

# HackBack



The Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 39 Years

Summer 2017

## Celebrating 5 Years at the Red Barn!

*By Cindy Alverson, Executive Director*

Time flies – we all know that, but in March, 2017, RAPTOR Inc. celebrated its 5 year anniversary being located at the Red Barn in Milford. Comparing our expectations for the new site to what it has become has been eye-opening. We have accomplished so much more and there is so much more work to be done!

The Red Barn was envisioned to be a building used for a center of operations for our conservation work. It was to be a place where injured raptors would be admitted and treated at one site; home care of these birds would be a thing of the past. Our vision included a magnificent flight enclosure able to provide the flight conditioning necessary to rehabilitate eagles, osprey, peregrines and vultures without having to transfer the birds to other rehabilitation facilities for this crucial last step in the rehabilitation process.

The facility was envisioned to have a building where all of the educational ambassadors could be housed in one area, making it easy for educators to prepare for programs and load up the avian ambassadors going to off-site presentations. The building needed to consider the needs of the volunteers who so generously give their time to RAPTOR to further our mission. A bathroom was a luxury not afforded at our previous site! All that was accomplished and so much more!

Today, if you were to visit our facility on a typical day, there could be 2 rehabilitators treating our patients and exercising

raptors in our outside enclosures. There might also be an intern busy learning new skills as he/she assists with our treatment protocols, or washing carriers in preparation for new patients. Groundskeepers are kept busy maintaining our lawn and landscaping. Other non-profit groups may partner with us to plant pollinator gardens while we educate them on raptors and the benefit they provide to the environment. Students may volunteer to fulfill their community service hours.

A path which was not originally considered but has proved to be a wonderful benefit to our new site, is the ability to offer on-site presentations for small groups. In 2015, as a result of our inability to travel off-site due to precautions for the avian influenza, it became a necessity to host on-site. With increased guests, modifications were made to paths for the comfort of our birds. Open Houses are offered as another avenue to increase awareness of the services we offer the community. The popularity of the Open Houses has given us a degree of comfort regarding the sustainability of our future plan to build an education center.

Now we are embarking on a new adventure as we plan an education center on the lower field of our 8 acres. An education center open to the public has always been a part of RAPTOR's long range plans. With our growth, we find the need of a space large enough to give presentations on site or to hold meetings is a necessity. We look forward to the next phase of growth with great excitement!

2017 RAPTOR Inc.

## Members' Meeting & Picnic

Saturday, September 30, 2017, 4 pm till dark

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

961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150

*Raptors will be on display!*



RSVP to: [raptor@raptorinc.org](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org) by Sept. 23 | Please bring a dish to share; we will provide grilled food, drinks, and the RAPTOR Inc. cake

## Orphaned Great Horned Owllet Gets a New Family

By Jackie Bray, Associate Director

On March 31, 2017 a concerned resident on Hubble Rd. in White Oak notified us that a Great Horned Owllet had been blown out of its nest during a strong storm the evening before. The storm had broken off the top of the tree, taking the nest and the owllet down with it. The finder said the owllet had fallen approximately 60 feet and had been on the ground approximately 24-hours. No parents or siblings had been seen in the area.

Since the owllet fell from such an extreme height, it was taken to one of our amazing veterinarians for x-rays and evaluation.

Dr. Grossi at the Wyoming Veterinary Clinic advised there were no fractures or dislocations identified on the radiographs, but since the bird was so young the joints were not calcified yet, so it was not possible to evaluate these areas definitively.

The chick was monitored for several days and fed a healthy diet. These birds have a voracious appetite and grow amazingly

fast. In fact, the owllet gained a whopping 400 grams (50% of its total body weight on admission) in just 9 days! Since it was obvious the bird was healthy, it was time to find him a new home.

