



HackBack

The Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 38 Years

HackBack

www.raptorinc.org

Summer 2016

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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”.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Video Cameras Assist in Raptor Rehabilitation *By Jackie Bray*

RAPTOR Inc. is excited to announce that we have added a high-tech video surveillance system to our facilities! These cameras will greatly enhance our raptor rehabilitation efforts and provide valuable protection for our staff, educational ambassadors and property.

The project was funded by generous donations from Irv and Melinda Simon, Dick and Mary Landis, and Compton Point Inc. Installation of the camera system required digging trenches and burying hundreds of feet of cable. This very labor-intensive work was carried out by an incredible team of dedicated volunteers including Joe Lucas, Brian Roberts, Angie Blair, Lori Reicker, Tom Eisele, Mike Wood, Jeff Ruhlman, and Jerry Meyer. Brian Roberts has also spent over 40 hours installing and programming the system.

Raptors possess acute hearing and eyesight, making it impossible to directly observe their natural behavior without detection. Human presence greatly influences their behavior, so accurately assessing their condition and abilities in rehabilitation can be difficult. We cannot release a bird until we are sure they can fly and hunt competently, but we also want to get them back to the wild as soon as possible to prevent confinement-related problems such as feather damage, imprinting, trauma and predation. Delaying a bird's release may also result in the bird missing its opportunity to safely migrate or prevent a juvenile from being reunited with its parents before they leave the area. The cameras will greatly improve our ability to accurately assess a rehab bird's physical conditioning, ability to fly, ability to catch live prey, aggression towards enclosure mates, and fostering ability.

Continued. See Lights! Camera! Action! on page 3.

2016 RAPTOR Inc.

Members' Meeting & Picnic

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 4 pm till dark

961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150

Member's meeting at 4:30 pm | food served at 5 pm

Raptors will be on display!

RSVP to: raptor@raptorinc.org by Sept. 24

Please bring a dish to share; we'll provide grilled food, drinks and the RAPTOR Inc. cake.



Mark Your Calendars! Come and Enjoy the RAPTOR Public Appearances!

Sat Jul 30	2pm-3pm	Boone Woods Park	6000 Veterans Way, Burlington, KY 41005
Sun Jul 31	10am-12pm	Joseph Beth Booksellers	2785 Dixie Hwy., Crestview Hills, KY 41017
Sun Jul 31	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Fri Aug 5	7pm-8pm	Boone Woods Park	6000 Veterans Way, Burlington, KY 41005
Wed Aug 10	10am-11am	Middleton Mills Park	3549 Mills Rd., Covington, KY 41015
Sat Aug 20	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	Along Bike Trail 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Sun Aug 28	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Sat Sep 3	12pm-4pm	Great Parks Lake Isabella	10174 Loveland Maderia Rd., Loveland, OH 45140
Mon Sep 5	12pm-4pm	Great Parks Farbach Werner	3455 Poole Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45251
Fri Sep 16	6pm-7:30pm	Washington Twp. Park	2238 State Route 756, Moscow, OH 45153
Sat Sep 17	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	Along Bike Trail 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Sun Sep 25	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Sat Oct 15	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	Along Bike Trail 211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Sun Oct 30	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Sat Nov 12	10:30am-1pm	Newtown Feed & Supply	6876 Main St, Cincinnati, OH 45244
Sun Nov 27	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150

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.

- Cedar bedding
- Dawn dish detergent
- Dustbuster (hand-held vacuum)
- Gas gift card
- HE laundry detergent
- Latex exam gloves (any size)
- Office Max gift card
- Pine bedding
- Stamps (forever)
- Trash bags - 55 gallon and 30 gallon

Thank you for all of your donations!

