

HackBack

The Newsletter of RAPTOR Inc.

Celebrating 39 Years



Winter 2018

RAPTOR Rehabilitates Bald Eagle

by Marc Alverson, President

On October 28th, 2017, RAPTOR got a call from Ohio State Wildlife Officer Darin Abbott about an injured Bald Eagle.

The eagle was found in Lawrence County Ohio, near Rt 52 in Ironton. The eagle was seen perching on a low branch, but when approached, it was only able to fly about 20 feet. It was rumored to have been grounded for at least two days with a possible right wing injury. Locals believe that the bird is at least 10 years old and has been nesting at the same site for the last five years. Darin consulted the state's record of licensed raptor rehabilitators who are able to care for an eagle and contacted RAPTOR to arrange for the eagle's care.

The Wildlife Officer delivered the eagle to RAPTOR's facility.

This was a substantial drive, but the eagle is somewhat of a local celebrity and everyone was hoping for a successful rehabilitation so that it could be returned to its home territory. On admission, the eagle was found to be alert with no obvious injuries, although there was blood present on some of its feathers. The Wildlife Officer said that the eagle put up a pretty good struggle when he was capturing it, and that some of the blood was probably his! The eagle weighed in at 8.5 lbs. making it likely a male. No broken bones were found and the eagle was given fluids.

Since the eagle's posture was good and there were no other known issues, the eagle was transferred to a large flight cage to see what it would do. The eagle began eating on its own and, by monitoring a TV camera in the flight cage, it was observed that it could barely get enough lift to make it to the 5 foot perch. RAPTOR's in-mew cameras have proven invaluable for observing birds' behavior without the effects of human presence. The eagle spent most of its time standing on the ground where a healthy bird will generally perch on the highest place available. It also seemed that its left wing might be drooping a bit. Dr. Bob Dahlhausen drew blood to check for West Nile Virus and Avian Bornavirus with both returning negative results.

The blood work did indicate an elevated white blood cell count and anemia. This is suggestive of the fungal infection aspergillosis, and medication was begun by inserting the medicine in the eagle's food. After two weeks a new blood test indicated that the white count was significantly improved although the anemia persisted. After another two weeks the eagle was getting stronger and was able to fly up to the 13 foot perch – a possible indication that the anemia is getting better. Further blood testing has not been performed since this is extremely stressful to the bird. At this time, the bird appears to be on its way to a full recovery and a release is anticipated in the next several months.



2017 – A Record Year of Raptor Admissions

By Cindy Alverson, Executive Director

336! That was the record number of injured raptors admitted for treatment at RAPTOR Inc. in 2017. The previous record was in 2002 following an outbreak of the West Nile Virus. Interestingly, we could not attribute 2017's high admission rate to a specific disease or incident because the admissions were fairly uniform across species and across clinical presentations (see the accompanying list.)

We believe the increased admissions may be related to greater public awareness of our organization. In 2016 we expanded our social media presence and launched our free monthly Open House events. Since their inception, over 4,000 guests have visited our facility during our Open Houses. In addition, we have conducted over 700 educational programs in the last 2 years with 43,000 people attending. Our Open House events and educational programs encourage visitors to learn about these magnificent birds and their importance to the environment, and give visitors the opportunity to make personal connections with local wildlife. Guests often return and bring their family and friends!

We are excited about the increased admission rate because it means we can have a greater conservation impact. Every day the staff and volunteers at RAPTOR Inc. strive to fulfill our mission to conserve birds of prey via rehabilitation and education. Educational programs can be as important as our rehabilitation efforts because our programs inform community members about whom to call if they find an injured raptor. They also encourage people to care enough to take action to seek help for birds in need.

We also want to express our appreciation to you, our membership, for providing financial resources and for spreading the word about the good work we do! Our membership is at an all-time high thanks to your dedicated support and referrals. You are instrumental in spreading awareness of our organization and our conservation message. Thank you for helping us save raptors.

