



# HackBack

The Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 37 Years

HackBack

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

Spring 2015

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*Come see us at Wild  
About Birds' annual  
Father's Day Rummage  
Sale and Raptor Event  
June 19th – 21st!*

*See Page 6 for details!*

## 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."

## Cincy Peregrines Nesting Again! by Cindy Alverson, Exec. Dir.

It's spring and the Cincinnati Peregrines are nesting once again on the 27th floor of the 4th and Vine building. Now, do we know if they are the same breeding pair that occupied the nest box last year? Although there no way to tell for sure, since neither the male nor female is banded, studies of peregrines performed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) have shown that the peregrines who call Cincinnati their home do not usually migrate due to the relatively mild winters. This means it is most likely that the same pair has returned for another season.

ODNR first installed the nest boxes on buildings as a way to encourage the falcons to make large cities their home in Ohio. Traditionally, peregrine falcons nest on the ledges of tall cliffs, and downtown buildings offer artificial sites similar to cliffs. However, by the 1960s peregrine falcons were no longer found



*Falcons at approximately 5 weeks. It's amazing how fast birds grow! At the time of this picture, one bird was to the left of the box, exercising its wings for a first flight.*

nest. As a partner in this project, Ohio initially received peregrines for release in Akron, Columbus and Cincinnati. Based on the success of this project, the Peregrine Falcon was removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999 and downlisted to threatened on the Ohio endangered species list in 2008.

RAPTOR Inc. is very excited to host a streaming webcam at [www.raptorinc.org](http://www.raptorinc.org) for viewers to watch the peregrines from the comfort of their own home! With streaming video during all hours of the day, you are able to witness first-hand the making of the scrape (shallow indentation which serves as a nest), the sharing of the incubation duties between the adults, the laying of the eggs and the impact weather makes on the timing of incubation. We thank Advia Internet and supporters for bringing this opportunity to life!

This year, due to the increasing peregrine population (restoration), the biologists from the Ohio Division of Wildlife will not be banding the young this year in downtown Cincinnati. Good news for the peregrine population! You can still find video of the 2014 banding at <https://vimeo.com/99275744>.

By the time of this printing the eggs will have hatched and the chicks will be on their way toward fledging! So tune into watch the excitement!



*An aerial view of an adult falcon on top of the box with the eggs inside.*

east of the Mississippi and in 1980 they were placed on the federal endangered species list. This was a consequence of the accumulation of the insecticide DDT in the adult peregrines, resulting in very thin egg shells. Thin shells could not support the weight of incubating adults and the eggs were crushed beneath their weight. The Midwest Peregrine Falcon Restoration Project was initiated to restore the peregrine to the midwest by breeding peregrines out west and releasing them in cities to

## 2015 Admissions

American Kestrel.....	1
Merlin .....	1
Peregrine Falcon .....	0
Eastern Screech Owl.....	7
Barred Owl.....	7
Barn Owl.....	0
Great Horned Owl.....	5
Long-eared Owl.....	0
Saw-whet Owl.....	0
Snowy Owl.....	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	1
Cooper's Hawk.....	11
Broad-winged Hawk .....	0
Red-shouldered Hawk.....	6
Red-tailed Hawk.....	13
Rough-legged Hawk .....	0
Turkey Vulture.....	2
Black Vulture .....	0
Osprey .....	0
Golden Eagle.....	0
Bald Eagle .....	0
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>RELEASED .....</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>TRANSFERRED.....</b>	<b>3%</b>

## 2015 Presentations

**147:** *Presentations To Date*

**9,994:** *Audience Members*

## Upcoming Programs

**June 20, 2015 11 am – 1 pm:**

Wild About Birds,  
Milford, OH

**June 21, 2015 1-3 pm:**

Peaceful Acres Lavender Farm,  
Martinsville, OH

**June 28, 2015 2pm:**

Little Miami Conservancy,  
Loveland, OH

**July 4, 2015 3 pm:**

Little Miami Conservancy,  
Loveland, OH

**July 8, 2015 2 pm:**

Houston Library,  
St. Charleston, OH

**July 19, 2015 2 pm:**

Little Miami Conservancy,  
Loveland, OH

**August 1, 2015 2 pm:**

Little Miami Conservancy,  
Loveland, OH

**August 8, 2015 6 pm:**

Boone Woods,  
Burlington, KY

## Thank You Vets!

**We could not do our work without your dedication and expertise!**

**Bob Dahlhausen, D.V.M.**

(513) 576-1990

**Joseph Grossi, D.V.M.**

(513) 772-6060

**D.J. Haeussler, D.V.M.**

(513) 332-0718

**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

Welcome to Dr. Haeussler of the The Animal Eye Institute who has joined our team of dedicated veterinarians! Our team of veterinarians provide their expertise to the variety of injuries sustained by the raptors admitted.