Jeff Hays, RAPTOR Inc.'s Board Vice President and Licensed Bird Bander, was planning to band owllets at a nest site at Warder-Perkins State Nature Preserve in Miami Township - Hamilton County, in collaboration with the Audubon Society of Ohio. He thought this nest would be a great candidate to foster the orphaned owllet. On April 9, 2017, Jeff climbed the tree and found one owllet and 2 non-viable eggs in the nest. The owllet was similar in age to the orphaned owllet, so Jeff banded both and added the orphan to the nest for the parents to foster. We would like to thank the Audubon Society of Ohio for helping us find a new family for the Great Horned Owllet and for giving it a second chance to grow up wild!



*A tree climber's perspective: looking down into an owl's nest*

## Pollinator Garden

By Joe Lucas, Facilities Volunteer

On June 13, RAPTOR hosted volunteers from the Ohio River Youth Foundation. Their purpose was to acquire environmental and conservation education throughout the summer months through hands-on field work. During the morning hours, the volunteers were able to establish RAPTOR's first pollinator garden. The purpose of the pollinator garden is to provide, through selected flowers, nectar or pollen for a range of pollinating insects, and provide

host plants for monarch butterflies, thereby assisting conservation efforts. This initial garden was undertaken by removing sod, loosening the soil, planting the diverse plants, mulching, and watering the plants under the guidance of their senior instructor. To date, all pollinator plantings are continuing to grow and bloom! RAPTOR was thrilled to partner with the students of the Ohio River Youth Foundation and provide an opportunity for conservation fieldwork.



## 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](mailto:raptor@raptorinc.org) or call 513-825-3325.

- Dog Food (dry, for large dogs)
- Duct Tape
- Dustbuster (hand-held vacuum)
- Gas Gift Card
- Latex or Nitrile exam gloves (any size)
- Lysol (liquid cleaner)
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Office Max Gift Card
- Stamps (Forever)
- Trash bags – 55, 30 and 13 gallon
- Volunteers who are available through the week!

Thank you for all of your donations!

## Amazon Wish List

RAPTOR Inc. is now listed on the Amazon Wish list. For a complete listing of all of the items we use for rehabilitation and to provide our volunteers with all of the necessities, please visit <https://goo.gl/s0LVpG>.

If any of these wish list items are purchased, they are shipped directly to our RAPTOR facility in Milford.

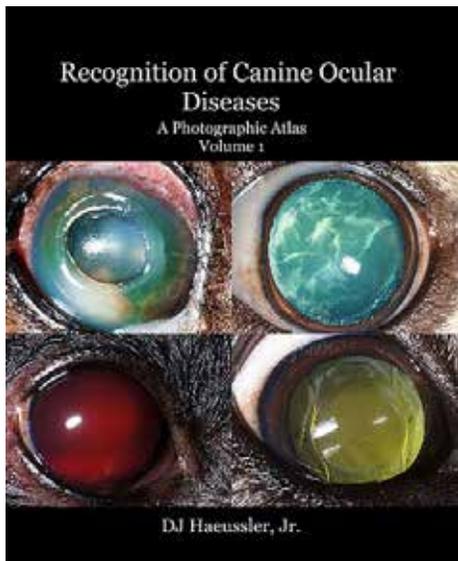
How easy is that!

## Meet Our Veterinarians

By Jackie R Bray, Associate Director

As a volunteer organization, RAPTOR Inc. depends on the time, talents, and generosity of many individuals to fulfill our mission. Some of our most dedicated volunteers are our veterinarians. These highly trained professionals provide essential services to our organization at little to no cost! Their services include treating our rehabilitation patients and avian ambassadors, establishing our treatment protocols, providing us with medications and medical supplies, and signing off on our state permits. In upcoming HackBack issues we will feature our awesome attending veterinarians and share some of the amazing contributions they make to our organization and our community at large.

In this HackBack issue we feature one of our amazing Veterinary Ophthalmologists, Dr. DJ Haeussler. Dr. Haeussler's positive, energetic personality is contagious. Most importantly, his generosity and commitment to the health of the animals he serves make him an Animal Superhero!



