

# Hoo's Woods Raptor Center *Newsletter April 2011*

P.O. Box 21, Milton Wisconsin 53563

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## **From the Director:**

Dianne Moller

Executive Director of Hoo's Woods

As the temperatures begin to rise, many birds are returning from migration. Spring is here at last! This is a time when many avid birders get out in the field with their cameras and binoculars. If you are interested in taking up bird watching or just putting a name with a bird, here are a few identification pointers that may help. First of all, estimate the size. Compare to a species you are familiar with like a robin or crow. What is it shaped like? A football with wings might be an owl or a six foot v-shape wingspan teetering in the wind might be a turkey vulture. Notice the shape of the wings, tail, beak and feet. How does the bird fly? Does it soar, flap, or hover? Does it swim, walk or hop? What about foot and eye color? Where did you see the bird, near a marsh, a woodlot or open field? Finally notice the field marks: stripes, speckles, color patterns, spotted bellies, white tail patches, eye color, patched or striped wings.

What about nests? Is it made of sticks, grasses or a tree cavity? A nest really isn't a home for a bird. It's more like a nursery to raise their young. Adult birds don't build or use nests unless they have offspring in mind. Bald eagles will grow up in the world's largest nests, up to 10 feet across and 10 feet deep. Hummingbirds have the world's tiniest nests no bigger than a fifty-cent piece size little cup. The photo above is an immature bald eagle that I was lucky enough to capture behind the Beloit Post Office downtown Beloit, Wisconsin. This has become an attractive area for the eagles to gather since changes to the landscape have opened up the area along this shallow section of the Rock River. With water moving continually while other rivers and lakes were frozen in other parts of the state, many eagles took up residence during the harsh winter months. On this particular day I spotted 14 eagles soaring and perched in trees. It was a spectacular and moving scene to see both young and elderly bird watchers displaying great enthusiasm with their cameras.

## **Raptor Program Referral**

If you have enjoyed one of my raptor programs in the past please refer 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.



## Join Us at Our Annual Spring Open House

Saturday June 11, 2011

10:00 am- 3:00 pm

Hoo's Woods Raptor Center cordially invites you to our annual open house. It is through your support and generosity we continue our work in raptor education and rehabilitation. We offer this unique opportunity for you to visit our facilities. You will meet our education birds including species of eagles, hawks, owls and falcons.

Tours will begin at 10:00 am. You won't want to miss this opportunity. There is no charge for admission, however, donations are welcome.

**Details and directions will be provided at a later date.**

## Adopt a Raptor- Mother's Day or Father's Day Gift

With Mother's Day and 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Day or Father's Day- please circle one

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



## **European Women's Raptor and Falconry Conference October 26- November 3, 2011 Brussels, Belgium**

### **Conference Description**

In October, 2011 a European Women's Raptor and Falconry Conference is being hosted in Brussels, Belgium. European female raptor and falconry experts will gather to represent their countries in an exchange of knowledge and education. In addition to seminars, many women will bring their birds to demonstrate new and traditional methods of training and care for raptors. Participants will have the opportunity to

experience raptor demonstrations in the field with experts from the neighboring countries of Germany, Denmark and France and others.

### **Why should I attend?**

As President of Hoo's Woods Raptor Center and U.S. Falconer I have been invited to participate in this event. My years of experience as a licensed rehabilitator, raptor educator, falconer, and NAFA Great Lakes Regional Director give me many insights into conservation and raptor related issues. That knowledge will serve me well as I represent women in the United States. This unique opportunity will allow me to share knowledge of raptors in North America, establish new contacts, and gain new and important knowledge relating to raptors and raptor conservation.

Falconry is an art or sport of hunting with a trained raptor dating back to Asia almost 3000 years ago. This year falconry was designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, placed alongside of music, art and other intangible heritages that transcend cultures. This would be the year to attend because of this designation. Often referred to as the "sport of kings and queens;" many of the world's leading raptor experts, past and present, are falconers who have dedicated their lives to the conservation and welfare of birds of prey.

My objective in attending this conference is to learn how other cultures practice the sport of falconry and handle raptors. The knowledge gained would enhance the raptor programs presented on behalf of Hoo's Woods and enhance my rehabilitation skills. This conference also offers the means of discovering new methods of raptor conservation which could be put into practice in Wisconsin. In turn I will be able to share my knowledge of raptors and modern techniques with the European women. Two participants who are teachers have invited me to speak to the students of their school about wildlife conservation in the United States.

