



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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Spring 2015

News from the Mews

by Laura Jordan

It's finally spring and what a welcome sight it is. After such a long winter we are seeing some very hungry raptors about. Many are coming in emaciated and with fatal injuries. We are pleased and thankful that so many of you are so willing to help us find these injured birds that are in trouble. It's nice having extra eyes about. Due to my leg injury I have had to curtail my rescues to just pickups in local areas. I no longer can chase geese and ducks, raptors around. Getting injured raptors from beneath houses and barns is not possible for me anymore. I sure appreciate the help of our wonderful volunteers and MRC friends to rescue these injured ones.

The first raptors to nest in the spring are the Great Horned Owls. These young owlets are the first to branch out of the nest and are often found sitting on the ground. As long as there are branches that can get them off the ground and away from coyotes they should be fine. Great Horned Owl mothers are quite intimidating and are incredible defenders of their young. As the season progresses many raptor babies and songbird babies will be at risk from the weather, and humans. Many will end up on the ground. If they are injured they need to get help right away. The sooner they come in the better. We have a short time frame to heal a fractured bone. Help us continue to help those who can't help themselves by alerting us to the potential



problem or bringing the bird into our Center and letting us check it out.

We can use help finding nests for the injured babies so that we can either return the babies or find new foster parents.

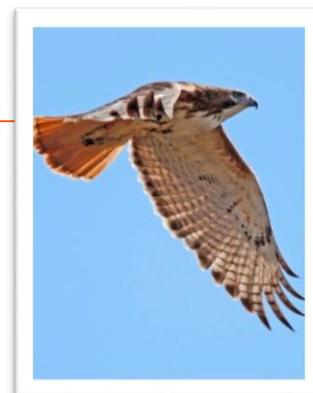
Please be diligent in removing all standing water as in bird baths, old buckets, tires, etc., around your yard. These are excellent breeding grounds for mosquitoes which carry West Nile Virus. This virus can affect us as well as the birds.

Please support our efforts to continue to educate children about the natural world by offering school programs and educational opportunities here at the Center. Check out our website to see when we will be giving our next program and try to attend.



In 2014 we received a Red-tailed Hawk in unusually bad shape. He had flown through a methane plume and burned all of his feathers and damaged feather shafts. Veterinarians did not think his feathers would ever grow back enough for him to be released. So we named him Phoenix and proceeded to care for his injuries with hopes he would make a good ambassador. We added him to our permit and trained him to be a program bird.

After a couple molts and strength training in a flight cage, Phoenix decided he didn't want to live in his new enclosure and wanted his freedom. With several volunteers attending we chose a beautiful sunny spring afternoon for his release. What a sight to see him take off in the blue skies to be free once more.



Pond Visitors this Winter

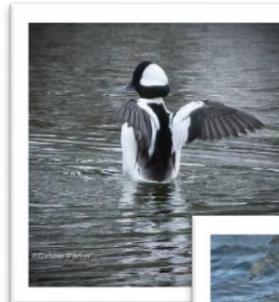
With record ice coverage on the Great Lakes, open water was in short supply over the past few months. Reports showed that Lake Erie alone was 98% ice covered. The winter's harsh conditions brought some unique species of waterfowl to Medina Raptor Center's lake. Both of our lakes have bubblers to try to keep the waters open.

We enjoyed the presence of both Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. Mergansers are very large diving ducks. Common Mergansers winter in our area whereas the Red-breasted Mergansers are currently migrating north.

The Canvasback was another migrating visitor making a pit stop.

Mixed in with our usual mob of Canada Geese and Mallards were some Buffleheads. This large-headed little duck can be seen constantly diving for food. These birds winter in our area and spend the summer in Canada and parts of Alaska.

Lastly there were Redheads that made our lake one of their stopovers for a part of the winter season. These divers summer in the upper northern regions of the US and Canada.



