



**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.

# Medina Raptor Center Fall 2019

## From the Director's Desk

by Laura & Bill Jordan

Did you know that one out of four birds in the last 50 years has disappeared across North America? 2.9 million are gone. That fact really hit me as I began writing this column. I am way over 50 years old and I keep telling Bill, and my volunteers that I don't hear my wood thrushes in the numbers I have heard before. The bobolinks are hard to find when they used to be so common. We rarely see or hear the towhees anymore.

We do have a growing population of barn swallows and chimney swifts here. Our small bat colony is growing. We love sitting out at night watching the swallows and swifts and bats conduct mosquito control for us.



There is great joy come Fall when the migrants pass through. We love watching them feast on the natural food the meadows provide. In our own small way, we feel we are helping and we are certainly enjoying it. We have worked hard to save the habitat here at the center and surrounding property. This habitat is protected in perpetuity via a conservation easement through the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. We are just a small part of the equation. It takes everyone to care and make a difference.

The summer rainstorms caused some erosion on our trails. It took a long time for the mud puddles to dry up. We waited patiently for nestling hawks and owls to come in due to the weather, but none came. We had a few fledgling screech owls but that's all. Later in June and July we started to see some young hawks and fortunately after a short stay they were all able to be released. We want to thank our awesome veterinarians who put these birds back together when they are injured and help us help them return to the wild again.

This past Summer we trained a new Barn Owl, Athena, for educational programs. Jackie, our senior educational Barn Owl, is 11 now and she is getting grumpy in her old age. Barn owls don't usually have a long life span so we wanted to have Athena help her out with programs. Athena is doing great and might ease the program duties put upon Jackie. According to Cornell the oldest barn owl found in the wild was a 15-year-old Ohio bird.



We are also training a new Eagle named Denali. We hope he will take over Migisi's job soon as she is getting up in years and arthritic. Training this young bird is challenging. It is slow, but with very positive rewards.

We are so grateful to our wonderful supporters who help us keep our doors open. Our volunteers, God Bless Them, came thru rain and wind to take care of the birds for us. Our interns again were awesome, representing Baldwin Wallace College, Ashland College, and Ohio University. We wish these young women continued success in their endeavors. We will be accepting our 2020 summer intern applications in January. We look forward to helping more young students this coming year.

Please think of us when you are ordering on Amazon this holiday season. Pick us as your charity and we can help the birds thru your purchases. We have a wish list on Amazon.com where you can choose to help us with mealworms for songbirds that are stranded here thru the winter and everyday supplies that we desperately need.

Rodent Pro is offering gift certificates if you would like to give us a gift of mice and rats. It's the gift that keeps on giving. Since the price of frozen mice and rats keeps going up this gift is especially helpful in our efforts to keep helping injured birds. Please visit <https://www.rodentpro.com/categories/supplies/gift-certificates>.

# Ohio Bald Eagle Update

By Annette P.

Bald eagles continue to flourish in the state of Ohio and it is no longer a rare occurrence to spot an eagle soaring overhead! In fact, state biologists believe our population has increased by about 3.5% each of the past 10 years. Although the statistics for 2019 aren't in yet, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) estimates we had 286 active nests with 445 eaglets in 2018. That is a remarkable recovery considering that we only had four nests in 1979. Our bald eagle population continues to do well thanks to the efforts of ODNR, wildlife rehabilitators (like The Medina Raptor Center) who care for injured eagles and return them back to the wild and provide education regarding lead poisoning, fishing line, and pesticides along with concerned citizens who help with conservation efforts.



In Northeast Ohio alone, we observed active nests in The Cuyahoga Valley, Ohio & Erie Canal, Rocky River Reservation, North Ridgeville, Mentor, Eastlake, Chippewa Lake, Avon Lake, Vermillion, Huron, Akron, Wellington, and Sandusky. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge reported 18 active nests this year with two more at nearby Magee Marsh.

Although bald eagles are being seen more often in the buckeye state and are no longer endangered, they are still protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection act. If you go eagle watching, please remember

that it is illegal to disturb them and you are required to remain a minimum of 100 yards away to prevent them from abandoning their nest and/or eggs. We all need to work to keep our bald eagle population growing in Ohio!!!