2017 Admissions

American Kestrel: 22	Long-eared Owl: 0	Red-tailed Hawk: 69	Released : 47%
Merlin: 0	Saw-whet Owl: 0	Rough-legged Hawk: 0	Under Care: 4%
Peregrine Falcon: 1	Snowy Owl: 1	Turkey Vulture: 15	Transferred: 2%
Eastern Screech Owl: 18	Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2	Black Vulture: 6	Died: 25%
Barred Owl: 33	Cooper's Hawk: 60	Osprey: 1	Euthanized: 21%
Barn Owl: 0	Broad-winged Hawk: 4	Golden Eagle: 0	TOTAL Admissions: 336
Great Horned Owl: 61	Red-shouldered Hawk: 42	Bald Eagle: 1	



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.

- Dog Food (dry, for large dogs)
- Duct Tape
- Dustbuster (hand-held vacuum)
- Gas Gift Card
- Latex or Nitrile exam gloves
- (any size)
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Office Max Gift Card
- Stamps (Forever)
- 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 is purchased, it is shipped directly to our RAPTOR facility in Milford.

How easy is that!

Lights Out Cincinnati

It is estimated that 550 million birds are killed in North America each year by bird collisions with buildings during migration. Birds that migrate at night use the moon and stars as navigational tools along their migration routes. This behavior naturally attracts birds to the bright lights of big cities and often leads them to fatally collide with tall, brightly lit buildings. Light aimed at the sky can disorient them causing them to circle buildings until they fall from exhaustion.

The Ohio Lights Out campaign is an initiative to help with bird conservation, significantly reducing bird deaths while assisting building owners and managers to decrease their energy costs and take steps to be recognized as “being green”. Every spring and fall, millions of birds migrate through Ohio on their way to or from their breeding grounds. But many never make it.

The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative is working with cities across the state to expand the Ohio Lights Out program. Partners in Ohio include Lights Out Columbus established in 2012, Lights Out Miami Valley which was launched in the Dayton area in 2015, and Lights Out Cleveland which launched in 2017. Meetings are underway to launch the Lights Out program in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Reports from neighboring programs such as Lights Out Chicago found an 80% reduction in collisions at a building following a reduction in nighttime lighting

and the Lights Out Wilmington estimated saving of \$6,000 per year for one 20-story building which had participated in the Lights Out program.

Participants who enroll in the program for their building, pledge to reduce lighting by taking as many of the following steps as possible:

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Dim lobby and atrium lighting
- Turn off interior light or draw blinds on upper floors and in any unoccupied space

The above steps are taken during the peak migratory periods. In Ohio, those periods are:

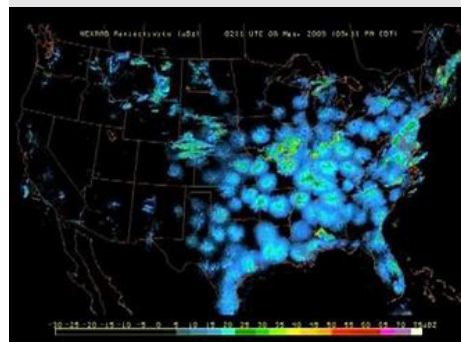
- Fall: August 1 to October 31
- Spring: March 15 to June 1
- Between midnight and dawn

As noted in the above steps, this program is only asking for exterior, decorative light reductions during specific time periods during the night and for only a few months a year. It does not ask for reduction in safety lighting, but focuses on reducing the decorative lighting on the tall, brightly lit buildings of big cities.

Although these migrating birds are typically not raptors, these birds still enrich our lives and are a necessary part of the environment. They are not the species of birds which RAPTOR Inc. would rehabilitate, but we can still participate in doing our part in preventing the hazards that befall them. Prevention can be the best medicine.

