



# HackBack

The Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 36 Years

HackBack

[www.raptorinc.org](http://www.raptorinc.org)

Winter 2015

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## Mission

Since 1978, RAPTOR Inc. (Regional Association for the Protection and Treatment Of Raptors) has been dedicated to "the rehabilitation and return of raptors to their natural environment, the education of the public on the importance of raptors, and the preservation of their natural habitat."

## RAPTOR Adds Two New Flight Cages

by Marc Alverson, Vice President



*RAPTOR's new flight cages*

A generous donation from an anonymous donor allowed RAPTOR to construct two new flight cages to support our rehabilitation efforts. We have been running short on flight cages, especially for smaller birds, and needed cages that were "mouse-proofed" to support live prey testing. These two new cages, one 10' x 22' and the other 10' x 24', will primarily support rehabilitation of smaller birds such as screech owls and kestrels, but will also be useful for live prey testing of larger birds.

These new cages numbered 9 and 10 will supplement our existing rehab cages 1 through 8. They are both equipped with double doors and small vestibules to prevent escapes and have the lower portion of the walls lined with slick metal to prevent live mice from escaping. When a bird with questionable hunting skills is being evaluated, or in some cases trained, the bird is weighed and put in the cage along with a number of live mice. The bird must hunt and capture the live mice in order to feed itself. Sometimes the mice are sneaky and hide and sometimes they escape. The bird under evaluation is weighed daily to ensure it is finding and eating the mice. If a bird loses weight, it either "doesn't get

it" or else has a problem such as poor vision or coordination that prevents it from finding and eating the mice. In either case, the new cage will allow us to evaluate and determine the birds' ability to successfully hunt.

The construction of the new cages is similar to that of our other cages with treated lumber and gravel on the floor. Solid panels are used to provide protection and privacy, so birds in one cage cannot see birds in an adjacent cage. Slatted walls allow light and air circulation but prevent escape without risk of feather damage. A combination of slats and wire screening on the roof maintains the cage's integrity while allowing sunlight and air circulation. The new cages were built by Dan Gallagher Contracting & Remodeling, the same contractor who built our other cages.

The new cages will allow us to support more species simultaneously and will allow us to "live prey test" birds more quickly so that birds can be released as soon as possible. Previously, birds often had to wait for "a turn" in the only other cage suitable for live prey testing. We look forward to using these new cages and wish to thank the donor and volunteers who made this possible.

## Schedule a Bird of Prey Program!

Learn about the fascinating world of birds of prey by scheduling an Education Program by RAPTOR Inc. A trained education specialist will bring live birds of prey to your location and present a one hour informative and educational program to your group. Programs feature information about hawks, owls, vultures, eagles, and falcons.

For more information please contact RAPTOR Inc. at (513) 825-3325 or by email at [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org).



## Upcoming Programs

**February 21, 12:30 pm:** Museum of Natural History & Science at the Cincinnati Museum Center

**March 7, 9:30-3 pm:** Amish Bird Symposium, West Union, Ohio

**March 7, 7 pm:** Owl Prowl at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio

**March 28, 10:30-1:30 pm:** Newtown Feed and Supply, Newtown, Ohio

**June 20, 11-1 pm:** Wild About Birds, Milford, Ohio

**June 21, 1-3 pm:** Lavender Festival at Peaceful Acres Lavender Farm, Martinsville, Ohio

**2014 Presentations:**  
270 Presentations  
20,954 Audience Members

## Board of Trustee Nominations

The Board of Trustees has one open position and is looking for an energetic and passionate trustee to play an active role in the future of this growing organization. Experience with public relations is a plus, but is not required.

The meeting to elect RAPTOR Inc. trustees will be held on Wednesday,

March 18, 2015 at 7 PM at the Red Barn.

Board meetings are always open to members and are usually held the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Please contact a Board member to confirm the date and location. Join us

and see if you would like to be a part of this growing organization.

If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself or if you have any questions, please contact Cindy at 513 825-3325 or email [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org) by March 1, 2015.