I would respectfully ask you to consider helping me with a donation that would enable me to attend this International Event. As a 501-c3 Non-profit your contribution will be completely deductible and help to further environmental education in the classroom.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Dianne



*Baby Red tailed hawk*

## Let Wild Things Be Wild!

I just received my first call regarding an owl chick of the spring season. The young bird was perched visibly in a tree near a home in a rural subdivision. Although tall in stature the bird still had a fuzzy appearance. Raptors grow very quickly. A red tailed hawk or great horned owl can grow as much as one inch in one day. From an egg to eight weeks they are full grown. However, they remain with their adult parents many more weeks or months to learn the skills necessary to survive. It is estimated as many as 80% of all raptors NEVER see their first birthday.

Many just never develop good hunting skills, some are electrocuted, poisoned, illegally shot or hit by vehicles. It is inevitable as spring arrives, some of you will find infant wildlife. Always make sure infant wildlife really need you to intervene. Wild parents are not with the young at all times. Like humans, they need to get to the grocery store too. Watch and observe before you take the young bird or mammal away from its home territory. We ask that you please do not attempt to raise infant wildlife yourself. Wild animals do not make good pets and it's illegal. Imprinting can occur within the first two weeks of an animal's life. This critical period is when they learn to recognize their own species by focusing on their parents. An imprinted bird or mammal will never recognize its own species and often will never breed, display aggressive behaviors and never understand the dangers of predators. It is also important for young raptors to learn to use their feet so they can kill for themselves. If a nest is destroyed you can simply use a plastic container or basket similar in size and place it in the tree or bush where you found the nest. Be sure to securing it safely. It is a myth that once you touch a baby bird or mammal its parents will reject it. For more information please contact us or a wildlife center, local humane society or a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources office near you.

### **Lead Poisoning Seminar**

#### **Presented by Wisconsin Natural Resources Board**

In January I attended a lead symposium hosted by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. There were several notable speakers from both state and national agencies. The entire meeting was filmed and is being widely distributed among other state agencies. A link to the presentation is available through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Lead ingestion and poisoning from ammunition and fishing tackle sources has been documented in many raptors species including bald and golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and the California condor. These birds can be exposed to lead when they consume game birds or mammals that have been shot with lead ammunition. Lead pellets may remain intact in tissues and lead bullets may fragment into hundreds of pieces upon impact. When the birds consume the remains of game shot with lead and not retrieved, this can result in lead poisoning. Lead is difficult to treat in wildlife and humans.



Many birds such as pheasants, doves, quail, and turkeys can become ill with lead when eating grit in an area that is heavily hunted with lead. Lead pellets and sinkers settle to the bottom of lakes and ponds and may be mistaken for the grit that waterfowl such as loons, swans and ducks consume to aid in grinding food. The U.S. banned the use of lead in 1991 in the use of waterfowl hunting. Some states have restricted the use of lead ammunition on certain upland game hunting areas, as well as lead fishing tackle in areas frequented by common loons and trumpeter swans. A variety of alternatives to lead are available for use in hunting, shooting sports, and fishing activities. You can help by educating others and using alternatives to lead for use in hunting, shooting sports and fishing activities. For more information you may visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website [www.cdc.lead/lead](http://www.cdc.lead/lead) or [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

## **Thank You 2011 Raptor Backers!**

Mary Adams  
Bud and Betty Albrecht  
Gary and Carole Anderson  
Joanne and John Anderson  
David Arbuthnut  
Jerry and Dianne Balas  
Joyce Blaszczyk  
Marlene Brunner  
Janice Burgi  
Tom Carlson  
Frank Court  
Mark Davey  
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Walter Diedrick  
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Karen Viskup  
Barry and Fran Von Falkenstien  
Trisha Wagner  
Dick and Carol Wanie  
Marsha Watson  
Thelma Wells  
Nancy Whitney  
Doug and Donna Woodman