2016 Admissions

American Kestrel	14	Broad-winged Hawk	2
Merlin	0	Red-shouldered Hawk	41
Peregrine Falcon	2	Red-tailed Hawk	16
Eastern Screech Owl	13	Rough-legged Hawk	0
Barred Owl	16	Turkey Vulture	3
Barn Owl	0	Black Vulture	1
Great Horned Owl	12	Osprey	1
Long-eared Owl	0	Golden Eagle	0
Saw-whet Owl	0	Bald Eagle	0
Snowy Owl	0	TOTAL Admissions	132
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	Released	64%
Cooper's Hawk	11		

RAPTOR Inc. Board, Spring 2016

Erica Locke, President (2016-2017)
 Jeff Hays, Vice President (2016-2017)
 Robert Smith, Treasurer (2016-2017)
 Marc Alverson, Secretary (2016-2017)
 Rosie Ayers, Trustee
 Dan Begin, Trustee
 Joseph Lucas, Trustee
 Dan Bailey, Trustee
 Alice McCaleb, Trustee

Cindy Alverson, Executive Director
 Jackie Bray, Associate Director

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 Erica Locke at elanni@gmail.com 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



Thank You To Our Veterinarians!

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

Light! Camera! Action! continued

We have already learned that Eli the Bald Eagle and the red shouldered hawks in rehab spend a lot of time bathing! The rehab Eastern screech owls and the American kestrels have been seen catching live prey. Many rehab birds have been seen drinking more often than expected, and others have been seen preening each other. This unobtrusive look into their world has shown us ways we can improve their care of which we were previously unaware. The cameras will also benefit our educational ambassadors by documenting husbandry concerns such as their use of the enclosure space, their enrichment preferences, any visitors in the area (such as wild conspecifics, predators, pest species or hikers), and other unwitnessed events.

The Open Houses and the educational programs conducted on-grounds have increased the exposure of RAPTOR Inc.'s facilities to the public and thus, increased our need for adequate security. Staff can now view all gates, entrances, enclosures and storage areas from the upstairs offices. The video system can also store footage for over a week, giving us the ability to go back and review recordings of interesting events or security issues when necessary. We can capture photos and video clips that can be shared with police, on social media outlets or our website. The cameras also have infrared capabilities for recording at night.

We continually strive to provide the best care possible for our birds and the safest environment for staff/volunteers. The cameras provide us with information that can help us accomplish these goals.



2016 RAPTOR Inc. Calendar Photos

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



July: Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk by Mike Jacobs



August: Eastern Screech Owl by Katherine Sarlo



September: Red-shouldered Hawk by Liz Noffsinger

Winton the Red-tailed Hawk Overcomes the Odds to Return Home

by Jackie Bray, Associate Director

Thanks to Caring Great Parks Staff and RAPTOR Inc.

On Monday, May 16, 2016 the Red-tailed hawk nicknamed “Winton” was released back to his home range at Winton Woods after an arduous 5-month-long rehabilitation period. Cindy Alverson, Executive Director of RAPTOR Inc., said, “We are overjoyed to return this magnificent bird back to the wild where he belongs. He was in grave condition on admission, but he possessed a fighting spirit to survive. He overcame serious disability to be fit for release.”

Winton’s ordeal began in early December, 2015. Visitors described seeing an injured hawk in the area for several days but no one could get close enough to contain it. Raptors are well adapted for survival and will use their last bit of strength to escape capture. On December 16th, the hawk was reported on the ground along the trail near the Winton Centre. The highly trained Great Parks team, which included Naturalist Susan Sumner, Natural Resource Manager Tom Borgman, Ranger Ricky Dove and Volunteer Cricket DeNamur, sprang into action and safely secured the bird until someone from RAPTOR Inc. could respond. RAPTOR Inc. is a non-profit organization with the proper state and federal permits, facilities, and staff required to rehabilitate injured birds of prey. Birds of prey include eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, osprey, and vultures.

On admission, Winton was in extremely poor body condition. He was emaciated, dehydrated, infected with parasites, and had an obvious left wing fracture. The rehabilitators knew he was unlikely to survive, but aggressive treatment was initiated to give him his best chance. Once he was stabilized he was examined by veterinarian Dr. Joseph Grossi who confirmed 2 fractures in his left wing. Surgery was not indicated so the fractures were splinted and the bird was placed on cage rest. Only time would tell if the bird had the strength to survive and if the fractures would heal properly to allow for normal flight.