by Cindy Alverson, Executive Director

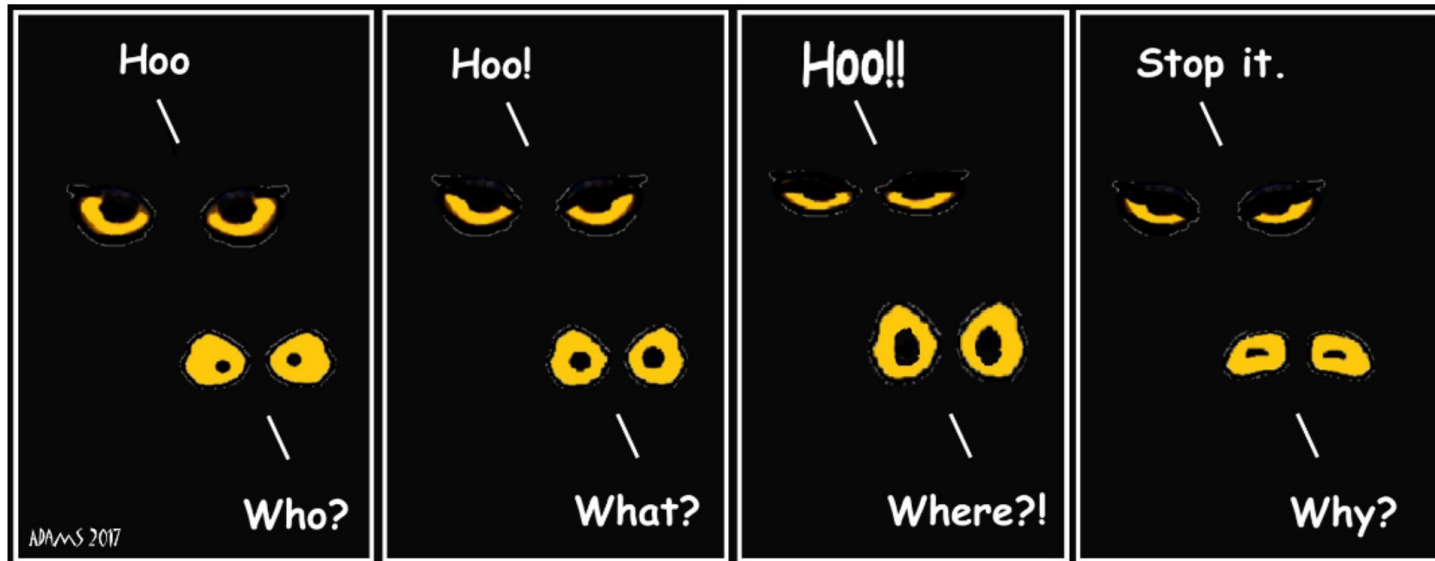
Nighttime Migration



*Doppler radar picks up
large numbers of birds
migrating at night,
showing them as circles
which grow and disperse.
You can see this on
YouTube videos, such as
<https://goo.gl/1yrjBt>.*

Raptor Ink

by Catherine Adams





RAPTOR Inc.'s Eagle Ed-Venture Program Takes Flight Thanks to the Generosity of the Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation

By Jackie Bray, Associate Director

Because of our busy technology-infused lifestyles, people are becoming more and more disconnected from nature. At the same time, nature is under attack by forces such as habitat destruction, pollution, loss of biodiversity, human population growth, and climate change. If we want people to take action to conserve wildlife and wild places, then we must give them opportunities to learn about these amazing creatures and to care about them. Educational programs featuring live animal ambassadors create "Wow" moments that foster powerful personal connections between people and wildlife. By cultivating understanding and respect for nature and the interconnectedness of life in our audiences, we hope to ignite their passion to protect these magnificent animals and inspire a generation of future conservationists.

Since we have undertaken the awesome responsibility of including live avian ambassadors in our educational presentations, then we must commit to seek out and provide the highest welfare standards possible for the animals in our care and ensure that all staff and volunteers receive the best training.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation, RAPTOR Inc. has formed a partnership with experienced avian trainer, Phung Luu, from Avian Behavior & Conservation Connections, LLC. Phung has over 25 years of experience in animal training, rehabilitation and husbandry, and consults nationally and internationally with zoos, museums, nature centers and other animal care facilities.

The Sule Grant has also provided RAPTOR Inc. with the specialized equipment and training needed to safely handle and publically exhibit our newest avian ambassador, Eli the Bald Eagle. Eli was found near Lake Erie in 2015, when he was about 2 ½ years old. He had a severe right wing injury and was in very poor physical condition. He was taken to Ohio Bird Sanctuary where he spent the next 8 months recovering. Unfortunately, his wing injury was so severe that it prevented him from being able to survive in the wild, so Ohio Bird Sanctuary had to find him a permanent home. In early 2016 RAPTOR Inc. committed to caring for Eli and he was transferred to our facility to serve as an exhibit animal. Eli adjusted so well to his new home that the staff felt he was a good candidate for training to be handled on the glove and to make public appearances. Thanks to Phung's expertise, Eli is doing very well in training and will start making appearances at our spring Open House events starting in March.