# Volunteer Spotlight

By Annette P.

## Meet Lou Gaeta!

Lou is a Master Falconer with decades of experience under his belt and he has been kind enough to share that wealth of knowledge with all of us at The Medina Raptor Center - especially in the training of educational birds. Lou developed a love for birds of prey at a young age and eagerly researched raptors and the ancient art of falconry. He obtained his first bird, a female nestling Red Tail Hawk, and tried to duplicate what he had read in the falconry books. Then, while serving in the United States Air Force in the 1950's, he was shipped off to Germany. There he met up with his first real falconers. The German falconers were flying Northern Goshawks and Lou jumped in, learning as much as he could. He was hooked. From there, he went on to meet some Austrian falconers who were flying Golden Eagles. Lou worked closely with those falconers and their Golden Eagles and obtained his own beautiful Golden Eagle, Furious, named for her personality! Lou Flew Furious and began doing bird of prey shows at school assemblies. His shows were titled "Hunters with Wings" and featured Furious as well as a Peregrine Falcon, King Vulture, and Eurasian Eagle Owl.

Lou and his birds traveled the country and even made several guest appearances on The Mike Douglas Show. In addition to his falconry work, Lou also partnered with Cornell University in the 1970's to study and research artificial insemination in Golden Eagles and imprinting in raptors. To this date, Furious is the only Golden Eagle to have produced a fertile egg through artificial insemination.



In recent years, Lou has brought his knowledge and assistance to The Medina Raptor Center and was instrumental in helping us train our beloved Bald Eagle, Migisi, to become a program bird. Although she is now retired from programs, Migisi spent many years helping us educate the public on Bald Eagle Conservation, threats to bald eagles

(from lead poisoning, fishing line, power lines, pesticides, and more), the natural history of Bald Eagles and the comeback of the Bald Eagle in Ohio.

Lou says that "even after 55 years of working with raptors, I haven't stopped learning" and neither have we! Medina Raptor Center is very grateful to Lou for all of his guidance and knowledge. We hope to continue our relationship for years to come.





# 2019 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 programs 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 \$15.00 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 winter. A \$10.00 donation will feed songbirds for a week.

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!

Your generous donation will help our annual food bill, which exceeds \$23,000. Every dollar helps!

## Tax Tip: Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

by Kathv N.

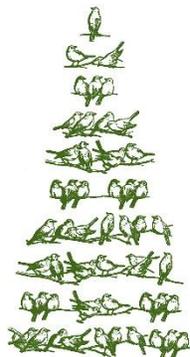
If you are retired, and over the age of 70½ you can donate to the Medina Raptor Center and satisfy your required minimum distributions (RMD) required by law. In addition to the benefits of giving to a charity, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) excludes this amount from your taxable income. Keeping 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 an 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 31st.

**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)

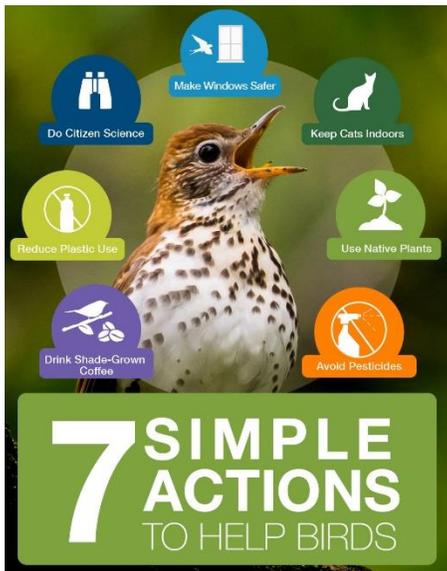
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

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)



7 Simple Ways You Can Help Birds

**1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night**

Simple adjustments to your windows can save birds' lives.

**2. Keep Cats Indoors**

Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. Outdoor cats kill more birds than any other non-native threat.

**3. Reduce Lawn by Planting Native Species**

The U.S. has 63 million acres of lawn. That's a huge potential for supporting wildlife.

**4. Avoid Pesticides**

Look for organic food choices and cut out some of the 1 billion pounds of pesticides used in the U.S. each year.

**5. Drink Coffee That's Good for Birds**

Shade-grown coffees are delicious, economically beneficial to farmers, and help more than 42 species of North American songbirds.