### RAPTOR Inc. Board

Dan Begin, President  
Marc Alverson, Vice President  
Jeff Hays, Treasurer  
Melinda Simon, Secretary  
Dayle Deardurff, Trustee  
John Baumgartner, Trustee  
Donna Morsbach, Trustee  
Robert Smith, Trustee

Cindy Alverson, Executive Director  
[raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org)

The Board of Trustees generally meets the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M. All RAPTOR members are welcome to attend.

Contact Jeff Hays at (513) 821-9822 for meeting time and location.

### Communications

Gary Young, Newsletter Editor  
Erica Locke, Assistant Newsletter Editor

To submit articles or pictures for consideration in the HackBack, email the article to: [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org)

or by mail to:  
RAPTOR Inc.  
961 Barg Salt Run Road  
Milford, Ohio 45150

To report an injured raptor in the Greater Cincinnati area call RAPTOR Inc. (513) 825-3325

### Thank You To Our Veterinarians!

Bob Dahlhausen, D.V.M.  
(513) 576-1990

Joseph Grossi, D.V.M.  
(513) 772-6060

J. Peter Hill, D.V.M.  
(513) 793-3032

Vanessa Kuonen Cavens, D.V.M.  
(513) 561-0069

Paul Levitas, D.V.M.  
(513) 871-8866

## Ravenous Raptors

by Irv Simon, *RAPTOR* Volunteer

Raptors are meat eaters. In the wild they hunt and eat rodents, snakes, amphibians and insects; some raptor species also consume other birds. RAPTOR, Inc. feeds its education and rehabilitating birds a similar diet of dead rodents (mice and rats), chicks and quail. This is a major expense for RAPTOR; the annual value of the food we use is more than \$20,000.

For over 25 years, RAPTOR was able to secure the majority of its rodents (euthanized then frozen) from Charles River Laboratories in Portage, Michigan. Charles River is a major supplier of rodents to the biological research community in the US and beyond. Charles River's oversupply of mice and rats at Portage was donated several times each week to a large number of rehabilitation organizations in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Each group would arrive at Charles River on

its appointed day and receive thousands of dollars of "rodent value." RAPTOR made 4-6 trips per year to Charles River. In recent years, Melinda Simon has coordinated this effort and taken more than 35 day-long trips herself. Others, including the late Marilyn Arn, Susan Gates, Jeff Hays, Linda Fowler, Robert Smith and Irv Simon have been "fellow travelers." Once back in Cincinnati with the "loot," the rodents were packed by volunteers into small plastic bags and frozen for future use.

Unfortunately, in mid-2014 Charles River ended its operations in Portage. As the HackBack previously reported, a fund was established to support food purchases. We appreciate the generous contributions we have received.

A few months ago, RAPTOR, and many other animal rehabilitation organizations which had previously been supplied

by Charles River, received an exciting e-mail from Louise Sagaert, Director of Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Louise had secured a new (anonymous) source of rodents AND was willing to share them with the rehabilitators formerly supplied by Charles River. RAPTOR responded quickly to Louise's offer and made the 10 hour round-trip to Wildside this fall to pick up mice and rats. We are also scheduled to obtain rodents from Wildside in 2015. While the number of rodents from Wildside will not equal what we received from Charles River, it will be a significant contribution to our food supply. RAPTOR will still need to purchase some of our rodent needs and, as in the past, chicks and quail.

**Contributions to support the purchase of this food are still needed and much appreciated!**

## 2014 Admissions

American Kestrel	17	Saw-whet Owl	0	Black Vulture	3
Merlin	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Osprey	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	Cooper's Hawk	28	Golden Eagle	0
Eastern Screech Owl	19	Broad-winged Hawk	4	Bald Eagle	1
Barred Owl	14	Red-shouldered Hawk	33		
Barn Owl	0	Red-tailed Hawk	50	<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>
Great Horned Owl	24	Rough-legged Hawk	1	<b>Released</b>	<b>56%</b>
Long-eared Owl	0	Turkey Vulture	10	<b>Transferred</b>	<b>1%</b>

## Raptor Ink



## Ohio Wildlife Diversity Stamp

by Celeste Baumgartner, *RAPTOR* Volunteer

### *Congratulations to James Mundy, one of the founders of RAPTOR Inc!*

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Throughout his career as Hamilton County Parks wildlife specialist, Jim Mundy created many bluebird trails and coached the volunteers who monitored them. Now, his photo of an eastern bluebird perched on a redbud tree, has been chosen as the winning image of the 2015 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp contest.

