



Rescue. Rehabilitate. Release.

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, 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 solely on donations of time, funds, and supplies.



From the Director's Desk

by Laura

We wish to thank all our faithful supporters and our new friends. Without your continued help we could not take care of the birds here at the center and educate children and adults on the value of these beautiful birds.

This year was challenging due to the rain and the high winds. Spring and Summer brought their own challenges. The high temperatures this summer made it hard for the birds to keep their nestlings in the nests as long as they should be. The rains created problems with young raptors getting soaked and hypothermic in the nest and unable to fly. Songbirds hopped out of their nests to the ground much earlier due to the rains and heat. They were watched and guided by their parents but at risk for cats and other predators because they were so young.



Phone calls averaged 50-60 -per day and we were able to solve many problems on the

phone. We were able to return many fledglings and nestlings back to their nests or artificial nests. Also, having the public use cell phone cameras help us to better understand what they are seeing and we can help them.

West Nile Virus was terrible again this year. The rains didn't help and we never did dry up around here. We lost several ash trees that came down on our perimeter fence. It created firewood for us but we were so sad to see them fall. The fence was fixed and new seedlings will be planted this spring.



Our Coopers Hawk nest in the front pines had 2 healthy youngsters fledge. We had a great time watching these birds. Our Red Shouldered Hawks nest moved to another location and they also had 2 fledge. We had 2 Red Tails fledged from a nest across the

street. They spent the summer learning to hunt here too. It was fun watching the dynamics between all three different species.



I have sad news to report. We lost two wonderful education birds this past month. Spirit, our beautiful Peregrine Falcon was only five years old and Bellatrix, our grey phase screech owl. They will be missed.

We sincerely appreciate all you do for us in keeping our doors open. We wish you a joyous Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year!

Laura and Bill Jordan

Species Watch: Keep a lookout for snow

By Karen S.

If you're a fan of the beautiful, Arctic-living snowy owl, you might be hoping to see some this winter. And the chances are good—though it might be difficult to match last years' experience.

The 2017-2018 winter saw record numbers of snowy owls in northern Ohio and other regions of the lower 48 states, thanks to an "irruption": a boom in population spurred by plentiful food. When the snowy's favorite prey, the lemming, is in strong supply in the Arctic, more snowy parents produce more eggs. When more young are born, the birds expand their wintering territories, which can mean visits south. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin are common wintering states for southbound snowies, but they're known to range much farther south as well.



Snowies are large, diurnal birds with pure white feathers, yellow eyes, and heavily feathered legs and feet. The males can be all white or prevalingly white with some dark markings. Females and young males are moderately to heavily barred with dark gray-brown on their heads, wings and body, although their underwings are white.

In Canada and Alaska, snowies spend their days eyeing the wide-open spaces of the tundra for prey. Since their native habitat is large, open spaces—often snow-covered and windy—they're accustomed to perching and

hunting from the ground, or perhaps from a fence post. When they head south, they're often drawn to airports and beaches, which mimic the landscape back home.

According to AllAboutBirds.com, snowy female makes her nests by "scraping a shallow hollow on the bare ground and shaping it by press her body into the depression. The process takes a few days, and the owls may reuse the nest site for many years."

Clutch sizes range widely, from three eggs to a dozen, depending on food supplies. The eggs hatch over several days. Chicks remain in the nest for up to three weeks, and parents continue to feed them for up to 10 weeks.

To learn more about snowies and their movements over the winter, visit projectsnowstorm.org. The site includes tips on etiquette, to help humans be respectful of these beautiful birds when they visit. You can also subscribe to eBird Alert to receive updates on snowy visits. That site is at eBird.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Heather K.

Meet Jillian Raber! She still live in her hometown with her two cats, her corn snake, and a back yard full of birds, squirrels, and the occasional den of foxes. Jillian started volunteering the summer of 2010 as an intern from Hiram College working 40+ hours a week raising the summer babies and she never quite left.

She wears many hats at the center from caring for birds throughout their whole rehabilitation, to presenting education programs with our permanent ambassadors and training new educators, to writing and compiling the newsletters, to watching the center when Laura is out of town.