After several weeks of intensive care, it became apparent that Winton would survive, but he still wasn’t flying. He was re-

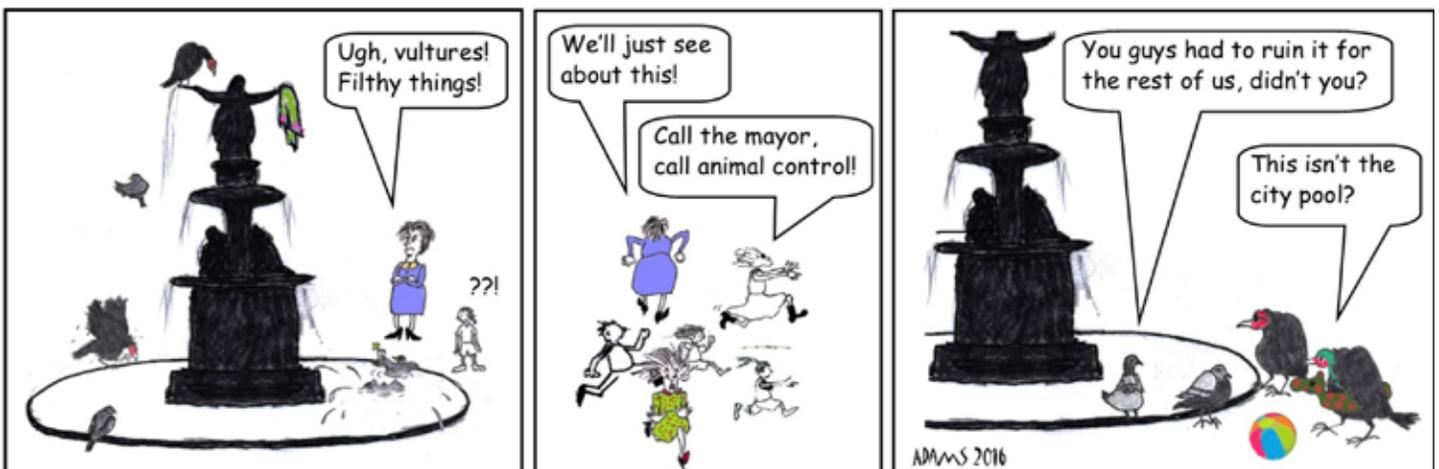


examined in February but no obvious reason could be found. The rehabilitators prepared for the possibility that Winton would never regain his flight ability and considered searching for a permit holder that could provide a permanent home for him. In the meantime, Winton continued to undergo physical therapy to build strength and conditioning. The additional time paid off and, amazingly, in mid-March Winton was ready to return to the wild. He was banded by a licensed bird bander and the finders were notified to participate in the release.

Ms. Alverson was asked to explain why is it so important to call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in these situations. “For situations involving birds of prey, or any wildlife for that matter, it is very important to call a licensed rehabilitator for many reasons. These animals are strictly protected under state and federal law and penalties can be severe for disturbing them in any way without the proper permits – even possessing one of their feathers is illegal. They also require incredibly specialized care and handling. Simply staring at a bird can cause the bird to die from stress or cause the bird to imprint on humans which will prevent the bird from returning to the wild. Licensed rehabilitators work closely with expert wildlife veterinarians to provide advanced medical care such as fluids, diets, x-rays, lab tests, medications, surgery, and physical therapy. Licensed rehabilitators also have state-inspected facilities with large flight enclosures. These enclosures are designed to meet the unique needs of recovering birds of prey and get them in shape for release.”

Raptor Ink

by Catherine Adams



Suburban Cincinnati's Red-shouldered Hawks

Cheryl Dykstra, Ph.D., Raptor Environmental, West Chester, Ohio

RAPTOR Inc. is proud to be a long-term supporter of the Red-shouldered Hawk Study in Southern Ohio, and pleased to have two Research Associates (Melinda Simon and Jeff Hays) serve on our Board of Trustees. We would like to thank Research Director, Cheryl Dykstra, Ph. D., for sharing some interesting information about Cincinnati's Red-shouldered hawks with us in the article below.

Red-shouldered Hawks are members of the Buteo genus, the genus that also contains Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks. They live in a variety of habitats, including mature riparian forest, flat wet woodlands, upland forests, and suburban areas with sufficient numbers of mature trees. In the Cincinnati area, they are permanent residents and live primarily in the suburban areas east and west of the city, but occasionally in areas as developed as Amberley Village, College Hill, Mt. Washington, and Delhi.

