



# THE RAPTOR TRUST

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Len Soucy

Dear Friends,

Once again, I send you greetings and good wishes from all of us at The Raptor Trust. I hope everything is well with you and your loved ones. I'm glad to say that the folks here who run this enterprise, both staff and volunteers, held things together, kept us in order, and helped us to remain financially sound throughout 2013. In fact, in the 31 years since The Raptor Trust was born, we've never had a year in which we spent more money than we took in. Can you say "financial wizardry"? Thank you, thank you to everyone who furnished us the dollars to make this possible.

There were two significant happenings in 2013 that I'd like to inform you about. The first was again a weather-related event, which, like Hurricane Sandy's visit in 2012, did a great deal of damage to our facility. This time the culprit was a tornado-like, super-high-wind phenomenon known as a "microburst." I'd never even heard of such a thing before, but this one singled us out and, on the afternoon of October 7th, touched down in our backyard. It uprooted many large trees, broke others in half and utterly destroyed two 50-foot-long flight cages. And in just a few short moments it was gone. Unbelievable!

We've just finished cleaning up from our microburst's visit and have started to rebuild. The cost of the cleanup and rebuild will be about \$75,000. Our insurance will cover some of that and we've received several thousands in donations from the public. But from this time forth, let me just say "boo hiss" on microbursts. Most importantly, no one and no birds were injured. Hallelujah!

The second happening is way more significant and important to The Raptor Trust and the Soucy family than any microburst. It is that our only son, Christopher, will be the next director of this organization. Last year, members of our Board of Trustees' Executive Committee, led by members Bill Conger, Marion Philips and Jim Diverio, entered into negotiations with Chris, who lived in Colorado with family, to come east and take over



Photo Courtesy of Becky Bedrosian

TRT Founder, Len Soucy. 30+ years at the helm.

running the Trust. He accepted the offer and in October, Chris, his wife Jess, and three-year old daughter, Leah, relocated to Hunterdon County, NJ. Needless to say, everyone here — staff, volunteers and trustees — is totally in favor of this move, and his mother and I are happy beyond belief. More information about this, written by Chris himself, appears later in this report.

## REHABILITATION

Now for some information about this year's 3509 feathered friends that some way or another found their way to our "repair shop for wrecked birds" here in Millington.

Of the 3509 birds admitted, 389 were raptors: 276 hawks of 12 species and 113 owls of 6 species. As has been the case for many years, the most common hawk we see is the Red-tailed hawk. This year we admitted 117, primarily young birds in their first year of life. The second most common hawk we receive is the Cooper's hawk. This year 64 individuals came to us. Additionally we received American kestrels (28), Peregrine falcons (16), Turkey vultures (13), Black vultures (13), Broad-winged hawks (6), Bald eagles (6), Red-shouldered hawks (5), Merlins (4), and two each of Sharp-shinned hawks and Osprey.

The owls received were: Screech owls (77), Great-horned owls (23), Saw-whet owls (6), Barred owls (3), Long-eared owls (3), and one Snowy owl.

The most common injuries to raptors are caused by impacts with cars, glass windows and doors, wires and other solid objects. Often the impacts cause serious damage: broken bones, central nervous system damage, eye injuries, etc. It's a challenge to our medical team to repair such injuries. This year we were able to repair and release 147 of the raptors received.

Some 2247 non-raptors of 107 different species were received during 2013, mostly songbirds and ducklings. Members of this fabulous family included everything from a *Meleagris gallapavo* to a *Uria lomvia*, probably better known to you as a Wild turkey and a Thick-billed murre.

Most of the songbirds we get are nestlings. They may have been evicted from their nests by the neighborhood cat, or knocked out in a storm, but all are somehow "drop-outs" who are found by people, who then find us. Mallard ducks are notorious for nesting in places where their youngsters can get in trouble, like alongside backyard swimming pools. The newly hatched kids can get into the pools easily, but cannot get out on their own.



*Thick-billed murre. Not a very common visitor to NJ.*



*Photo Courtesy of TRT Staff*

*The murre, enjoying the rare sub-polar NJ winter temps.*

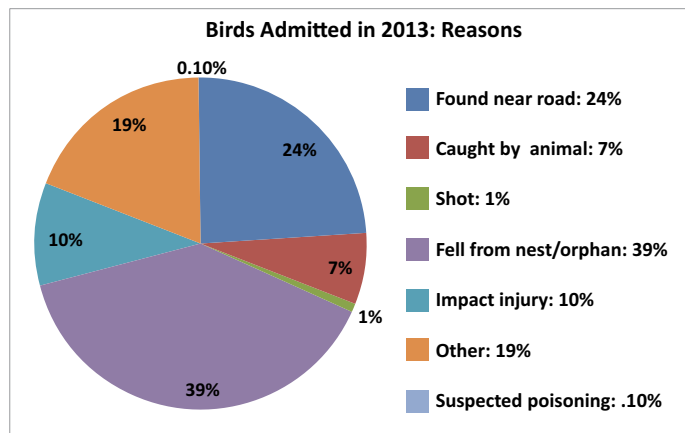
The most numerous orphans we received this year were: Robins (503), Mourning doves (216), Common grackles (175), Blue jays (130), plus 223 Mallard ducks. But to give you just a taste of the amazing variety of wild birds we see, we also treated several species of woodpeckers, geese, warblers, swallows, thrushes, wrens and vireos, as well as waxwings, ravens, grebes, killdeer, kingfishers, bluebirds, kinglets, woodcocks, tanagers and ovenbirds... to name just a few!

