

# Hoo's Woods Raptor Center

*Newsletter May 2011*

P.O. Box 21, Milton Wisconsin 53563

[www.hooswoods.org](http://www.hooswoods.org) email: [falco5@ticon.net](mailto:falco5@ticon.net)

608-883-2795



## Annual Open House!

Please note the date change since  
our previous newsletter

**Saturday June 11, 2011**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**11330 Six Corners Rd. Whitewater, WI**

**Located approximately 6 miles  
East of Milton**

Hoo's Woods Raptor Center cordially invites you to our annual open house.  
Meet us and our education birds including: eagles, hawks, owls and falcons.

Tours will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Cameras are welcome but **no video** permitted

There is no charge for admission. We are all feeling the effects of the economy, however, we still need to feed and care for the birds. Donations are welcome.

Door prizes will be drawn throughout the day.

### **Please note the following:**

- Children must be supervised by an adult at all times
  - Individuals must stay together in a group
  - Contact with the birds is prohibited
  - We are not handicap accessible
- Fund raising items will be available for your purchase
  - No public restroom on site available

\*We are not open daily to the general public  
Scheduled group tours are available by appointment only

You will have the opportunity to donate to the following:

Food, medical care, caging, eagle cage expansion, education materials for the classroom, continuing education, window fund, building improvements, fuel (gas cards welcome) daily operation expenses



## A Family of Kestrels

Those of you that participated at our Open House last year were fortunate enough to witness the release of two kestrel falcons. We continued to see the kestrels in the area for months to follow. Earlier this year I asked my husband Dave to build a kestrel nest box and install it on a 8 ft post on the east end of our property. Lo and behold we have a pair nesting this year! How cool would that be if these were one or both of the birds we released? It's been a treat to watch the weeks of courtship, food exchanges and territorial behavior by these birds. While the female is busy incubating the eggs, the male has been actively keeping watch and bushwhacking sparrows in our lilac bushes; providing food for the both of them. If you are interested in building a nest box for kestrels or screech owls, please visit our website [www.hooswoods.org](http://www.hooswoods.org) to download free instructions.

Here are some kestrel facts:

- Smallest of the falcons in North America, similar in size to the robin.
- Sometimes referred to as the “sparrow-hawk”
- Blue-gray crown and wings identify a male kestrel. Females have rust-brown wings.
- Cavity nesters and can often be seen hunting over open ditches or hovering (stationary flight) over a field. Will readily use nest boxes
- They see in ultraviolet enabling them to track urine markings left behind by mice.
- Kestrels lay their eggs in the spring, successfully hatching an average of 4-6 young.
- Prefer hunting areas with sparse vegetation and random perching. They can be seen on power lines or hovering over ditches and edges of highways.
- Kestrels prey mostly on mice, small birds, and large insects.



**E-Newsletter:** Hoo's Woods believes it is important to consider our environmental impact. Last spring we began providing a full color newsletter in email format to reduce our use of paper. This will allow more of your money to go directly to helping the birds. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please contact me at [falco5@ticon.net](mailto:falco5@ticon.net) Feel free to share this publication with family, friends or groups of interest.

*Barred Owl Chick recovered following recent severe storms that hit the area.*



## **Tidbits**

Pictured: Dianne with “Winston” discussing the incredible speed of the peregrine falcon with students at Evansville School Energy Fair

### **Hoo’s Woods Awarded Grant by the Alliant Energy Foundation**

On behalf of our board of directors, I want to thank the Alliant Energy Foundation for the generous grant recently awarded to Hoo's Woods. This grant will enable us to continue efforts in raptor education and preservation. Grants such as this are very needed and appreciated. Thank you for your support.

### **Raptor Program Referral**

If you have enjoyed one of my raptor programs in the past please refer me to your friends and co-workers. You can help to expand our audience by downloading our information flier from our website [www.hooswoods.org](http://www.hooswoods.org) Another idea to consider would be to sponsor a membership for Hoo’s Woods to your local Chamber of Commerce or Visitors and Convention Center. Let me know if you are interested.

### **Spring Releases**



In early May we received a call from concerned citizens regarding a young owl found in their yard that was being harassed by crows. Territorial behavior of crows is typical since owls and other raptor species sometimes compete with them for nesting sites. After checking out the situation, I brought the young bird back to our center to make sure it was unharmed. I’m pleased to report the bird was successfully relocated with its parents. Infant wildlife is best-raised by their parents. Remember, it’s an old wives tale if you touch a baby animal its parents won’t take it back. Thank you to Cathy Bright and Gail Slepikis for taking the time to care in this situation.

