

Winter Birds

After a brief respite in September and October, the birds have arrived in a steady stream. We tend to get a backup of birds waiting for release in the winter since we would rather not put them back out in the wild when the weather is really bad. A healthy bird is capable of surviving nicely in the cold and snow, but we feel that a bird that has been in captivity for a severe injury has “lost its edge” and needs to get itself back into the business of survival. Some of them take longer than others to reach that point. It is interesting to note that the birds usually “let us know” when they are ready to go. They tend to go from being somewhat quiet, content to sit on a perch, perhaps unwilling to fly a great deal, to a time when they become very restless and begin moving about much more sometimes flying into the sides of the cage as if it would give way for them to leave.

There have been some surprises and some long term injuries as well, and we have a Broad-winged Hawk that has had to spend the winter with us due to an inability to migrate on time. The best surprises were a Barred Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk which were able to be released. The Barred Owl had been hit by a car and had injury to both eyes - it appeared that both retinas had partially detached. She was an especially beautiful and robust bird with a quiet personality so we started looking for a placement for her as an educational bird. We began to see, however, that she was finding her mice in the enclosure with no problem and flying well. After some difficulty in catching her, she was taken for a veterinary recheck, and it was noted that her eyes looked much better and the retinas had apparently re-attached with very little scarring. She was able to be released back where she was found, on the west end of Oak Ridge, during a break in the weather. Our second good outcome was a Red-tailed Hawk that had been caught in barbed wire. It was brought to us by the Blount County TWRA officer. The damage to the wing web was extensive. The bird was taken to our vet, Rick Hinson, at the Oak Ridge Veterinary Hospital, where it was stitched up to the degree it could be. We then had to use a product on the wound that would keep it moist and allow it to heal with minimal scarring. Contracture of the tendon is always a worry in cases like this one which have so much damage. When the bird was healed we looked at the wing and wondered if it would fly at all. We moved it to a small cage to let it begin using the wing and it looked pretty good. Then the moment of truth. We moved it to the fifty foot cage.....and it flew straight up to an eight foot high perch then flew the length of the cage quite easily. This bird has since been released back to Blount County.

We are now working on the elbow of a Great Horned Owl which was caught in barbed wire. An elbow is a difficult place to get healing. Once again the dressing is a gel which keeps the tissue moist so it can grow new skin. She has to have the dressing changed every few days now, but at first it was every other day. She is a very big, very strong, nasty tempered bird! She isn't the least bit impressed with our efforts and she tries her very best to grab us with her feet and also tries to bite. It is everything that two people can do to control her, and we hope for healing very soon, while we still have all of our digits attached, and no punctures!



Programs		
Date	Location	Volunteers
October 1st	Cumberland Gap National Park Raptor Rhapsody	Kayley Snyder
October 8th	Dutch Valley Elementary School Program	Kayley Snyder
October 12th	West Hills Elementary School Program	Kayley Snyder
November 9th	Claxton Elementary School	Kayley Snyder
November 18th	Andersonville Elementary	Kayley, Jennifer Hinson

Non - Raptor Update

Date	Species	Reason for Admission	Outcome
26-Oct	American Crow	Old fracture; down on ground	Euthanized, Oct 27

The Supporters Who Make It All Possible – THANK YOU!

Norma & Thomas Brown	Oak Ridge, TN
Nancy Burwell	Clinton, TN
Donald Caldwell	Knoxville, TN
Joan Cassens	Oak Ridge, TN
Jeff Chapman	Knoxville, TN
Clinch Bend Chapter DAR	Oak Ridge, TN
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Russ Rickard	Caryville, TN
Philip & Cynthia Roberts	Powell, TN
Anne Sekula	Oak Ridge, TN
Kevin & Linda Staton	Knoxville, TN
In Honor of Jan & Curtis Manuel	Rockwood, TN
By Judy Ezell	
In Honor of Duane & Judy Ezell	Spring City, TN
By Curtis & Janet Manuel	



Photo by Tom Haynes

As Always, a BIG Thank You to...

OAK RIDGE VETERINARY HOSPITAL
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Thank you to:

Bobbe Smith.....pine needles
 Tom Haynes.....photos
 Clay Agin.....photos



The table below contains information on all the raptors we have ever received. Eastern Screech Owls are the most common raptor we get and the majority of those are nestlings or fledglings. Red-tailed Hawks are the second most common species, and most of those come to us with fractures. In 2010, the raptor center admitted 17 Kestrels, 4 Barn Owls, 11 Barred Owls, 1 Black Vulture, 3 Broad-winged Hawks, 8 Cooper's Hawks, 23 Screech Owls, 11 Great Horned Owls, 11 Red-shouldered Hawks, 25 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Turkey Vultures, and 1 Osprey.