“All of the work I did with bluebirds, bluebird boxes and volunteers—for that to be the theme, and then to win. That kind of rounds it all out,” Mundy said.

Mundy, now retired, took the photo at Winton Woods, a Hamilton County Park near his home. Second place went to David Shaw, New Vienna, and third to Don Lozier, West Jefferson, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

“The eastern bluebird is one of Ohio’s flashiest native species and a modern-day conservation success story,” ODNR said in a press release. “Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of blue birders who build and maintain nest boxes, the state’s bluebird population is at an all-time high.”

The wildlife diversity stamp is a voluntary stamp, it is not required for anything. “Fourteen dollars of every \$15 received for the stamp go to the state’s wildlife diversity fund,” said Kendra Wecker, DOW wildlife diversity coordinator.



Buying the stamp is a visible way to show support for wildlife diversity projects such as those preserving hellbenders, freshwater mussels, karner blue butterflies, peregrine falcons, and more. The fund supports habitat restoration, wildlife and habitat research projects, and creates educational materials.

“For this sixth annual competition we had 180 entries from 79 photographers,” Wecker said. “We had a competition at the Wildlife Diversity Partners meeting at Burr Oak State Park in August. They did the judging, and that is the photo they selected. It a fabulous photo for stamps, it is beautiful.”

The DOW tries to feature diverse species for the contest and next year’s topic

will be native Ohio butterflies, Wecker reported. To be eligible, the photo should be taken in Ohio. The rules of the contest are on the DOW website.

“Everybody who likes wildlife should buy a wildlife diversity stamp,” Wecker said. “Hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, wildlife watchers, photographers, people who want to support wildlife.”

The 2015 stamp will go on sale on March 1, 2015. It, along with the stamps from previous years, is available online, through the mail and at many DOW functions. The stamp also qualifies the purchaser for a discount on a stay at many state park lodges.

For information visit [www.wildohio.gov](http://www.wildohio.gov).

## 2015 Calendar Photos



Jan: Barn Owl (Storm) by Vickie Villavicencio



Feb: Eastern Screech Owl (Rufous) by Jim McMillan



Mar: Red-tailed Hawk (Scarlet) by Liz Noffsinger

## Crazy Cooper's Hawk Repaired With Crazy Glue®

by Marc Alverson, Vice President

On October 21st, RAPTOR volunteer Dan Bailey was dispatched to the corner of 6th and Race streets downtown to pick up an injured raptor. Most times we are not quite sure exactly what type of bird it will turn out to be – this time it was an immature Cooper's Hawk, CH 14-25. These birds are common woodland hawks normally found prowling near a forest edge or possibly near a backyard bird feeder. Apparently the "coop" was able to find a ready supply of smaller birds for his prey in downtown Cincinnati.

CH 14-25 was found to be a bit dazed with five primary feathers on its right side broken off. Primary feathers are feathers that extend from the bird's "hand" which are very strong and important for flight. After a week in rehab, the bird was active and energetic but, with the missing flight feathers, was a poor flyer that would not be able to successfully hunt other birds for its food. Unfortunately, the Cooper's Hawk would not grow replacement feathers until next summer when new feathers grow in as part of the normal yearly feather "molt". This would require RAPTOR to keep this bird for an extremely long time, and possibly risk further injury or feather damage.

The decision was made to "imp" in new feathers. The imping process was developed by ancient falconers as a way of repairing broken feathers of their

hunting birds. RAPTOR obtained replacement feathers from a dead donor bird of the same species and size. These feathers were then grafted to the stubs of the broken feathers using wood splints and Crazy Glue®. Each broken feather was matched to a new, perfect feather from the same position on the donor bird. The new feathers were then trimmed so that the overall length of each new feather plus the length of the broken feather's stub exactly equaled the length of the corresponding unbroken feather.