In March we received a call regarding an adult Great Horned Owl found very lethargic at a farm west of Milton. The owl was extremely emaciated (starved) and weak. Upon examination the bird had a large infestation of intestinal parasites. This can sometimes happen in the food chain when one thing eats another that is sick or is in a low condition to begin with. In this case I found two wounds on the bird, a small burn on the wing and another on a toe, indicating the owl had been electrocuted. After two months at our center we expect the owl to make a full recovery and be released. Thanks to the concern and caring of the Duane Saunders family the owl was found in time to receive the care necessary.

To those who take the time to care; your time and efforts make the difference.

## From the friends of Hoo's Woods

If you have a story or information you would like to share regarding wildlife and raptors we'd like to hear from you. We would also appreciate learning about more fund raising opportunities. Simply email or phone us.

Here is a story from one of our friends:

### Evicting Starlings submitted by Marti Martin, Midwest Prairies LLC

The last several days we have been watching the starling and wood duck families fighting over who gets the wood duck box house that is approximately 20' from our house. The starlings have been persistent in throwing out the shavings and putting in their own nesting materials. Ron pulled out the starlings house and refilled with shavings and the starlings threw the shavings out again, all happening over the course of a week or so. We got so frustrated that we put packing box tape over the hole for a few hours to keep the starlings out but then worried the wood ducks would come back and not be able to get in. So, off came the packing tape and back came the starlings. Then, I had a light bulb moment. I went and pulled out two old walkie talkie radios we had – put in some fresh batteries and do you know what we did? Ron put a screw inside the wood duck box house and some string on one of the walkie talkies and hung it on the screw leaving the walkie talkie in the "on" position. One radio came back in the house and the next time the starlings sat on the box, I pushed the button on the radio to ring the one outside and those starlings flew straight up into the air and haven't returned to that box since. They've flown near it but have stayed away from it. The wood ducks are now nesting peacefully.

The starlings have made a home in the nearby kestrel box which wasn't being used anyhow. However, they will be receiving a formal eviction notice soon. Ron is waiting for them to get comfortable.

### Hoo's Woods Wish List

Some supporters prefer to donate items. They feel it creates a more personal connection to our work and the birds. Here a few things you can donate to help:

#### **Items needed immediately**

Gas Cards  
Menards Gift Card (building materials)  
Home Depot Gift Card (building materials)  
Staples or Office Max Gift Card  
Paper towels  
Ziploc baggies  
Plastic tarps  
New upright freezer  
Small Laptop Computer

#### **Medical Needs**

Pedialyte – clear  
Topical Antibiotic  
Sterile electrolyte fluids



*"P.J." Education Barn Owl at Hoo's Woods*

Please check back at our website as items vary throughout the year. Thank you!

## Adopt a Raptor- Father's Day Gift

With Father's Day approaching this would make an ideal gift for that special person. The sponsorship packet includes: a professional photo of the raptor of your choice, an informational sheet and personalized certificate of sponsorship. Your tax deductible donation of \$50.00 includes adopting one of the following raptor species: bald eagle, golden eagle, barn owl, barred owl, great horned owl, short eared owl, screech owl, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, merlin falcon or vulture.

Thank you for supporting the Hoo's Woods education program through a donation or by Adopting a Raptor.

### Costs in maintaining these raptors include:

**Utilities and Food Purchases:** whole quail, chickens, mice, rats

**Freezer Space:** running non-stop

**Enclosure Maintenance:** perches, screening, heat & fans

**Daily Care:** 365 days worth of food, feeding, watering, maintaining a healthy and clean environment

**Insurance:** to allow for birds in the classroom

**Driving to Programs, etc:** nearly 10,000 miles last year

**Web Site:** constant updates, registration of domain name, web-related technical assistance

**Paperwork:** to maintain four Federal & State permits, program information, budget, and correspondences, special events, solicit sponsorship, magazine articles

YES, I want to sponsor Hoo's Woods with this tax-deductible contribution:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution amount or Adopted Raptor \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to: Hoo's Woods, P.O. Box 21, Milton, WI 53563



### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Hoo's Woods is a non-profit 501(c)(3) raptor education project located in Southern Wisconsin. Active since 1998 our mission is:

- To inform and educate in the schools, scouts, community organizations, and general public regarding wildlife and habitat.
- To represent well our wildlife, those that cannot speak for themselves.
- To make education both meaningful and fun, while creating an atmosphere that fosters respect and stewardship of all living things.
- To provide an understanding and appreciation between man and wildlife and the need for co-existence.

**Our Raptor programs are available to public and private groups.** If you are interested in a raptor program please contact us at [falco5@ticon.net](mailto:falco5@ticon.net) or 608-883-2795