Elsa Heisel Sule was a local celebrity and an incredibly inspiring woman. She had a deep love for her family and local community, and generously shared her talents and resources to benefit others. She was dedicated to scholarship and philanthropy, and her adventurous spirit allowed her to pursue her dreams during a time when society had different expectations for women. We want to thank the Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation for their generous support of our organization and for ensuring that Elsa Heisel Sule's incredible gift-giving legacy continues to benefit the people and animals of our community.



Left to right, Cindy Alverson, Robert E. Smith, Phung Luu, Jackie Bray, and Eli



Eli perched outside



Spring Intern Spotlight

By: Jackie Bray

RAPTOR Inc. is happy to introduce our Spring 2018 interns - Eric Alley and Magdalena Garcia. The dramatic increase in the number of admissions to the raptor center and our new laboratory and laser treatment capabilities have created enough additional workload to keep 2 interns busy! Both are hardworking and have been a great asset to our organization. Be sure to say hello the next time you stop in at Red Barn.

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 develop practical skills and gain valuable real-world experience in their chosen field. Internships are non-paid and no housing is provided. If you are interested in applying for an upcoming internship, visit our website at <http://raptorinc.org/contact-us/internships/>.

Eric Alley



Eric graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a BS in Natural Resources Conservation in 2017. Eric is from Martinsville, VA and moved to Cincinnati to be with his girlfriend, who is getting her PhD at Xavier University.

Eric served in the U.S. Army as an Assistant Security Manager. He worked at the University of Massachusetts as a Recycling Assistant and a Herpetological Collection Assistant, and with Massachusetts Audubon on Salamander population research. Eric also volunteers at Angel's Rest Animal Sanctuary in Amelia, where he serves as a kennel technician. In the future he would like to work on endangered species conservation, such as the hellbender reintroduction program.

When asked what he has gained from this internship, Eric advised he has enjoyed learning about the natural behaviors of the birds, and about our rehabilitation and laboratory techniques.

His favorite experiences have been watching a bald eagle fly overhead and land nearby, and catching a great horned owl and experiencing how powerful they are. His least favorite experience has been cutting up rats!

In his free time, Eric likes to go "herping" in the local parks, kayaking, and watching movies.

Maggie Garcia



Maggie graduated from the College of the Atlantic with a BA in Human Ecology in 2014. Maggie was born in Texas and grew up in Maine. She came to Cincinnati to be with her family.

Maggie has worked at the Cincinnati Zoo as a Wild Encounters Interpreter, with Sierra Nevada Journeys as a Resident Outdoor Science Instructor, and with Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge as an Outreach Education Intern. She also worked with Greenheart Travel as a Teaching Assistant where she taught middle school students in Italy the English language. In the future Maggie would like to work as a Travelling Outdoor Educator in areas where she can reach populations that don't have exposure to wildlife education.

When asked what she has gained from the internship, Maggie advised she has a greater appreciation for the people who care for and rehabilitate wildlife, and recognizes the need to make difficult decisions when it comes to quality of life issues. She also thinks it is important to make the public aware of organizations like ours so animals in need receive the best care.

Her favorite experience has been the excitement of grabbing up her first large raptor!

Maggie is very busy, so in her free time she likes to catch up on her sleep, practice yoga, read, and cook.



2018: The Year of the Bird

By Alison Bewley, Volunteer

This year is an exciting one for birds and the people who love them. One hundred years ago, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was codified into federal law. The 1918 law made it illegal to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell migratory birds—or any parts of migratory birds—without a waiver, and over 800 species of migratory birds are protected under this legislation. It was, and continues to be, the most formidable law in place to defend birds, and it has saved countless birds in the past century.