### RAPTOR Inc. Board

Erica Locke, President  
 Marc Alverson, Vice President  
 Robert Smith, Treasurer  
 Melinda Simon, Secretary  
 Dan Bailey Trustee  
 Jackie Bray, Trustee  
 Dan Begin, Trustee  
 Jeff Hays, Trustee  
 Donna Morsbach, Trustee  
 Cindy Alverson, Executive Director  
 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 HackBack, email the article to:  
 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

### *Random Raptor Fact*

A bald eagle nest found in Vermilion, Ohio was shaped like a wine goblet and weighed nearly two metric tons. Eagles used the nest for 34 years before the tree toppled in the wind.

Learn more at: <http://www.audubon.org/news/15-facts-about-raptors>

## RAPTOR Inc. Holds Annual Trustee and Officer Elections

by Marc Alverson, Trustee

RAPTOR Inc. is guided by a board consisting of 9 trustees, each serving a three year term. Every year three board positions are filled at elections that are held at the board meeting in April. All RAPTOR members are eligible to vote. Nominations for the open board positions were made at the March board meeting.

Current board member Jeff Hays was re-elected and new board members Dan Bailey and Jackie Bray were elected. Former board member John Baumgartner has been trying to retire for several years and wished to step down and former board

member Dayle Deardurf had to step down due to changes in her job. RAPTOR would like to thank the outgoing board members for their service and welcome the new board members. New people will bring new ideas and enthusiasm to help make RAPTOR a stronger organization.

Following the election of new board members, the election of officers was held. Officers are elected for a one year term each year at the April board meeting. RAPTOR's new officers are: Erica Locke - president, Marc Alverson - vice president, Melinda Simon - secretary,

and Robert Smith - treasurer. Jeff Hays has been RAPTOR's treasurer for many years and has been looking for a break. Thanks to Robert Smith for stepping up to become our new treasurer. Thanks to Dan Begin for serving as president for the last two years and to Marc Alverson and Melinda Simon for continuing to serve as vice president and secretary, respectively. Finally, a big welcome to Erica Locke, RAPTOR's new president. We look forward to your leadership and the success of RAPTOR in our mission of education and rehabilitation.

## RAPTOR Inc. Gets Involved with Kestrel Conservation

by Alice McCaleb, Volunteer

The American Kestrel is North America's smallest falcon. They tend to live in areas with low vegetation and a few isolated perches, often perching on wires or poles. Kestrels are one of the most colorful of all raptors and their plumage distinguishes males from females. A male kestrel has slate blue wing contrasting with its rusty red back and tail. Females lack this slate blue and have a barred rusty red wing, back, and tail. People often are amazed to see them hovering in the air waiting for a mouse to make a wrong move. They feed mostly on large insects, but also eat small rodents, bats, lizards, and small snakes. They even hunt small birds and scorpions in areas when food is scarce.

Kestrels nest in cavities such as woodpecker holes. The same nest site may be used in successive years. They will lay 4-6 white eggs with brown spots. The male does most of the hunting and provides food for the incubating female and nestlings.

In recent years, researchers have become

alarmed by the decline in the kestrel population. Causes of the decline are largely unknown, however, they may include land use, climate change,



AMKE Box located in field adjacent to the Red Barn.

depredation by Cooper's Hawks and other birds of prey, competition with for nesting cavities, and environmental contaminants.

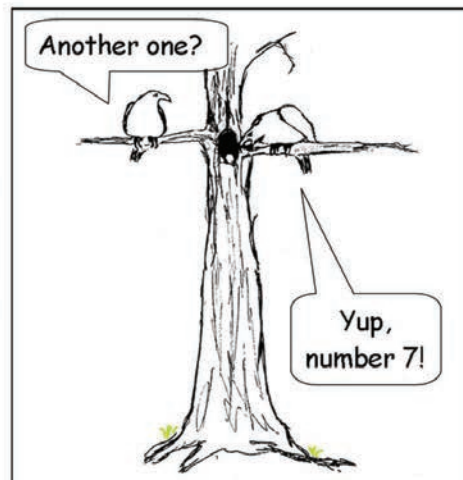
The American Kestrel Partnership was formed in 2011 in order to research the kestrel population and coordinate

managed nestbox programs. RAPTOR recently joined the program and set up kestrel nestboxes in our area. Volunteer Jake Sberna has built 8 nestboxes to date. One has been installed in the lower property field of RAPTOR Inc. Three have been installed at the Cincinnati Nature Center - Rowe Woods; they can be seen at the Bone Yard, Redwing Trail and Lookout Trail. Nestboxes will also be installed at Long Branch Farm and at a private farm in Batavia. Volunteers will monitor these boxes during breeding season, recording the number of adults nearby, the number of eggs and nestlings, and if other species are using the box. This data will be sent to the American Kestrel Partnership. RAPTOR is excited to be a part of this important conservation initiative. We hope to have active nestboxes in the near future. Stay tuned!