Splints were made by carefully shaving small bamboo skewers until they just fit into the hollow shafts of the feather stubs on the bird as well as the trimmed ends of the donor feathers. Once the splints were made, the feathers were attached using Crazy Glue®. The glue sets up instantly and holds well. Mind you, the bird was not happy at all during this operation, but neither the bird nor its helpers were injured in the process.

Once all of the new feathers were attached, CH 14-25 was placed in a flight cage for exercise and flight evaluation. After about a week, the new feathers were holding up nicely and our coop was flying like a banshee and ready for release.

RAPTOR normally attempts to release birds near to where they were originally found, since they have their own territories. In this case, CH 14-25 was



*Krazy Glue® holds new feather*

immature and had not yet established its own territory. We felt that downtown was not the best habitat, so CH 14-25 was released at RAPTOR's facility in Milford. Dan Bailey, the volunteer who originally picked up the bird, did the honors on December 11th.



*Replacement feather with wood splint*



*Dan Bailey releases CH 14-25 after successful feather "imping"*

## A Community Rewards Thank You!



RAPTOR raised \$1,046 in 2014, so thanks to everyone who has signed up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program!

If you would like to support RAPTOR Inc. through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, you can register online.

1. Go to: krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Select "RAPTOR Inc."
3. Enter RAPTOR's Non-Profit Organization number: 82506.

If you have any questions, contact Cindy at raptor@raptorinc.org or (513) 509-2469.

## RAPTOR Wish List

RAPTOR Inc. is in need of the following items for our bird care facility. To donate any of these items, please email RAPTOR at: raptor@raptorinc.org or call 513-825-3325.

- 13, 30 and 55 gallon trash bags
- cedar bedding
- latex gloves
- gas cards
- paper towels
- HE laundry detergent
- pine bedding
- printer paper

*Thank You for all of your donations!*

## AmazonSmile and RAPTOR, Inc.



When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to RAPTOR Inc. All you need to do, is select RAPTOR Inc. on your first visit to AmazonSmile at: smile.Amazon.com.

After that, RAPTOR Inc. will receive donations for every eligible purchase. How easy is that?!

## Want the HackBack by Email?

Email your request to raptor@raptorinc.org and add "Email HB" in the subject line or call 513-825-3325 and leave a message for follow-up.



## RAPTOR Inc. Donors

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR Inc. Included are those who have contributed to the "Feed the Birds" fund.

Ayer Elementary PTA  
 Batavia PTO, Batavia Ohio  
 Blanchester Local School District  
 Boone County Fiscal Court  
 Cincinnati Museum Center  
 Clermont County Public Library  
 Cub Scout Pack 3969, Fairfield Ohio  
 Cub Scout Pack 84, Williamsburg Ohio  
 Cub Scouts Pack 46, Loveland Ohio  
 Daniel S. Rouster  
 David H. Axt  
 Eastern Local School District,  
 Winchester Ohio  
 Eric Miles  
 Gary & Mary Singer  
 Gary Rapien  
 Greater Cincinnati Bird Club  
 Hamilton Community Foundation  
 Joseph H. Head  
 Judith Ann Berger  
 Judy W. Bowers  
 Kelli W. Jasper

Kroger Company  
 L. J. Staley  
 Laura A. Johnstone  
 Little Miami Inc.  
 Mars Hill Ministries Children's Meeting  
 House  
 Marvin R Appel  
 Mary A. Goetz Elementary, Ludlow  
 Kentucky  
 Monique O'Neill  
 Natalie W. Hastings  
 Newtown Feed & Supply  
 Otterbein Homes  
 Our Lady of Grace Catholic School,  
 Cincinnati Ohio  
 Sem Manor Rental Agency  
 Shirley Rosenzweig  
 Thomas D. Eisele  
 Todd & Susan Gates  
 Willowville PTO, Batavia Ohio

### Peregrine Falcon - \$500 and Above

Burger Farm & Garden Center  
 LMIS PTO  
 Michael Miller  
 Northrop Grumman  
 Wild About Birds

### Osprey - \$1,000 and Above

Robert A. Johnston Foundation  
 The Warrington Foundation

### Golden Eagle - \$10,000 and Above

Irwin & Melinda Simon

### In-Kind Donations

Donna Morsbach  
 Erica and Jonas Locke  
 Linda Fowler  
 Melinda and Irv Simon  
 Robert E. Smith  
 Wildside Rehabilitation Center  
 Zan Smith

## Thanks to All of the RAPTOR Inc. Volunteers!

RAPTOR Inc. wants to recognize all of the hard work donated to keep the facility running so smoothly.