*Dr. Haeussler published his first book in 2014*

Dr. Haeussler joined RAPTOR Inc.'s veterinary team 3 years ago at the request of a colleague. Since that time he has significantly enhanced our rehabilitation efforts. Birds of prey are critically dependent on excellent vision for survival and, unfortunately, eye injuries are quite common in the birds we treat. Raptors are especially susceptible to detached retinas from impact trauma, penetrating eye injuries, and vision issues secondary

to disease. It is very important that these birds receive high-quality specialized veterinary care if they are to return to the wild where they belong.

Dr. Haeussler always knew he wanted to be a veterinarian like his dad. He enjoyed listening to his father, Dr. David Haeussler, tell stories about his experiences as a small animal general practitioner. After graduating from Fairfield High School, Dr. DJ attended The Ohio State University where he received a BS in Animal Science in 2002 and a DVM in 2006. He moved to New Jersey and completed 2 internships at Garden State Veterinary Specialists, focusing on small animal internal medicine, critical care and surgery, then returned to The Ohio State University where he completed a Master of Science and a Residency in Comparative Ophthalmology in 2011. Dr. Haeussler is a board certified diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) and serves on the organization's Public Relations Committee.

Dr. Haeussler is always willing to share his extensive knowledge with anyone interested in learning. He regularly contributes to professional publications to help fellow professionals provide the best care possible. While in vet school Dr. Haeussler recognized the need for a comprehensive photographic atlas to help veterinarians diagnose eye diseases. With the unwavering support of his father, Dr. Haeussler put his photography skills to good use by publishing his first book in 2014, *Recognition of Canine Ocular Diseases: A Photographic Atlas Volume 1*.

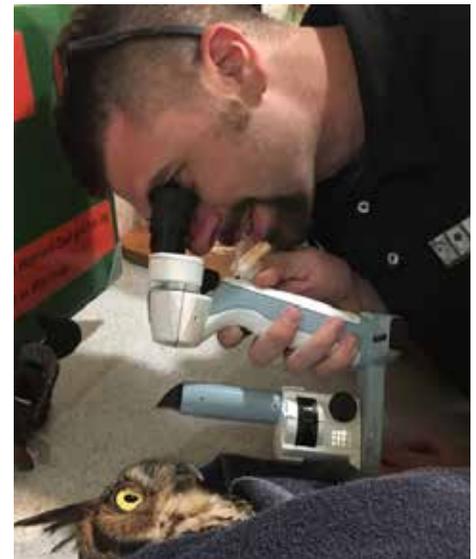
Dr. DJ is the owner of The Animal Eye Institute, a state of the art referral only surgical ophthalmology practice with locations in Cincinnati, Dayton, Lebanon, and Florence. The practice is very busy, serving 30 to 40 patients each day. In addition, Dr. Haeussler routinely makes house calls to our facility after his regular office hours. When asked why he was willing to sacrifice so much of his personal time to make house calls, he answered without hesitation, "It's in the best interest of the animals."

RAPTOR Inc. is not the only organization in our community to benefit from Dr. Haeussler's generosity. Dr. Haeussler assisted the Springfield Township Police Department by performing surgery on

Officer Ranger, a K9 patrol and narcotics officer who was going blind in his right eye. Dr. DJ performed cataract surgery and placed an artificial lens, restoring Ranger's vision! In addition, Dr. Haeussler offers free eye exams for working service dogs every year during the entire month of May.

DJ's hobbies include photography, muscle cars (Mustangs Rule!) and scuba diving. The large salt water aquarium in his Cincinnati office is evidence of his love for the ocean. DJ is an avid sports fan. He enjoys following the Cincinnati Reds, Bengals, and the Ohio State Buckeyes, but his favorite team, by far, is his sons' soccer team. Most of all, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Dr. Jayme Haeussler (also a veterinarian!), his two sons, Trey and Dane, and the family's pets – a boxer named Vegas, and a pit bull named Charlotte Pickles.