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TECHNOLOGY AT TRT!**  
by Kristi Ward

People often ask us questions regarding the birds we take in. What injury happens the most? How many American robins fly into windows per year? What baby bird do you get the most of? What are the survival rates per species? We've been using paper forms since the Trust was established, so doing this kind of research has been very time consuming and has left room for some human error.

In May of 2013 we enlisted the help of IT specialists DB Pros Consulting. They have created a database system specifically for us. DB Pros took our forms and transferred all of our information into a customized and easily searchable system. We now have the ability to generate reports by hour, day, month or year, by species or by injury type, by the name of the person admitting the bird, or by the staff member who performed the initial examination. It is a very flexible and robust system that allows us to run reports at a moments notice.

We've also created an email address specifically for "Bird Checks" where people can send in their bird admit number to receive a report on the status of the bird they have dropped off. Anyone wishing to check in on "their bird" can go to [www.theraptortrust.org](http://www.theraptortrust.org) and click the "bird check" link. We are hoping this will help reduce our call volume, which can be overwhelming during the summer months, and give people easy and immediate answers to questions about our avian patients.



*Report gathered from our new TRT datasystem formatted into a pie chart for easy viewing.*

## ***YUCKY DUCKY***

by Shari Stern

On Sunday, February 16th, 2013, an Animal Control Officer from Livingston admitted an adult male Mallard duck who had been stuck overnight in a sewage tank at the Livingston water treatment plant. The officer had been kind enough to rinse the bird off before transporting it to us. However the poor duck was still cold, wet, saturated with sewage and waste water and desperately in need of a soapy bath. His bill and nares (that's bird-talk for nostrils) were crusted over with dry waste and he smelled terrible! As the comical pictures below illustrate, in order to avoid having any of the sewage water come into contact with my skin or clothing, it was necessary to cover myself in goggles, thick gloves, and a rain coat while bathing and rinsing the Mallard. From that point the Mallard was treated medically and fed all he could eat. But what duck wants to be stuck in recovery all alone? Luckily for this duck, a friend was on his way and just the next day, on Monday, February 17th, another adult male Mallard was brought to us by a worker from the Whippany water treatment plant! During their quick recoveries the two "yucky duckies" bonded and on Monday, February 24th, I was given the honor of releasing them into the Passaic River in Long Hill Township. It was beautiful and heartwarming to watch them fly from the river bank into the water where they swam away together: happy, healthy, CLEAN, and free again.



*Toxic waste and biohazard specialist Shari Stern cleans a sewage-soaked mallard.*



*After a night in the sewage plant, a warm bath of soapy water is in order.*



*The medical staff check the "yucky ducky" for injuries.*



*How's the wing? All good!*

*Photos Courtesy of TRT Staff*



TRT Associate Director, Chris Soucy. Then (circa 1970)...

## ***A WARM WELCOME HOME***

by Chris Soucy

My parents and I moved into the house that would become The Raptor Trust on my 4th birthday in 1968. As an only child, the Great Swamp afforded me ample opportunity to explore outdoors, discover wildlife and make friends on our property: turtles, snakes, turkeys, mice, frogs, possums, skunks. It was a wonderful childhood, but perhaps not like everyone else's. Yes, I played Little League baseball and spent summers at the swim club nearby, but the other kids in school...well, their parents did more conventional things: they ran the local hardware store, or worked at the bank, or drove the school bus, or were members of the police department. My folks? They were (and still are!) those people in the swamp with all the birds.

It was here that I developed a lifelong passion for wildlife and birds in particular. As a kid, I watched (and learned) as my parents developed their wildlife rehab chops, and I would like to think that I helped along the way in some small manner, especially in the early days, before The Raptor Trust was even incorporated. I helped build some of the very first cages here. I helped my dad capture and band hawks and owls all over the state for research on their breeding habits, migratory patterns, and lifespans. I helped my mother mash up puppy chow and bugs to feed to nestling birds of all kinds. And though I "flew the coop" 25 years ago and headed west to pursue other careers, I always had a place in my heart for wildlife. It's an honor to return home to be a part of this organization, which has grown into a full-fledged and remarkably professional entity. I'm thankful I don't have to build it from scratch; my folks did that years ago. And along the way they built a first-class facility, hired an amazing staff, and built a network of resources that will ensure the Trust's success in the future.