**6. Protect Our Planet From Plastics**

91% of plastics are not recycled and they take 400 years to degrade.

**7. Watch Birds, Share What You See**

Bird watchers are one of science's most vital sources of data on how the ecological world is faring.

# Nearly 3 Billion Birds Gone Since 1970

By Cornell Lab of Ornithology

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>



The first-ever comprehensive assessment of net population changes in the U.S. and Canada reveals across-the-board declines that scientists call "staggering." All told, the North American bird population is down by 2.9 billion breeding adults, with devastating losses among birds in every biome. Forests alone have lost 1 billion birds. Grassland bird populations collectively have declined by 53%, or another 720 million birds.

Not all the news out of this analysis is dire. Some groups of birds are doing well, and for good reason—governments and societies have invested in saving them. Raptors, waterfowl, and turkeys show what's possible when commitments are made to bird conservation.

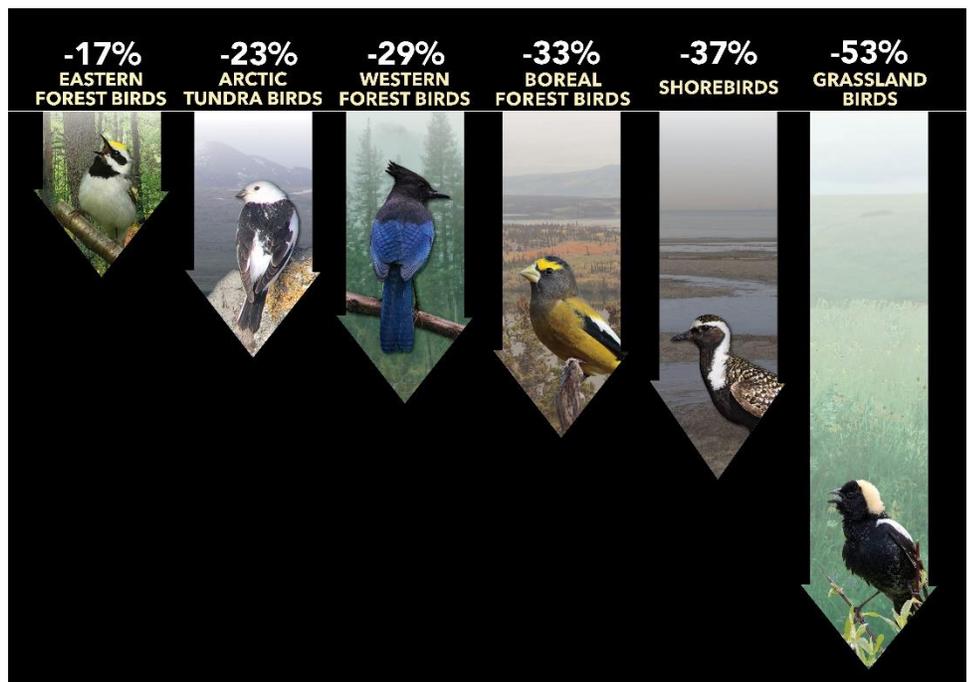
"When we've invested to combat declines for a particular group birds, we've succeeded," said study coauthor Arvind Panjabi, alluding to the waterfowl population increases attributable in part to the billions of dollars in habitat conservation work made possible by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. "Other birds could benefit from a similar approach," Panjabi said.

As Rosenberg, the study's lead author, points out, even if 30% of North America's birds are lost, there are still 70% left to spur a recovery if conservation measures can be implemented. But action must come soon.

"I don't think any of these really major declines are hopeless at this point," Rosenberg said. "But that may not be true 10 years from now."

For more information on this topic and any others concerning birds please visit the website of Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The successes of the past are the candles in the dark that will guide us towards solutions in the future.  
~Adam Smith, Environment and Climate Change Canada



# Medina Raptor Center

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## 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](http://MedinaRaptorCenter.org) to learn more about donating.

## How Can You Help?

Our wish list and Bird Sponsorship information are available online at [MedinaRaptorCenter.org](http://MedinaRaptorCenter.org). Checks should be made payable 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 e-mail! 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](mailto:MRC4News@gmail.com)



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