These hawks make their nests in a variety of locations, including woodlots, yards, and in rare cases, even on rooftops of buildings. These beautiful raptors, with their black-and-white wings and tails and their brick-red bellies, were once considered a "species of special concern" in the state of Ohio due to their limited distribution within the state. In several other states in the eastern U.S., they still have this status. Yet their abilities to adapt to new situations and to tolerate human disturbance, in combination with the significant amount of green space retained within the Cincinnati region, have allowed them to thrive in our suburban habitats. In many ways, we are very lucky to have these birds in our area, as they do not inhabit the agricultural landscapes of much of the state of Ohio, and they are not suburban dwellers in very many locations in the eastern U.S. In fact, our team of ornithologists and volunteers was the first to scientifically study suburban Red-shouldered Hawks. We have spent the last 20 years researching the aspects of Red-shouldered Hawks' ecology that have enabled them to persist and succeed



here. We have studied their nests, reproductive rates, home range, diet, survival, and abundance in some detail.

Diet

Red-shouldered Hawks are dietary generalists. They eat a variety of prey items, including many things humans consider pests or problems. They prey on small mammals such as mice and voles, snakes, frogs, and rarely birds, insects, fish, crayfish, earthworms, and carrion. Diet can vary between locations and between years, depending on prey availability. Compared to Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shoulders have relatively small feet, and cannot take prey items larger than squirrels.

Nesting

In our area, Red-shouldered Hawks begin courtship displays as early as February. Behaviors include a series of repeated loud calls (kee, kee, kee, kee, kee), and stooping flight displays. They start building a new nest or refurbishing an old nest in mid-February. Nests are typically made in a large tree, in a crotch near the main trunk, 40-60' above the ground. The nests are made exclusively of sticks, generally averaging about 0.5" - 1" in diameter, and the hawks decorate the nest with variety of branches of fresh green vegetation, broken off from

trees near the nest. The adults bring this "greenery" throughout the breeding season, from the nest-building stage through fledging.

Females lay 2-4 eggs between mid-March and early April (March 23, on average). The female incubates the eggs, exchanging occasionally with the male, for 32 days, and nestlings hatch in the order the eggs were laid, in late April (April 24, on average). The nestlings remain in the nest for about 6 weeks. After they are able to fly and leave the nest, the young hawks remain in the natal territory, and continue to depend on the adults for feeding for at least one month.

Most suburban residents lucky enough to have Red-shoulders as neighbors enjoy watching the progression of the nesting season, from courtship to fledging. Landowners can promote Red-shouldered Hawks by retaining large trees that may serve as nest sites, leaving natural vegetation in fields and around ponds to promote prey populations, and refraining from using lawn chemicals which can enter aquatic ecosystems and reduce aquatic prey populations.

For more information on Red-shouldered Hawks, please visit our website: www.redshoulderedhawkstudy.com.

Bird Cams Yield Unexpected Benefits for Raptors

By Kat Jenkins, Volunteer

Millions of people around the world watch bird cams, and are being entertained, engaged, and amazed by what they see. They are building knowledge of the natural world and their impact on it, and even developing communities around the shared passion of the cams.

Scientists, too, are learning more and more about the world of wild birds and their behavior in their natural environments – finding that many things long believed just aren't true. (For example, it was long believed that male red-tailed hawks don't feed the chicks, and they're too large and bulky to catch small birds – both proven wrong by the Cornell Hawks resident male, Ezra.)

But bird cams have some unexpected benefits for the birds themselves, as well. Bird cam viewers report becoming more aware of the natural world around them and their impact on it. RAPTOR volunteer Carol Wick sums it up by saying "I really think watching bird cams increases our comprehension of the natural world, creating a personal connection, appreciation, and increased empathy, which in turn leads to real-time involvement to protect them. It's a win-win for people, birds, and the environment."

Bird cam viewers report increasing their backyard habitats, becoming citizen scientists for projects like Project Feederwatch and Journey North, reducing the use of pesticides and other environmental poisons, reducing or eliminating the use of

materials that can be hazardous to raptors and other wild birds (baling twine and fishing line and lures are great examples), donating to organizations that support raptors and other wildlife (hint), and even volunteering (full disclosure – the writer of this article is another volunteer for RAPTOR, Inc. and originally discovered us because of bird cams).