	Hit by a car	Fractures	Nestling / Fledgling	Shot	Caught in barbed wire	Caught in leg-hold trap	Thin / emaciated	Diseased	Window collision	Head trauma / CNS	Eye injury	Soft tissue trauma	Other	TOTALS
Eastern Screech Owl	98	51	139	-	7	-	9	2	4	36	65	14	60	485
Red-tailed Hawk	31	116	9	15	10	1	50	10	2	20	9	34	36	343
Barred Owl	54	54	24	1	16	1	1	4	-	11	23	7	27	223
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	45	61	8	1	-	11	4	1	10	1	3	18	173
Great Horned Owl	10	17	34	1	38	6	15	1	-	10	10	7	14	163
Cooper's Hawk	9	32	9	1	1	-	11	1	19	19	2	13	26	143
American Kestrel	2	9	87	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	3	12	118
Broad-winged Hawk	14	16	20	-	-	-	7	2	-	5	3	6	8	81
Barn Owl	1	5	62	2	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	1	3	80
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	14	4	-	1	-	2	-	11	7	-	2	8	52
Black Vulture	-	6	3	5	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	24
Osprey	-	8	5	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	20
Turkey Vulture	3	8	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	22
Bald Eagle	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Peregrine Falcon	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merlin	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	235	385	460	39	75	9	116	31	37	119	115	92	220	1933
Approximately 55% released back into the wild														



Raptor Update

Date	Species	Reason for Admission	Outcome
1-Oct	Red-tailed Hawk	Lung infection; nerve damage	Euthanized, Oct 5
9-Oct	Red-shouldered Hawk	Dislocated shoulder; fractured wing	Euthanized, Oct 11
14-Oct	Broad-winged Hawk	Missing feathers	Pending
1-Nov	Great Horned Owl	Caught in barbed wire	Pending
3-Nov	Red-tailed Hawk	Thin, sick	Died, Nov 9
1-Nov	Great Horned Owl	Hit by a car; fractured leg, wing	Euthanized, Nov 11
13-Nov	Eastern Screech Owl	Unknown	Released, Nov 20
15-Nov	Great Horned Owl	Caught in barbed wire	Released, Jan 15, 2011
17-Nov	Red-tailed Hawk	Hit by a car, fractured leg	Euthanized, Nov 18
28-Nov	Barred Owl	Hit by a car, head trauma	Released, Jan 6, 2011
30-Nov	Eastern Screech Owl	Hit by a car; wing droop	Pending
1-Dec	Red-tailed Hawk	Fractured leg	Pending
2-Dec	Red-tailed Hawk	Caught in barbed wire	Released, Jan 23, 2011
2-Dec	Barred Owl	Corneal ulcer	Released, Dec 23
9-Dec	Red-tailed Hawk	Fractured wing	Euthanized, Dec 9
19-Dec	Eastern Screech Owl	Broken lower mandible; lacerated chest	Died, Dec 21
27-Dec	Eastern Screech Owl	Unknown	Released, Jan 6, 2011
27-Dec	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Fractured wing	Euthanized, Dec 28
29-Dec	Red-tailed Hawk	Thin, metacarpal fractures	Pending
29-Dec	Red-tailed Hawk	Ulnar fracture	Pending
29-Dec	Eastern Screech Owl	Massive head trauma	Euthanized, Jan 3, 2011

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An article was recently received from our friend Sheila Saltmarsh about an old hawk. A Red-tailed Hawk, found in Monroe, N. Y., was banded at the age of 6 or 7 months, and according to that band she is now 27 years and 9 months old. That makes her the oldest one found alive in the wild in North America. When one considers the dangers and diseases which could have claimed her during that 27 years it is amazing that she is alive. She was found to have a hairline fracture of her wing and a respiratory problem, but it is expected that she will be released again when she is recovered to spend the rest of her life in the wild.

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**In Support of Clinch River Raptor Center**  
**THE CLINCH RIVER RAPTOR CENTER**

Clinton Middle School  
 110 N. Hicks St.  
 Clinton, TN 37716

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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| Oak Ridge Vet Hospital | 483 - 6614 |
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**Yearly Membership: (includes quarterly newsletter)**

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