Bufflehead



Red-breasted Merganser

Canvasback



Common Merganser



MRC treated a total of 385 native and non-native wildlife patients this past year. Along with the birds we saw two Cottontails, a red squirrel and an Eastern Painted Turtle.

We treated 38 American Robins, 26 Mallards, 21 Mourning Doves, 20 Eastern Bluebirds and 15 Sparrows.

We also treated 33 Red-tailed Hawks, 19 Great Horned Owls, 13 Eastern Screech Owls, 13 Coopers Hawks, 14 Red-shouldered Hawks, 12 American Kestrels and 10 Turkey Vultures.

The "uncommon birds" we had at the Center were a Broad-winged Hawk, Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Sora.

The most common reason for injury were from collisions with vehicles.



Spring has Sprung

There are telltale signs that spring is in the air. Here at the farm Hepatica and Trillium are in bloom. Beautiful bird songs, spring peepers and leopard frogs fill the air.

Species such as the Redwing Blackbirds, Bluebirds, Song Sparrows and waterfowl like Trumpeter Swans begin to arrive. We also had Sandhill Cranes fly over.



Here is a list of programs & fundraisers coming up:

Annual Sponsorship Day, July 25th for those who have sponsored from January 2014- January 2015.

Heron Day – Medina Marsh – May 2nd WRLC

Baby Shower/Family Days – May 30th must pre-register.

Owl Walk/Medina County Park System – September 25th

Owl Walk/Findley State Park – October 2nd & 9th

Izaak Walton/Medina – October 10th

October 17th is an Owl Walk – pre-register by Oct. 1st @ MRC – limit 20

Owl Walk/Medina County Park System – October 23rd

IF YOU FIND A BABY OR INJURED ANIMAL

Unless it is obvious that the animal is hurt or bleeding, LEAVE IT ALONE and enjoy observing it. Wild animals have evolved over the course of millions of years as independent, free-living beings. They have needs, instincts and behaviors that are inseparably tied to their appropriate habitat. We receive approximately 30 calls a day about wildlife and human conflicts. One of our many goals is to stop people from interfering with nature and educate them to leave wildlife alone. But sometimes we come across a wild animal in need of assistance.

First of all, do not give the animal any food or water. If it is a baby bird and you can locate the nest from which it fell from, place it back. If you come across a fledgling, make sure it's safe and watch from a distance. It is normal for a young bird to be cared for on low branches or the ground by its parents. Feeding an animal/bird an incorrect diet can result in injury or death. If you have to rescue an injured bird, place it in an appropriately-sized, secure box with a towel or newspaper on the bottom. Make sure the box has air holes in the lid. Make sure the animal is out of the sun. Keep the animal in a dark, quiet place. Avoid handling them and keep children and pets away. Then call the wildlife authorities in your area.

Again, wild animals and wild birds belong in the wild. Spring is a time for baby animals so please respect them and let the parents take care of raising them. Our native birds are federally protected and at the Medina Raptor Center we have the proper diets and caging for these birds. We have received the proper training to successfully raise nestlings, fledglings and injured songbirds and birds of prey.

Our contact number is 330-667-2386

Website to reach a rehabilitator in your area: www.OWRA.ORG/find



So what are some other ways you can help wildlife? Here are some suggestions:

- **Cap your chimney.** Some cavity nesters will become stuck in chimneys and may become stuck. If you don't want Chimney Swifts nesting cap your chimney in March or April.
- **Don't cut down trees.** Nesting birds and mammals use them.
- **Don't use rodenticides.** It gets passed to those birds and animals that eat them.
- **Take down your soccer nets after you're done using them.** Raptors living in the urban areas sometime become trapped and injured in them. At night they may chase prey and the prey can go through the nets but the raptors can't.
- **Remove standing water in yard.** To help prevent West Nile disease, clean your birdbath often, empty buckets and old tires of water to ensure mosquitos do not have areas to breed by eliminating mosquito breeding spots in our environment.



P.O. BOX 74
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HOW CAN YOU 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
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 _____

Your Address _____

Your Contact 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.

Thank you so much!