To celebrate this landmark centennial and ornithological victory, the National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, along with dozens of other organizations, are teaming up to make 2018 the Year of the Bird. The Year of the Bird is part celebration, part commitment, and one hundred percent birdtastic. According to Audubon's president and CEO David Yarnold (<https://goo.gl/bc12Ap>), the goal is to combine storytelling and science, celebration and conservation to “focus on how changing our environment is affecting bird populations and what we can do to stop the decline.” From around the world, there will be stories and photography to inspire and uplift, as well as educate and call to action.

While there is much to celebrate, there is also a great deal still to be done. Although the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects birds from direct human actions, birds are under new and different threats in today's changing world. Their habitats are being destroyed, their migration stopover sites are shrinking and vanishing, and they are being pushed from increasingly human-dominated areas. They need our help.

Fortunately, that's where the commitment part of the Year of the Bird comes into play. Throughout the year, partner organizations will share ways that you can make a difference in the lives of birds near you. Maybe you could start by making your backyard safer (<https://goo.gl/y4gdZQ>), or plant native bird-friendly flowers (<https://goo.gl/qpRm4a>) in your garden this spring, or bird-ify your New Year's Resolutions (<https://goo.gl/ZmA3Ma>). There are plenty of ways to help, and every little thing matters!

To learn more about the Year of the Bird and how you can help make a better world for birds—and the rest of us—check out their website at <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird/> or follow the tag #BirdYourWorld on social media. To get involved more locally, visit <http://raptorinc.org/raptor-support/> to see how you can support RAPTOR, Inc. Help us make 2018 the Year of the Bird, one step at a time.

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 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

Ann Manharth, DVM
(513) 248-0904

Communications

Gary Young, 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

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 last quarter of 2017.

Ahrenholz, Teresa
Alverson, Mr. & Mrs. Marc
Ayers, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Barkalow, David
Beer, Amira
Berger, Judith
Boeckman, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
Borisch, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth
Brewster, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
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Wauligman, Wayne
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Wood, Mr. & Mrs. Michael

Falcon Level \$500 to \$999

Hays, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff
Jenny, James
Kroger Community Awards
Ray, Mr. & Mrs. John
Smith, Robert
Stevenson, Andrew

Osprey Level \$1000 and up

Butler, Joel
Johnston, Robert A
Landis, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Magnode Corporation
Simon, Mr. & Mrs. Irwin

In-kind Donations

Alverson Family
Animal Eye Institute
Ayers, Rosemarie
Dahlhausen, Bob DVM
Goebel
Kreimer, Lucy
Lucas, Joe
McCaleb, Alice
Morsbach, Donna
Smith, Zan
Stevenson, Andy
Walgreens, Milford
Wright Brothers Inc.
Wright, Dee

Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming RAPTOR Public Appearances!

Sat Mar 3	9:30am-3:30pm	Amish Bird Symposium	3735 Wheat Ridge Rd., West Union, OH 45693
Wed Mar 7	4pm-5pm	Main Branch Library Teen Spot	800 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202
Sat Mar 10	7pm-8:30pm	Western Wildlife Corridor	2 Main St., Addyston, OH 45001
Thu Mar 22	6:30pm-7:30pm	Highland Cemetery Chapel	2167 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
Sun Mar 25	1pm-4pm	Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Sat Apr 7	10am-12pm	Clermont Co Sycamore Park Nest Fest	4082 OH 132, Batavia, OH 45103
Sat Apr 14	2pm-3pm	North Central Branch Library	11109 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45231
Sat Apr 21	12pm-7pm	Earth Day Celebration at Summit Park	4335 Glendale Milford Rd, Blue Ash, OH 45242
Sat Apr 2	12pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Tu Apr 24	6:30pm-7:30pm	Batavia Library	180 S. Third St., Batavia, OH 45103
Sun Apr 29	1pm-4pm	Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Sat May 5	10:30am-1pm	Newtown Feed & Supply	6876 Main St., Newtown, OH 45244
Sat May 19	2pm-3pm	Little Miami Conservancy	211 Railroad Ave., Loveland, OH 45140
Sun May 27	1pm-4pm	Open House	961 Barg Salt Run Rd., Milford, OH 45150
Thu May 31	6pm-9pm	Frontier Days Parade	Main St., Milford, OH 45150

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

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, Milford, Ohio 45150

Thank you for your support of RAPTOR Inc.!