Thanks, Dr. Haeussler, for sharing your super powers with us at RAPTOR Inc.!



*Dr. Haeussler examining a patient*

## Intern Spotlight: Megan Spiegel

by: Alison Bewley & Jackie Bray



Many visitors to the Raptor Center this summer have been welcomed by our bubbly summer intern, Megan Spiegel. Megan is a student at Iowa State University, double majoring in Microbiology and Animal Science with a minor in Entrepreneurial Studies. She learned about RAPTOR Inc.'s internship program from our Attending Veterinarian and Board Member, Dr. Robert Dahlhausen. Megan served as an intern for Dr. Dahlhausen at the Avian and Exotic Animal Medical Center from May 2014 to August 2015.

When asked what duties she enjoys the most, Megan replied, "If I had to choose, I really enjoy triage and diagnostics work with Cindy and Jackie. When a bird comes in for the first time, the overall assessment that we do and administration of care are really incredible." Her least favorite duty is cleaning out the Cooper's hawk carriers because "they are very messy birds!"

After Megan finishes her undergraduate studies, she plans to complete a Master's degree in immunology, attend veterinary school, and conduct research on infectious diseases, including Avian Bornavirus (ABV). ABV is a little-understood

virus that causes a persistent infection of the central nervous system in birds. We appreciate Megan's service to our organization and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RAPTOR Inc.'s Internship Program is designed for current college students or recent college graduates working toward a career in wildlife conservation, animal care, education, communications or non-profit management. Under the guidance and supervision of RAPTOR Inc. staff, interns will develop skills and gain valuable real-world experience in their chosen field. Internships are non-paid and no housing is provided.

Three non-paid internship sessions are available each year. Spring internships begin in January, conclude in April, and have an application deadline of October 31st. Summer internships begin in May, conclude in August, and have an application deadline of February 28th. Fall internships begin in September, conclude in December, and have an application deadline of June 30th. If you are interested in applying for an upcoming internship, visit our website at <http://raptorinc.org/contact-us/internships/>.



## Calendar Photos, Summer 2017



July: Red-tailed Hawk by Jim McMillan



August: Common Barn Owl by Kathy Newton



September: Great Horned Owl by Jonathan Neeld

# Laser Donation Expands Patient Care

By Jackie R Bray, Associate Director

RAPTOR Inc. would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Gary Clemons and the Milford Animal Hospital for generously donating a therapeutic K-Laser to our raptor rehabilitation facility. This high-tech piece of equipment will greatly enhance our ability to treat injured raptors and, hopefully, speed up their recovery time.

“Laser Therapy is the use of specific wavelengths of light (red and near-infrared) to stimulate the body's natural ability to heal. Class IV K-Laser Therapy is a FDA cleared therapeutic treatment that manages pain and inflammation while accelerating tissue regeneration. Laser energy increases circulation, drawing water, oxygen, and nutrients to the damaged

area. This creates an optimal healing environment that reduces inflammation, swelling, muscle spasm, stiffness and pain” (K-laser.com). Laser Therapy is widely used in human and veterinary medical facilities and has been proven to provide significant therapeutic benefits. We are excited to add this treatment option to our list of available services.

We also greatly appreciate the help of Dr. Clemons, his staff, and Dr. Robert Dahlhausen for their assistance with the technical training of our staff and the establishment of treatment protocols appropriate for avian species. With their professional guidance, we are confident the birds in our care will receive the best treatment possible.