Wick says she's been watching bird cams intently for the past five years, and the knowledge and understanding she's gained go far beyond anything she's learned from books. She also says it can be hard to watch when things go wrong in a nest: "Knowing the dangers they face makes me a better person and one willing to be a voice for a better environment." She and her husband now volunteer for multiple organizations that clean up and protect rivers and streams in Greater Cincinnati.

Former teacher Charlene Howell started out using bird cams in her classrooms; she now volunteers at RAPTOR, Inc. as an educator, and longtime volunteer Linda Fowler shares cams and her knowledge with a community of friends around the world. Cam watcher Constance Menefee regularly visits RAPTOR Inc.'s open houses, and has donated the use of her photos to help promote our mission. She says "The more people know, the more they care – and the more likely they are to take action to protect raptors and their habitat."

It's the best of both worlds for bird cam watchers and the birds they watch.

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

Robyn Aungst
Brenda Kay Baker
Cathy Cole
Mr. & Mrs. John Doellman
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Faske
Tracey Ficker
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Fisher
GE Foundation
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Jill Meckstroth
Lesley Meiman
Constance Menefee
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James Thompson
Marcia Winborne
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ziegler

Falcon Level \$500 to \$999

Jenny James
Lewis Animal Hospital
Magnode Corp.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Smith

Osprey Level \$1000 and up

Compton Point, Inc

In Kind Donations

Marc Alverson
Rosie Ayers
Jackie Bray
Steve Eison
Tonya Laytart
Joe Lucas
Donna Morsbach
Zan Smith
Karen West
Mell Woods

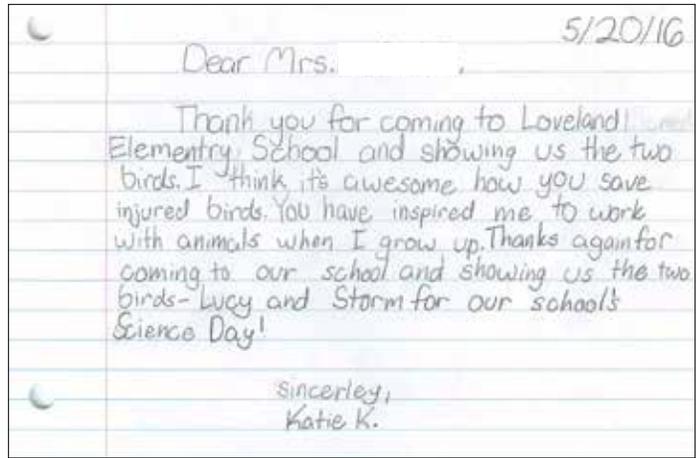
Re-enroll Your Kroger Plus Card!

It is 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!

Thanks to all who register their Kroger Plus Card to raise money for RAPTOR Inc.!

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



NEW

Updates to RAPTOR Inc. Membership and NEW Benefits

RAPTOR Inc. is introducing new perks, tiers and pricing for membership. We hope these changes will clarify each level's benefits, intent, and terms as well as simplify the renewal process. Changes are effective immediately for new members and will apply to existing members at renewal. 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.

Please use the form below to become a member or update your contact information. You can also become a member online at our website: www.raptorinc.org

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

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

Mark the membership level you request, all membership levels include electronic (default) or postal delivery of the newsletter, as well as an invitation to the Fall Picnic. Members are also invited to attend Board meetings and may nominate candidates to serve on the board.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student Membership (1 year - up to age 18)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Hawk Membership (1-year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Owl Membership <i>plus receive stunning Raptor Notecard Set</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Eagle Membership <i>plus receive Charley Harper designed T-Shirt</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime Membership <i>plus personalized tour for 5</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Sponsorship <i>plus stunning Rookwood Owl Set</i>

Eagle, Lifetime, and Sponsorship Memberships also include perks from the level(s) above.

Eagle, Lifetime, and Sponsorship please indicate T-Shirt Size (S, M, L, XL, XXL) _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check if you prefer postal 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.!

Summer 2016

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: _____

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.!