Peregrine Falcons are her favorite species, they are so fascinating and she can talk about them for hours. Everyone should come to one of our programs so you can learn all about them! The difficult birds are her particular favorites, any birds full of sass that only behave on certain occasions makes those rare moments so much more special.

When Jillian is not at the center she does have a day job as a Registered Veterinary Technician working with dogs, cats, pet birds, and all kinds of exotics. She also really enjoy reading just about any genera and going for walks in the metro parks.

Jillian also loves to travel and has spent time in Italy, Costa Rica, France, and Germany with a laundry list of other places she would love to visit!!



Jillian R. with Migisi the American Bald Eagle



2018 Annual Appeal

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.

~John Muir



The Medina Raptor Center strives to share the joy and wonder of the natural world and its flighted inhabitants with people of all ages through our educational programming at schools, parks, libraries and even at our own private center. The center's property plays host to many native and natural habitats. Several breeding pairs of many species of birds and mammals choose our little piece of the wild to raise their young.

Our wonderful volunteers provide care to 400-600 injured wild native birds with the goal of getting them back to the wild. Along with giving birds the highest of veterinary care and a place to rest we work closely with other rehabilitation facilities to provide the best possible care we can.

Ways You can Help Support the Center

Contributions can be made as a monetary donation or by purchasing a wish list item either from our Amazon.com wish list or from our website list. Long-term support can be provided by including the Center in our estate and planned giving.

Whole frozen feeder animals are the primary source of food for the birds of prey. A \$50.00 donation would provide food for an eagle for a week. Bird seed, suet, and mealworms or waxworms are a staple for the songbirds we will play host to over the next year. A \$25.00 donation will feed baby songbirds for a week during the summer.

A \$150.00 donation would provide the materials and medication for the rehabilitation of one small raptor.

Gifts to the Annual Appeal are tax deductible and provide important resources to operate the Center and provide resources for rehabilitation services.

Don't forget our Sponsorship Program. Our Sponsorships make GREAT Christmas Gifts for those people that are hard to buy for. Each Sponsorship comes with a picture of the sponsored birds, a detailed biography of the bird and their species, a certificate of sponsorship, and a note of appreciation from us here at the Center. Get your sponsorships in soon so we can get them out in time for Christmas Delivery!

Tax Tip: Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

by Kathv N.

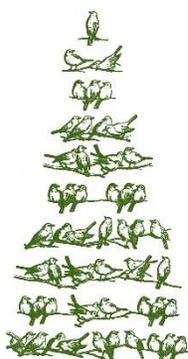
If you are retired, and over the age of 70½ you can donate to the Medina Raptor Center and satisfy your required minimum distributions required by law. In addition to the benefits of giving to a charity, a QCD excludes this amount from your taxable income. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce your tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare. A QCD is not subject to federal withholding, but state tax rules may vary. So for guidance, consult a tax advisor.

The IRS indicates that it's acceptable procedure for your IRA Account to make a check payable to the charitable organization of your choice, since these funds must be directly transferred from your IRA to the eligible charity. Many IRA accounts will automatically send a check to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations, such as the Medina Raptor Center. For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

Please consult with a tax professional for the most up-to-date advice, and to determine which retirement accounts qualify.



OUR EDUCATION BIRDS: PLEASE CHECK THE BOX OF THE BIRD YOU WISH TO SPONSOR		
 <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Screech Owl \$50
 <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron \$50
 <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel \$50
 <input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle \$200	 <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture \$50
 <input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk \$50	 <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwings \$25	 <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese Goose \$25
 <input type="checkbox"/> Bluebird \$25		



_____ SPONSOR A BIRD \$50

Bird Name _____

(SEE WEBSITE FOR BIRD'S NAMES)

_____ BALD EAGLE SPONSORSHIP \$200

_____ One Year Newsletter \$10

_____ DONATION \$ _____

Your Name _____

Preferred Format Snail Mail or Email (Circle One)

Your Address _____

Email Address _____

Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law

Medina Raptor Center
P.O. Box 74
Spencer, OH 44275
(330) 667-2386

(Please make checks payable to Medina Raptor Center)

Feeding Birds through the Winter

By Alison R.