***A total of 4,350 hours were donated by the volunteers listed below in 2014!***

Vicki Abbott	Lisa Berry	Linda Fowler	Mary Landis	Lauren Meyer	Sandra Stehlin
Robert Allen	Judy Bowers	Craig Franz	Daniel LeSaint	Donna Morsbach	Molly Sterling
Marc Alverson	Steve Brinker	Russ Franz	Erica Locke	Liz Mozer	Sandy Weiskittel
Tammy Alverson	Claire Brose	Dan Gallagher	Jonas Locke	Marie Murray	Carol Wick
Marlo Anderson-Perich	Michelle Case	Susan Gates	Stevi Hammons	Dana Ogden	Tom Wick
Dan Bailey	Laura Collins	Laura Gerhold	Heather Harris	Jamie Olberding	Dee Wright
Emma Barrett	Joanna Crewe	Julie Graves	Howard Haskins	Kym Prell	Tisha Wright
Celeste Baumgartner	Tracy Crotty	Carolyn Hall	Beth Himburg	Tyler Rankin	Chip Yaus
John Baumgartner	Dayle Deardurff	Michelle Hall	Charlene Howell	Juli Rose	Claire Young
Kim Beebe	Abbey Dewey	Jeff Hays	Toni Hughes	Jake Sberna	Gary Young
Dan Begin	Tom Eisele	Brian Kaplan	Alice McCaleb	Irv Simon	
Kathryn Bennett	Chip Fast	Ben Kitzler	Liz McCullough	Melinda Simon	
	Art Ferris	Eileen Kruer	Katie McGee	Robert Smith	
	Sam Fixmer	Robert Lagedrost	Walt McLarty	Zan Smith	
	Kris Fowler		Jerry Meyer	Lauren Stanula	



*Save the Date!*  
 An evening with John A. Ruthven, hosted by RAPTOR Inc.  
 June 7, 2015



### RAPTOR Inc. Membership & Renewal Form

The mailing label on this issue of the HackBack shows the expiration date of your annual membership in RAPTOR Inc. If your membership expires soon, please help us save time and expense and renew your membership now. You can also use this form to update your contact information.

If you don't need the membership form, consider passing it to someone who might be interested in becoming a member of RAPTOR Inc.!

Your membership dollars provide for the care, treatment, and feeding for our birds as well as the continuation of our education programs.

Student: \$10

Basic: \$25

3-Year Basic: \$50

Contributing: \$60

Supporting: \$100

Lifetime: \$500

Mark the membership level you request

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you prefer email delivery of HackBack

Mail this completed form with your check or money order to:

**RAPTOR Inc., 961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150 Attn: Membership**

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!

RAPTOR Inc.  
961 Barg Salt Run Road  
Milford, OH 45150

## Sponsor a Banded Raptor

Since the fall of 1994, RAPTOR Inc. has been banding most rehabilitated birds released back into the wild. Over a long period of time, this will help us determine how successful our rehabilitation efforts are. You can get involved with our "Sponsor a Banded Raptor" program. Sponsors will receive a fact sheet on the selected species and a certificate with the following information:

- Species and date of release
- Age (if known)
- Weight at time of release
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife band number

If the bird you sponsor is recovered, you will be notified of the date and location of the recovery.



### Yes, I would like to sponsor a banded bird of the species checked below:

- American Kestrel: \$20*       *Eastern Screech Owl: \$20*       *Cooper's Hawk: \$20*       *Barred Owl: \$20*  
 *Red-shouldered Hawk: \$25*       *Great Horned Owl: \$25*       *Red-tailed Hawk: \$25*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event your selection is not available, we will contact you to arrange an alternative. Sponsoring a bird is tax deductible. All proceeds benefit RAPTOR Inc. Complete this form, enclose a check or money order, and mail to:

**RAPTOR Inc., 961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150 Attn: Membership**

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!