



Established in 1990, The Medina Raptor Center is a leading raptor rehabilitation facility in Ohio. Our purpose is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned raptors. 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© (3) organization and permitted by State and Federal Agencies. We operate on donations of time and funds and supplies

Medina Raptor Center

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We are currently condensing our mailing list to save postage and trees. If you would like to continue receiving our newsletters please consider sending a small donation.

If you would like our newsletter via email, please send us a current email address so we can do that for you.

Our newsletter will now be in black and white to save money so more can go toward the care of the birds.

News from the Mews

by Laura Jordan

Avian Flu Concern

Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu is an extremely contagious virus that has recently spread throughout the nation including several neighboring states affecting more than 47 million turkeys and chickens and over two hundred premises. Avian Flu, HPAI, is spread through the saliva, nasal secretions, and feces of infected birds, including the transference from the wild bird population migrating through the state of Ohio. It seems to have affected waterfowl more than raptors; fortunately this virus does not pose any risk to human health.

While it has not entered Ohio yet it is necessary to protect Ohio's commercial poultry industry. On June 22 all the educational/rehab facilities in Ohio received a letter from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and from the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture prohibiting the movement, show, and exhibition of all birds, exotic, and specialty species.

One of the suggestions the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture had to keep our birds safe was that we put solid roofs on our educational bird enclosures. This was to protect our educational birds from fecal matter from potentially infected wild birds flying overhead. So this spring and summer we have been completing this extensive project. We also have put into effect specific biosecurity measures to protect our birds. When you visit the center you will see foot baths in place at

all of the entrances. This is only part of our new protocol.

This proclamation from ODA does not impact the rehabilitation of injured birds and educational programs done here at the center. It **does** impact the programs done off site at schools, park programs, environmental programs. This act will be in effect until April of 2016, though it will most likely be extended. Unfortunately, most of our programs were done off site and we had to cancel 40 programs from June 2015 thru April of 2016 and because of this we have lost significant amount of funding. These programs include some of our largest fundraisers, Bird of Prey Day, Buzzard Day and Shreve Migration Sensation all of which are coming up in the spring. This equals approximately 55% of our annual income.

Where the money goes:

First we have no paid staff. All the money goes to helping the birds.

In the year 2014 we spent a total of \$53,000 for mice, rats, chicks and quail, There were costs for medicine and supplies, cage modifications were made and we bought a new incubator. Luckily some food costs were offset due to leftover food from the previous year.

This year so far we have spent a total of \$25,000.00 on just food alone, which is one half of our total yearly expenses and we still have 3 months to go. We usually see 400-450 birds, though this year we are heading for 600 birds helped.

While some veterinarians donate their services we often still have to pay for blood work and supplies, medicines and bandages. This year in particular we have had some difficult medical cases.

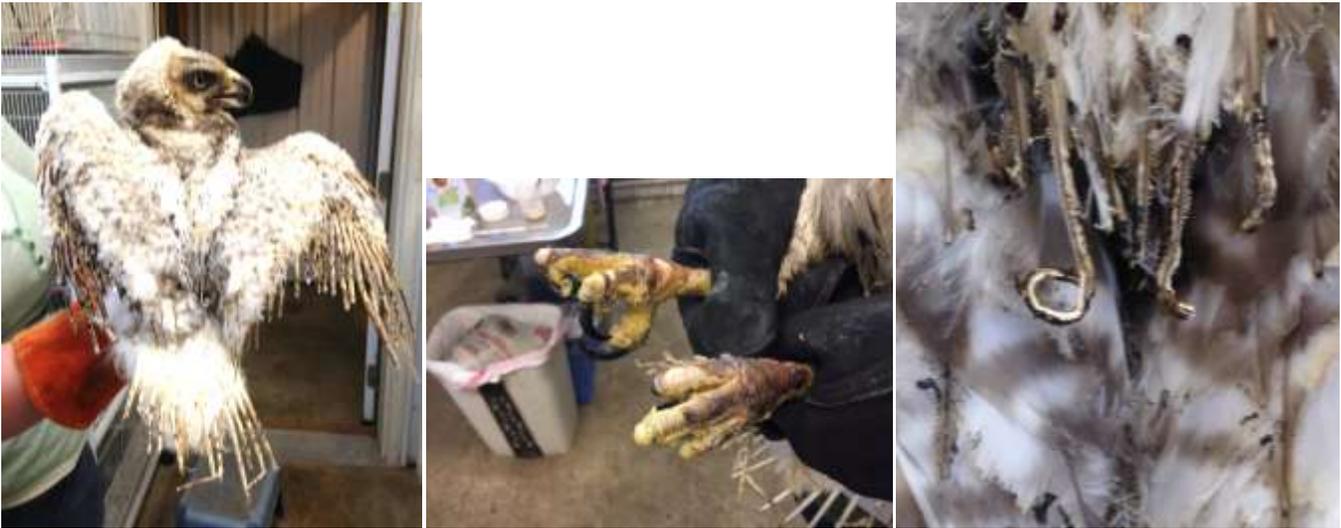
Roof modifications for enclosures as recommended by the ODA cost an unexpected \$5,600.

We need your help. We can make it through this year but we will be struggling to keep the doors open next year.

We need your continued support for these remaining months and the coming years so that we can stay open and continue helping these beautiful birds.