Learn more about the American Kestrel Partnership at <http://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/>

## Raptor Ink

by Catherine Adams





## Owl Banding: Once in a Lifetime Experience

by Alice McCaleb, Volunteer

If you ever get a chance to go on a Great Horned Owl banding excursion with Jeff Hays, I truly recommend it! This past month, several RAPTOR Inc. volunteers and raffle winners from a fundraising event headed out to a nest site in Sharon Woods. As we approached the tree, we could see both adults in the area. They would fly tree to tree vocalizing as they intently watched. Jeff climbed the tree to find 2 owlets which were estimated to be 4 to 5 weeks old. Jeff observed flicker feathers in the nest and parts of a rabbit and a rat. The young owls were banded 40 feet in the air while Jeff was busy avoiding dive bombs from the female adult! Now that is quite a sight to see!! A second nest at Miami Whitewater Forest was also checked and a single owlet was banded there. Rabbit parts were found in that nest. Below are photos taken at Sharon Woods. So far, as a RAPTOR volunteer, this definitely was one of my favorite experiences!



Nestling Great Horned Owls waiting to be banded by Jeff Hays

Photo by: Alice McCaleb

## Mission Moment: Cub Scout Pack 902 Earns Award

by Cindy Alverson, Exec. Director

The mission of RAPTOR Inc. is conservation of raptors through raptor rehabilitation and education of the community. We teach about raptors' part in the ecosystem and why they need protection. Sometimes, we need to step back and ask the big question, "Are we accomplishing our mission?" This is not always answered accurately by the quantity of presentations we give, or how many people we reach, but sometimes the measure is the impact RAPTOR Inc. is making on the audience we reach.



Scouts from Pack 902 in Fairfield who won the National Geographic Mission: Animal Rescue contest.

This question was answered recently when the Cubmaster of

Pack 902 in Fairfield, Steve Norris, contacted RAPTOR Inc. regarding their recent recognition as a winner in National

Geographic's contest, Mission: Animal Rescue, Save Animals, Save the World. RAPTOR Inc. was credited with helping the

pack earn this award by giving a presentation speaking about our rehabilitation efforts to save raptors, why it is so important and how the scouts can help. Their prize is a visit from National Geographic's birding expert, Jonathan Alderfer, who will take them on a birding expedition, teach them how to draw birds (using our avian ambassadors as models!) and how to set up bird feeders.

You can read more at <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/01/13/scouts-national-geographic-team-save-animals/#more-31630>.

Great job, scouts!

## Have you met our newest barred owl?

RAPTOR Inc. is very excited to welcome Spencer into our family of Ambassadors which are a part of our outreach presentations. Vision and hearing impairments prevent his release back into the wild. He was transferred to us from the Medina Raptor Center in Spencer, Ohio and so "Spencer" is his name. Although our ambassadors are not pets, it is easier for the volunteers to distinguish them by name since we have multiple birds of the same species. Keep a watch out for him in future presentations!





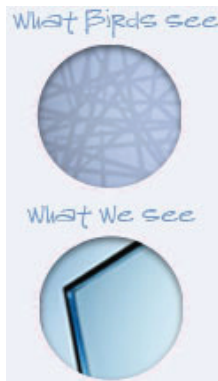
## Cincinnati Zoo Showcases Endangered Parrots, Protects Native Birds

by Jackie Bray, Kim Klosterman and Erica Locke, Volunteers

Kea are nationally endangered mountain parrots that live on the southern island of New Zealand. Kea are famous for their insatiable curiosity, intelligence, playfulness, and their ability to adapt to changing circumstances. These characteristics have at times put them in conflict with people. Often described as cheeky or mischievous, kea are one of the most charismatic animals in the world. They need our support and protection to ensure their future.

On 1 June 2014, The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden opened a new interactive kea exhibit which allows zoo guests to get up close with the birds and work cooperatively with the flock to support conservation efforts. The Cincinnati Zoo cares for the largest flock of kea in North America and one of the largest flocks in the world.

With the addition of 6 chicks last breeding season and 4 this season, the flock currently consists of 19 individuals. Providing public advocacy for the conservation of the species and plenty of enrichment for the birds are important responsibilities of the zoo. The new exhibit facilitates these activities while providing a unique environment for families to share a meaningful experience with wildlife.



How ORNILUX glass protects birds.  
Photo from <http://www.ornilux.com>

The new exhibit is not only beneficial for guests and kea, it was also constructed with bird safety, including native raptors and songbirds, in mind. For example, the 10ft by 7ft viewing window was constructed of ORNILUX Bird Protection Glass that is designed to prevent avian window strikes. Traditional glass windows and structures are invisible to birds and create a hazard for window strikes. In the US alone, window strikes account for hundreds of millions of bird deaths annually. ORNILUX glass, however, was inspired by

Biomimicry Design Theory, which strives to imitate nature's biological solutions to diminish the window strike problem.