## RAPTOR, Inc. Thanks Wild About Birds

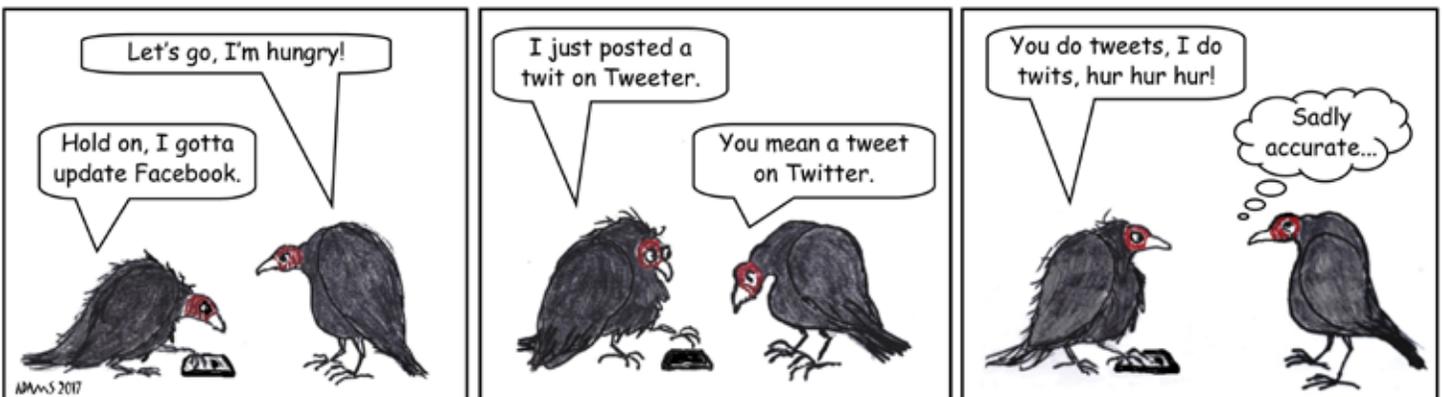


Thanks to Debbie Winkelman, the owner of Wild About Birds in Milford, for another great fundraising success at the 2017 Annual Sidewalk Sale! All proceeds from the rummage sale and raffle tickets were donated to RAPTOR for the care and maintenance of our avian ambassadors, as well as birds undergoing rehabilitation. Thanks to all the caring customers for their continued support of Wild About Birds and RAPTOR Inc.!

Stop in Wild About Birds at 1133 Main Street, Milford, 45150, for gift ideas and all your bird feeding needs. Friendly and knowledgeable staff are there to answer all of your questions whether it be birdwatching, education, feeding or gifting. It's a fun place to visit.

## Raptor Ink

by Catherine Adams



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

Sat, Sep 9	3pm-4pm	Erlanger Branch Library	401 Kenton Lands Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018
Sat, Sep 9	8pm-9pm	Fernald Nature Preserve Visitor Center	7400 Willey Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013
Sat, Sep 16	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	209 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Sun, Sep 17	3pm-4:30pm	Washington Twp. Autumn Bash Festival	2238 State Route 756, Moscow, OH 45153
Sun, Sep 24	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Sat, Oct 1	1pm-4pm	Greater Cincinnati Rose Show	Ault Park, 5090 Observatory Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45208
Sat, Oct 7	1pm-3pm	Pringles Orchard	2697 Pringle Rd., Goshen, OH 45122
Sat, Oct 14	6:30pm-8:30pm	Miami Twp. Harvest Fest	5951 Buckwheat Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Tue, Oct 17	6pm-7pm	Mt. Washington Branch Library	2049 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45230
Sat, Oct 21	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	209 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Wed, Oct 25	6:30pm-7:30pm	Anderson Twp. Library	7450 State Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45230
Sun, Oct 29	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Tue, Nov 7	6pm-7pm	Williamsburg Branch Library	594 W Main St, Williamsburg, OH 45176
Mon, Nov 13	6:30pm-7:30pm	Owensville Branch Library	2548 US Route 50, Owensville, OH 45160
Sun, Nov 26	1pm-4pm	OPEN HOUSE at RAPTOR Inc.	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150