### **Businesses and Foundations**

Alliant Energy Foundation\*  
Antonia Foundation  
Basics Food Coop Janesville  
Cygnus Business Media Fort Atkinson  
Edgerton Piggly Wiggly- Dave and Sandy Kotwitz  
Fair Meadows- Dr. Gary and Dr. Penny Shackelford  
James E. Dutton Foundation  
Kaytee Avian Foundation\*S  
Bob Kimball Builders  
Midwest Prairies- Ron and Marti Martin  
Milwaukee Medical College  
Terry Print Solutions-Mark and Mary Terry  
Traxler Farms LLC  
Vitech Int'l Corporation-Steve and Randi Vicenzi  
Wisconsin Energy Foundation Inc\*.  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology\*  
Wisconsin Falconers Association\*  
Wisconsin Wildlife Rehabilitators Association\*  
Steve Wright Agency  
*\*Donated to Peregrine Poster Project*

### **Medical Support**

Dr. Diane Zilker, Token Creek Veterinary Clinic  
Dr. Dean Rasmussen, All Care Animal Clinic -  
Wisconsin Rapids

*We apologize for any names omitted*



### **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 make education both meaningful and fun, while creating an atmosphere fostering respect for our land and the stewardship of all living things.
- To educate schools and the public through the use of birds or prey and falconry birds
- To provide an educational opportunity to understand and appreciate the co-existence between wildlife and man and the importance in preserving the world in which we live.

**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**

We visit many schools, scouts, libraries and community events. Here are a few of the places we've recently visited:

*Mackenzie Environmental Center, Central Lutheran Church Edgerton, Cassville Bald Eagle Days, Rock County Conservationists Evening with Owls, St. Matthews School Janesville*

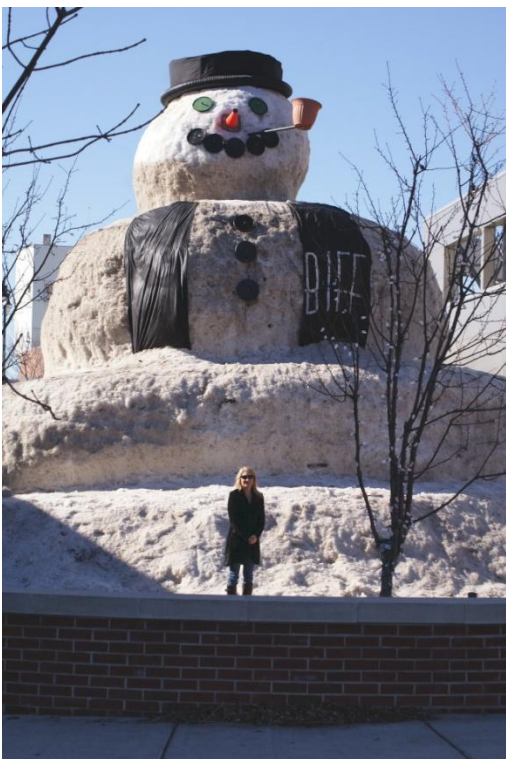


*"Tara" the falcon making new friends at Cassville's Bald Eagle Days in January 2011.*

### **Upcoming Spring Public Raptor Programs:**

- *Walworth County Audubon March 22 7:00 pm*
- *McFarland Bird Festival at Lewis Park, April 9<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon*
- *Whitewater Library April 14 6:30 pm*
- *Evansville Energy Fair at Evansville High School April 15 4:30- 8:00 pm*
- *Spring Awakening Event, Donald Park Mount Horeb May 1<sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm*
- *Janesville Renaissance Fair – May 14 Traxler Park Janesville 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*
- *Lakeview Library Madison May 21 11:00 am*

Please check our website [www.hooswoods.org](http://www.hooswoods.org) for additional information and updates.



### **And Boy did it Snow This Winter.....**

What do you do after a 24 inch snowfall and 6-8 foot drifts? You build a 35 foot snowman! This snowman was built by 15 volunteers who used construction equipment located in downtown Beloit. The creation was inspired by a film titled "Snowman" in conjunction with the Beloit International Film Festival. After viewing the bald eagles behind the Beloit Post Office, Dave and I, natives of Beloit, decided to take a ride through town. Little did we know only a few blocks from where the eagles were roosting was this giant snowman. Being the kid I have always been at heart, I couldn't pass up a photo with this giant masterpiece!