Zoo guest at the exhibit's new window, interacting with Kea chick.

Photo by: Cassandre Crawford

The company that produces ORNILUX explains that "the idea for ORNILUX glass came from understanding that birds have the ability to see light in the ultra-violet spectrum, and that some spiders incorporate UV reflective strands of silk in their webs to make them visible to birds. Alerting birds to the presence of a web preserves the spider's ability to capture prey without a bird crashing into it." The ORNILUX window appears clear to zoo guests but contains a UV reflective coating that is visible to the birds, mitigating dangerous collisions.

The kea exhibit window is open for viewing during normal zoo opening hours, however, the best time to visit is during the morning or when the weather is cool. For a special treat, visit the exhibit on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 4-5pm between May 21st and September 7th, when the flight cage is open and guests can interact with the birds first hand. You may even see some familiar faces from RAPTOR Inc. volunteering at the exhibit!

Learn more about Kea at <http://cincinnati-zoo.org/blog/animals/kea/> and <http://www.keaconservation.co.nz/>

## 2015 RAPTOR Inc. Calendar Photos

This edition of the HackBack continues with this quarter's winning photos which are showcased in the RAPTOR Inc. calendar.



April: Great Horned Owl by Aldo Ross



May: Red-Shouldered Hawk by Liz Neffsinger



June: Barred Owl by Jim McMillan



**Wild About Birds, LLC**  
*Quality Wild Bird Products since 1989*

## Come to Wild About Birds' annual Father's Day Rummage Sale and Raptor Event June 19th - 21st!

### The event will feature:

- Sale of gently used birdfeeders, birdhouses or other bird items.
- RAPTOR, Inc. with live birds of prey (June 20th, 11am-1pm).
- Raffle with a chance at some amazing prizes, include a Hopper Feeder Package with everything you need to start your own bird feeding station!

All proceeds from the rummage sale and raffle tickets go directly to RAPTOR Inc. to benefit our work toward the preservation of birds of prey through rehabilitation, education and conservation.

**Wild About Birds is located at: 1133 Main Street, Milford, OH**

#### RAPTOR Inc. Contributions

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR Inc.

Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau  
 American Heritage Girls Troop 323  
 Martha Clark  
 Episcopal Society of Christ Church  
 Greenmont PTA  
 Guardian Angels Church  
 Linda Harpster  
 Horizon Community Church  
 Laurie Johnston  
 The Kroger Company  
 Renato L Marcolongo  
 Miami Valley Christian Academy  
 Milford Exempted Village School District  
 Kevin Mills  
 Donna Morsbach  
 Northern Kentucky Montessori Academy  
 Northside Greenspace

Pleasant Plain Presbyterian Church  
 Reading Community City Schools  
 The Cincinnati Ohio Seasons  
 Gary Singer  
 Spring Grove Cemetery  
 St. Dominic School PTO  
 St. Ignatius PTO  
 St. Mark's Lutheran School  
 Watermark Pinebrook LLC

**Peregrine Falcon \$500 and above**  
 LMIS PTO Maineville Ohio  
 Michael Miller

**Osprey \$1,000 and above**  
 Alan B Lindner Family Fund  
 Wild About Birds

#### **In-kind Donations**

Tammy Alverson  
 Joel Berg  
 Linda Cole  
 Bob Dahlhausen, DMV  
 Steve Eisen  
 Michelle Hall  
 April Kincaide  
 Kim Klosterman  
 Jonas & Erica Locke  
 Donna Morsbach  
 Rita Pelensky  
 Robert Smith  
 Spring Grove Cemetery  
 Wildside Rehab and Ed Center  
 Wright Brothers, Inc.

## Time to Re-enroll your Kroger Plus Card!

Thanks to all who register their Kroger Plus Card to raise money for RAPTOR Inc.! It is now time to go to the Kroger Community Rewards website to re-enroll for the coming year! By re-enrolling we will continue to earn approximately \$350 every quarter!

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



### 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

- Latex gloves
- Pine Bedding
- 55 & 30 gallon trash bags
- Paper Towels
- Cedar Bedding
- Office Max
- Dry dog food
- HE Laundry Detergent
- Gift Card
- Gas Cards

**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. your first visit to AmazonSmile, smile. Amazon.com. After that, RAPTOR Inc. will receive donations for every eligible purchase. How easy is that!

### 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. Renewal notices are sent out in October for annual collection for the following year. Dues paid after September 1 will be credited for the following year. 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.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$10             | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic: \$25              | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Basic: \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Contributing: \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Supporting: \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime: \$500    |

*Mark the membership level you request*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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.!

Spring 2015

## 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.!

