

Medina Raptor Center

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News from the Mews,

Our winter months have been quite busy. Even though the weather has been relatively mild, we are seeing more injured raptors than normal. For example, Christmas Eve saw us working hard to save an injured red-tailed hawk shot in Holmes County and a Cooper's Hawk that hit a window. Both raptors survived.



Our rescuers have put in an enormous amount of miles and have spent a lot of their personal fuel money on saving birds in trouble. The Medina Raptor Center could not function as it does without the help from our many volunteers.

Also, our wonderful veterinarians are working hard to assist these birds in their recovery so that they can be released back into their natural habitat.

Speaking of volunteers, we have two new individuals that have joined our "flock" this year. We welcome Jesse Kepple and Jamie Baker to our center. Jesse is currently moving and updating our website.

Flying Free Once More



We have great news to share. First, we have released a Cooper's Hawk and a Red Tail Hawk here at the center. We have released two Great Horned owls at a volunteer's property so that she can keep an eye on them and to date, they are doing great! On a sunny February afternoon we released a beautiful snowy owl found on Thanksgiving Day in Lakewood, Ohio. The owl had obviously been hit by a car. A kind passerby found a "bird friendly" person, Jeff Reibe who is one of our falconer partners, to rescue the owl. Jeff called the Medina Raptor Center for advice on what should be done. Laura Jordan advised the bird be taken to our vet, Dr. Riggs, immediately. The next day, Jeff transported the owl to Dr. Riggs. After months of medication and vet visits and rest, the owl's sight has returned and she is now ready to go home to the tundra of which she came. What an honor to have had the opportunity to help such an incredible bird!

Next in line to be released is our immature Bald Eagle who happened to be a bit too plump to be released earlier. After some conditioning and a weight watchers program, he is now ready.

Current Projects

Some projects that we are currently trying to gather up funds for are as follows: A camera to setup a webcam to observe the birds in their flight cages without stressful human interference, an updated security system, and completing our perimeter fence. We also need to repair a few cages. But one of our most exciting project is the construction of a new Eagle cage. We have acquired an educational Eagle from a facility up near Toledo. Our Eagle needs a new specially-built cage for her special needs. All that needs to happen besides some additional funding, is the weather to cooperate and to try to get some of our handy volunteers need to lend us a hand or two.

And as every year, our program schedule is full. Ranging from Buzzard Day to elementary school functions to even nursing home visits.

“Migisi” our Eagle

Migisi, an Indian name meaning “eagle,” is Medina Raptor Center’s first educational eagle. Migisi originally was located at a facility in Toledo called Nature’s Nursery but due to the fact they were moving to a different location, they needed to find her a new home. When Migisi was a three-week-old chick, she fell from her nest in Michigan and badly fractured her leg. She was taken to the University of Michigan for care. It was then that she became imprinted on humans. So she became a display bird and as she grew up, she became more and more difficult to handle. With the talents and patience of trainer Lou Gaeta and some dedicated volunteers, she has become a very well-behaved eagle and will begin her life as an educational bird.

Introducing Lou Gaeta

The Medina Raptor Center is proud to introduce an expert eagle trainer and a retired master falconer with over 40 years experience, Lou Gaeta. Lou has taken on the task of training our Eagle, Migisi, for which we are very thankful. He is also taking the time to educate a few of the Center’s volunteers in the proper handling of an eagle so as to ensure her training will be continued with the appropriate techniques needed for her success. Lou has been involved in training several falcons and eagles in his time and has trained the Eagle for the Cleveland Natural History Museum. We here, at the Medina Raptor Center, want to take this opportunity to graciously thank Lou Gaeta for all of his time and expertise in the training of our Migisi.



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 sixteen 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 and Feathers, the Kestrel) 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 and will have

the opportunity to come to the Medina Raptor Center to be photographed with your bird. 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 and others here at the Center. All contributions are tax-deductible.

So sponsor one of our program birds for yourself, your group or school, or as a special gift for someone else, you are personally involved in the rehabilitation and educational efforts for which we would be greatly appreciated. You can download a sponsorship form from our website for your convenience.



“The Question of the Month”

Which species of raptors hunts in packs like a wolf?

Don’t know? See the answer on page 3

Did you know . . . ?

Just like everything else, the cost of rehabilitating wildlife to be released has increased drastically. Each species needs special requirements to grow and thrive properly. These figures do NOT include the supplements, medications and supplies needed to keep this Center running:



"Cloud" a Leucistic Red Tail Hawk

- One robin nestling will cost \$50.00 for a four-week stay
- Baby squirrels will cost \$75.00 for one month
- A Red Tail Hawk will cost us \$150.00 for a 3-month stay
- A Great Blue Heron will cost \$150.00 for a one-month stay
- A Screech Owl will cost \$63.00 for one month
- A Peregrine Falcon will cost \$180.00; the cost of quail
- One Osprey will cost \$250.00 for one month
- One Eagle will cost \$180.00 . . . so please help us continue our work here by your donations of money, food, gift cards or supplies. Last year alone MRC helped 353 birds of all kinds with a majority of them being released.

Our "Wish List"

Even though the gift-giving holidays are over, that doesn't mean MRC doesn't still need many items. In the past, people have provided us with gift cards from places like Lowes, DIY, pet stores, etc., that have really come in quite handy. Other things we tend to go through a lot are items like paper towels, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, gallon Ziploc bags, mice bedding, typing paper, blank CDRW, small animal hanging watering bottles and toys, good masking tape, to name a few. Before tossing those items in the trash or in a garage sale, maybe they can be recycled at the Medina Raptor Center!

Busy, Busy, Busy . . .

The public can see MRC's birds of prey on March 16th at Buzzard Day in Hinckley at 10 am; April 5th at Shreve Migration Sensation at 7am; April 19th Earth Day in Medina County Parks system at 10am; April 22nd Earth Day in Wooster at OARDC at 1pm; May 10th Ottawa Int'l. Migratory Bird Day at Ottawa NWR at 9 am; June 26th Medina Parks Owl Walk at 8:30 pm and the list keeps growing.

Having an educational program and wondering about a guest speaker? The Medina Raptor Center is always available to have the opportunity to educate the public on our Birds of Prey. Please call early, we book up fast. We are confident that the more the community knows about these wonderful animals, the safer these birds will be and the more enjoyable their activities in the wild will be for those people interested in observing them.



The Medina Raptor Center



Established in 1990, the Medina Raptor Center is now one of Ohio's leading raptor rehabilitation facilities. We treat 200-300 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.

MRC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with all the required state and federal licenses. It depends solely on the generosity of our contributors, the donations 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 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 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.

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