babies are called Kits. They are often taken from the wild illegally because they are cute or are left motherless beside the road because of cars. Occasionally someone will deliberately kill the mother or trap the mother and not realize that babies are probably near by. Then it becomes someone else's problem.

Here are some facts. In Medina County we can not raise or rehabilitate wild raccoons. There is no one permitted to do so in this county. They must be released in the county they were from. We encourage people to take the babies back where they found them so the mother can retrieve them. She will hear their cries and return to them and carry them to an alternate nest site. Make sure that the babies are in a box that the mother can get to them. If you are tempted to raise baby raccoons yourself, please consider the following: it is illegal. Disease is something that is always a threat even with baby raccoons. Rabies and raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) also leptospirosis and giardiasis are deadly. The formula that it takes to raise healthy raccoons is very specific and if not fed properly, they can develop metabolic bone disease. They need to grow up to be afraid of people or they will be shot or killed by a dog or another predator.

Lastly, raccoons do not make good pets. They are wild animals and will have the instincts of a wild animal when they grow up: growling, biting and climbing on everything and always trying to get outside. Let wild animal be wild.

For more information on discouraging raccoons visit the ODNR website or call the Ohio Department of Health or your county health department.

For natural ways to deter raccoons and other nuisance animals, a great book to read is “Wild Neighbors” by the Humane Society of the United States.

The Medina Raptor Center asks: “Do you know the time it takes for garbage to decompose in the environment?”

Paper towels – 2 to 4 weeks	Cigarette butt – 10 to 20 years
Orange or banana peel – 2 to 5 weeks	Newspaper – 6 weeks
Apple core – 2 months	Waxed milk carton – 3 months
Piece of plywood – 1 to 3 years	Plastic film container – 20 to 30 years
Tin can – 50 years	Styrofoam plastic cups – 50 years
Aluminum can – 80 years	Disposable diaper – 450 years

Information Source: U.S. National Park Service; Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, Florida

PLEASE HELP CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – FOR THE BIRDS AND FOR US ALL. THANK YOU!

Medina Raptor Center Website

Jesse Kepple, an MRC volunteer, has been hard at work updating and expanding our website. The new site includes rescue information, educational program opportunities, photos and complete profiles on each of our educational birds. Check it out at MedinaRaptorCenter.org.

How You Can Help . . . Sponsorship Programs

Want to become directly involved in the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned birds? You can by becoming a sponsor of one of our seventeen program birds. Our program birds consist of the following:



the Owls (Mischief, Aurora, Aspen and Cricket); the Hawks (Lazarus, Sky, Red, Cloud and Orion); the Others (Matilda, the Turkey Vulture; Henrietta the Great Blue Heron; Victory and Pitt Stop, the Peregrine Falcons, Feathers, the Kestrel and Migisi, the Eagle) and let us not forget our retired program birds (Sierra, the Screech Owl and Victoria the Barred Owl). For a \$50.00 annual sponsorship, you will receive a certificate of sponsorship with a photo of the bird of your choice. For a \$100.00 annual sponsorship, you will receive a certificate of sponsorship, a photo of the bird of your choice except the eagle and will have the opportunity to come to the Medina Raptor Center to be photographed with the adopted bird. For a \$200.00 annual sponsorship you will receive a certificate of sponsorship and a photo with our eagle, Migisi.

Visit us on the web at www.medinaraptorcenter.org and view our wonderful program birds. Your gift will go toward the purchase of food and medications for your bird. All contributions are tax-deductible. By sponsoring one of our program birds for yourself, your group or school, or as a special gift for someone else, you are personally involved in our rehabilitation and educational efforts. You can download a sponsorship form from our website for your convenience.

Medina Raptor Center

P.O. Box 74
Spencer, Ohio 44275