Remember, 95% of the injuries to these birds are either mans interference or a direct result of what man has done to the environment.

Please help us help them.



This Red-tailed Hawk came to us on 8/30/2015 after flying through a methane gas plume. Unfortunately this is an injury that we have been seeing more recently, this being our third case in two years. Methane gas burns clear so a bird cannot see it when they are flying over it. In addition, raptors do not have a strong sense of smell so they cannot smell it to avoid it either. As soon as a bird flies over one of these plumes their feathers instantly singe off and they fall to the ground like a rock. Our previous two cases of methane burns have been success stories but this bird is by far the worst case we have seen. You can clearly see in the pictures that he has severe feather damage; the heat was so intense some feathers actually started to curl. He also has severe burns on his cere (the skin above the beak) and his feet. Our main concern right now are his feet and legs, the burns are severe enough that we need to soak his feet in a medicated bath every day, though he is making great progress towards recovery. The skin on his cere has fallen off and he will most likely lose the keratin covering his beak. The vets believe this keratin should grow back in time. While he is extremely feisty and is making more progress than we had anticipated we are in it for the long haul with this bird. Once the skin on his feet heals he is looking at 2 plus years in rehab before all of his feathers come back in. One of the issues we may face once his feathers begin to grow again is a very strong chance that the shafts may so badly damaged that they will turn the wrong way or fall out completely. Only time will tell. The thing that makes this case so heartbreaking to us and at the same time makes us want to work so much harder to bring him back to full health is that this injury is 100% caused by man and there is really nothing that can be done to prevent it. We can't even imagine what it must be like for these majestic creatures to be flying freely one minute and falling to the ground in what must be excruciating pain the next, not knowing what happened. While this bird was lucky enough to make it to us it is unknown how many other birds are not so lucky.

With time and some great medical care we are incredibly hopeful for a full recovery. During this bird's stay with us he will need several trips to the vet, this winter he will need to be housed inside our center with specialized UV and fluorescent lighting, and he will need lots of food. If he is in fact with us for the 2 or 3 years, we are anticipating his care will cost us upwards of \$3000. It is all worth it when we are able to release these birds, but it makes your support and donations all that more important in the recovery of these creatures. We will be sure to keep all of our supporters updated on the process of this beautiful bird, "Valor".

Every little bit helps. There are some new and exciting ways to support the Medina Raptor Center. Amazon.com has some new features so you can help us while you shop. Smile.amazon.com is a branch of Amazon that will donate a portion of your purchase price directly to the organization of your choosing. All you have to do is sign up for Smile, select the Median Raptor Center as your preferred organization, and shop as normal, they will do all of the work for you.



Pictures: Nestling Bald Eagle, Juvenile Merlin, Juvenile Broad-winged Hawk

The movements of raptors and songbirds increases as the days become shorter. There is a slow decrease of natural food that also comes into play. With these changes come more injuries such as, power line hits, window strikes, automobile collisions, and human – bird conflicts. Observation is key. It's always a good idea to observe the bird before calling. Raptors will often mantle over their prey while eating and often this behavior is misunderstood for an injury. (Photo courtesy of The Modern Apprentice)



Watch the bird from a distance for an hour, this should be enough time for the bird to leave and fly back up to a tree or beyond. If it does not, give us a call.

If you see an injured bird please call us. We can guide you on how to gently place the bird in a box or container and take it to where it can receive some help. Due to the expense and time we can no longer rescue birds of prey but we still can take them in or guide you to a place that can.



We have seen more birds this year than ever before. Well over 500 birds, mostly raptors, have come in needing help. West Nile Virus has been a problem since the end of July. As I am writing this newsletter, all cages are full in the hospital and we are stacking crates for the new ones coming in. I am waiting on a new arrival from Valley City. We are seeing many young starving Red-tailed Hawks, Coopers Hawks and owls, along with a few Nighthawks and Goldfinches-many suffering from symptoms of West Nile Virus.



RELEASES

Here are just some of our recent releases at the Center. A Great Horned Owl, a Red-shouldered Hawk, an American Kestrel, and a Red-tailed Hawk.





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SPENCER, OHIO 44275**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our wish list and Bird Sponsorship information are available online at MedinaRaptorCenter.org. Checks should be made out to The Medina Raptor Center and mailed to PO Box 74, Spencer, OH 44275.

Visit MedinaRaptorCenter.org to donate by *PayPal* also.
Thank you for your support



_____ SPONSOR A BIRD	\$50
Bird Name _____	
(SEE WEBSITE FOR BIRD'S NAMES)	
_____ BALD EAGLE SPONSORSHIP	\$200
_____ One Year Newsletter	\$10
_____ DONATION (specify amount)	\$_____

Your Name _____

Email address _____

Your Address _____

Phone Number _____

Our Wish List

Some of the items we are in need of are: forever stamps, gas cards, gift cards from office product stores, Home Depot gift cards, computer paper, bird seed-cardinal mix for rehabbing songbirds, donation for raptor transport carriers for educational programs(\$300) each, 4-wheel drive gator-type vehicle to take food out to feeding stations so released young raptors can have food support while learning to take care of themselves in the wild and to assist volunteers to managing bluebird trails and keeping trails open and clear for school programs.

We have recently started an Amazon Wish List where you can purchase specific items we need and have them shipped directly to our facility. Search for Medina Raptor Center in the wish list and registry section of Amazon.com.