## 2017 Admissions

American Kestrel: 16	Long-eared Owl: 0	Red-tailed Hawk: 30	<i>Released: 31%</i>
Merlin: 0	Saw-whet Owl: 0	Rough-legged Hawk: 0	<i>Under Care: 32%</i>
Peregrine Falcon: 1	Snowy Owl: 0	Turkey Vulture: 6	<i>Transferred: 2%</i>
Eastern Screech Owl: 10	Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1	Black Vulture: 1	<i>Died: 16%</i>
Barred Owl: 18	Cooper's Hawk: 37	Osprey: 1	<i>Euthanized: 19%</i>
Barn Owl: 0	Broad-winged Hawk: 0	Golden Eagle: 0	<b>TOTAL Admissions: 178</b>
Great Horned Owl: 26	Red-shouldered Hawk: 31	Bald Eagle: 0	

### RAPTOR Inc. Board, Spring 2017

President: Marc Alverson  
 Vice President: Jeff Hays  
 Treasurer: Robert E. Smith  
 Secretary: Alice McCaleb  
 Trustee: Rosie Ayers  
 Trustee: Dan Begin  
 Trustee: Bob Dahlhausen, DVM  
 Trustee: Joe Lucas  
 Trustee: Open  
 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 Marc Alverson at [marcalverson@cinci.rr.com](mailto:marcalverson@cinci.rr.com) for meeting time and location.

#### 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) 374-3963

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

#### Communications

Gary Young, Newsletter Editor  
 To submit articles or pictures for consideration in 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

#### 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".

### Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their recent financial contributions to RAPTOR Inc. for the second quarter of 2017.

Auer, Mary  
 Avery, Mr. & Mrs. Darryl  
 Ballassone, Jean  
 Blust, Mr. & Mrs. William  
 Bollmer, Kevin  
 Coy, Keith  
 Day II, William D.  
 Giving Assistant  
 Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Ryan  
 Kloos, Robert  
 Kroger Company

Lemke, James  
 Lyons, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel  
 McCaleb, Mr. & Mrs. Michael  
 Moffatt, Brenda  
 Ott, Linda  
 Pace, Mr. & Mrs. Doug  
 Remke Markets  
 Riesenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey  
 Scallan, Carol  
 Wood, Mr. & Mrs. Michael

#### In-kind Donations

Adams, Catherine  
 Anonymous  
 Berry, Lisa  
 Bray, Jackie  
 Brant, Logan  
 Clemons, Gary, DVM  
 Gillen, Jen  
 Goshen Girl Scout Day Camp  
 Loveland 6th Grade Student Council

Lucas, Joe  
 Morsbach, Donna  
 Pennington, Roger  
 Smith, Robert E.  
 Spiegel, Jan  
 Wright, Dee

# Great Outdoor Weekend at RAPTOR Inc.

By Cindy Alverson, Executive Director

RAPTOR Inc. will be hosting its second annual Great Outdoor Weekend on September 24, 2017. Sponsored by Green Umbrella, this annual event offers opportunities for children and adults to sample the best outdoor recreation and nature awareness programs available in the Greater Cincinnati region. This weekend of September 23 and 24, there are over 100 events available—all are free and open to the public.

Visit RAPTOR Inc. on September 24, 1-4 PM and look into the eyes of a Great Horned Owl! Bring your preschooler to enjoy an “Owl Babies” presentation at 2:30 PM or enjoy our coloring station. There will be bird banding activities as well as pellet dissection for all to experience and enjoy! Learn why conservation of birds of prey is so important to our environment!



## RAPTOR Inc. Membership

Renewal notices are sent out at the end of the year 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](http://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.

\$10 Student Membership  
(1 year - up to age 18)

\$25 Hawk Membership  
(1-year)

\$50 Owl Membership  
plus receive stunning Raptor Notecard Set

\$100 Eagle Membership  
plus receive Charley Harper designed T-Shirt

\$500 Lifetime Membership  
plus personalized tour for 5

**Eagle and Lifetime Memberships, please indicate T-Shirt Size: (S, M, L, XL, XXL) \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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.!

### 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: \$25
- Eastern Screech Owl: \$25
- Cooper's Hawk: \$25
- Barred Owl: \$25
- 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, Mifflord, Ohio 45150**

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!