Although we had a long, drawn out summer, winter will be here in no time at all. Winter is the most important time to set food out for backyard birds. They need to eat to keep up their energy levels and to stay warm. Some birds like chickadees must eat a third of their weight each day, and must eat enough food to keep their body temperature up or they will freeze to death. Luckily birds are clever and know where to get a variety of food sources, but you can assist them by putting out food.



You can either identify the birds in your yard and use bird books or an internet search to see what types of food your birds eat, or you can try putting out certain treats to encourage certain birds to your feeders. High-protein foods like suet and dried mealworms are high in energy. Black-oil sunflower seeds are eaten by most birds. Cardinals love safflower seeds, but other birds will eat them as well, and squirrels don't care for their bitter taste. Juncos and finches love nyjer seed, and peanuts are always a hit with the blue jays and woodpeckers. Dried fruit such as raisins or cranberries, or diced fresh apples are a wonderful treat as well. Different species prefer a different feeder, and stores like Wild Birds Unlimited have many different types, and they also have heated bird baths. Cardinals like a big perch or a platform feeder, and goldfinches and woodpeckers will eat upside-down. I know the frustration that comes from having a ninja squirrel make its way past the baffles I have placed to keep them out of my feeders, but in the end it's worth it. There's nothing better than watching all of the action at my feeders on a snowy day.



*Those who dwell among
the beauties and mysteries
of the earth are never alone
or weary of life.*

*The more clearly we can
focus our attention on the
wonders and realities of the
universe about us, the less
taste we shall have for
destruction.*

- Rachel Carson

Photo by Ed W.



Common Hazards Raptors face in the Wild

By Annette P.

It's a dangerous world out there. Even though raptors are apex predators in their natural habitats, they are frequently victims of man-made catastrophes, and these hazards cause around 90% of the injuries we see at the Center.

Rodenticides intended to kill a household pest will affect animals that depend on mice for their food, make them sick, and in time kill them.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in West Nile Virus in raptors. Poor water management that leads to increased mosquito populations, a carrier of the virus, and when birds arrive at the Center they are starving as a byproduct of the infection.

Fishing line is almost invisible and extremely strong and is often left behind on the ground by fisherman. Some people even use fishing line as traps to prevent animals from getting into ponds or gardens, but fishing line traps are indiscriminate in who they trap and there are often unintended consequences by mutilating or even killing the bird.

One of the most common reasons for a bird to come into rehab is a collision with a car. Birds of prey have magnificent binocular vision but poor peripheral vision. Trash thrown from cars such as apple cores and banana peels attract small mammals to the sides of the road where they are easy targets for raptors searching for a quick meal. Birds hit by cars suffer typically from head trauma, but most also have broken bones that can be difficult to stabilize. Window strikes cause many of the same injuries though with a much milder impact.

Habitat destruction doesn't have to be dramatic; it can be as simple as cutting down a single tree. Raptors are adaptable, but only to a certain point. Several species, particularly owls, are dependent on dead or decaying trees for nesting.

There are simple things you can do to help.

- Use natural or non-toxic methods for pest and rodent control.
- Dispose of trash appropriately (NOT out your car window!).
- Remove trees in the fall, when all species have finished nesting.
- Cut up fishing line and six-pack rings and dispose of properly.
- Choose stainless steel / copper shot if you hunt.
- Don't use lead sinkers in fishing.
- Place screens or stickers on windows to prevent window strikes.
- Support centers like ours and other conservation efforts that work to preserve the environment and educate the public.
- Remove trees in the fall, when all species have finished nesting.
- Cut up fishing line and dispose of properly.
- Cut up 6-pack rings before disposal.
- Choose stainless steel / copper shot if you hunt.
- Don't use lead sinkers in fishing.

Medina Raptor Center

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www.MedinaRaptorCenter.org



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, paper towels, non-latex gloves, and much more. You can find our full wish list on our website or on Amazon.com.

Visit MedinaRaptorCenter.org to learn more about donating.

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.

Help us save stamps and opt to receive your Newsletter or Sponsorship through email! Or update your address to continue receiving newsletters.

Help us go GREEN! Send us your email address for the quarterly newsletter and for NEW nature pamphlets to be sent throughout the year! Email us at MRC4News@gmail.com

PO Box 74
Spencer, Ohio 44275