I returned to The Raptor Trust as the Associate Director on October 7th, 2013. My plan was to spend the first 10 days or so getting a feel for the place, its people, its operations, its culture, its "vibe." That plan was thwarted less than 6 hours into my first day on the job when a powerful thunderstorm unleashed a violent microburst directly down on The Raptor Trust. So localized and pinpoint was this direct hit that while some staff, volunteers and I sought refuge from the wind and rain inside the infirmary, we did not even realize that less than 100 yards away, 20 large oak and maple trees were being torn in half and tossed around like match sticks, completely destroying two of our largest flight chambers and damaging others.

Only when the short-lived storm had subsided and a few hardy volunteers went back outside to resume their duties did we become aware of the extent of the damage. Several tree tops were twisted and ripped off from the cyclonic winds. Many more trees had been leveled by the winds, balls of root and earth standing 8 feet high or more. A hole was torn in the side of the Golden eagle cage large enough for us to walk through. Several small rehab chambers were more or less gone. And two of our largest flight cages were left a jumbled, dangerous and twisted mess of wire, nails, netting, and broken tree trunks. Our staff immediately got to work making emergency repairs to damaged cages and began catching birds which had literally had their homes destroyed around them. How no birds escaped I still don't know. Perhaps they were simply too stunned to wander out of the openings ripped in their cages, but we were able to catch them all, safely. No one was hurt; no animals escaped.



...and now (2013).

As intense as it was, the path of destruction was pretty small: 100 feet wide or so, maybe 250 feet long. But had this microburst touched down 100 feet further to the east, many of our permanent resident birds and education ambassador birds – animals many of you know by name – would be gone. Even more frightening, had the storm touched down another 100 feet south of that, our infirmary might be gone, and The Raptor Trust’s ability to do wildlife rehabilitation at all more or less destroyed with it. Trust me when I tell you that the few small pictures included in this report do not do justice to the velocity of the winds, the force of the trees crashing down, and the devastation that occurred, all in about 45 seconds.

We spent several months just cleaning up, not even beginning to rebuild. Dumpster after dumpster of debris was hauled away; report after report filed for our insurance company (bless them, as they did come through with a substantial claim payment). And then the snow came and all progress toward cleanup and rebuilding came to a halt until late March as we suffered through one of the snowiest and coldest winters in 50 years. (Perhaps I won’t even mention that several MORE cages were damaged by snow in February...ugh.)

So, welcome home, indeed. And though that was quite a first day, we survived it. Through a rather perilous first season on the job, I’ve come to see what an amazing and dedicated group of people work here: volunteers, trustees, and staff. I learn from them every day, and they inspire me to help the organization continue to grow and move forward. And we have already begun. We recently purchased state-of-the-art digital X-ray imaging equipment and an oxygen enriched intensive care unit to improve our medical care. In 2014 we also have several projects planned to improve our physical plant. With the groundwork already laid, The Raptor Trust will continue to be a leader in the fields of wildlife rehabilitation and education.



Photos Courtesy of TRT Staff & Volunteers

*Len and Libby inspect the damage only moments after the storm.*



*Large flight cage number one, completely destroyed.*



*Large flight cage number two, also totally wrecked.*



*Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the generosity of our donors, rebuilding has begun.*

*Photo Courtesy of TRT Staff*

### **2013 BOY SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT PROJECTS**

Our most grateful thanks to the following Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who helped in recent months with significant projects here at The Raptor Trust.

- Edward Dryer, Troop #68 Eagle Scout Project, Berkeley Heights, who built new kiosks for signs in front of the infirmary and in the Education Center parking lot.
- Jonathan Namovic, Troop #121 Eagle Scout Project, Chatham, who led a project to build a new split rail fence on the path between the parking lot and main display area.
- Watchung Girl Scouts Cadette Troop #65624, who helped with the cleanup of debris left after October's terrible storm.
- Austin Perrault (and his father, Brent), Troop #165 Eagle Scout Project, Rockaway, who installed and repaired the railroad ties outlining the main parking lot.



*Photo Courtesy of Herbert Scott August*

*Elegant TRT staffer Lauren Butcher with the equally elegant Georgette, our resident Peregrine falcon.*

### **TRT BIRD FLIES SOUTH**

by Diane Soucy

In May of 2013, much to our collective dismay, long-time TRT staff member Lauren Butcher announced her decision to return to Florida to continue her education and to be closer to family. Lauren has been an integral part of The Raptor Trust for 12 years, as Director of Education and, more recently, taking on many administrative duties as Len has approached retirement. "OMG, what will we do without her?" we all cried!

Not to worry. The Education Department is now in the capable hands of Donna Pandolfino, and Chris Soucy (in the nick of time) is taking over the administrative chores.

Lauren has stayed on however, consulting long-distance, and occasionally writing one of her irresistible grant proposals. She will always be a part of the Trust, and will always be in our hearts. We all wish her happiness and success in her new life.

## NOTE TO OUR 2013 VOLUNTEERS

By Kristi Ward

Thank you for your dedication and willingness to get down and dirty with us. We are so appreciative of all of you. Below is a list of our current volunteers and the year in which they began their journey with us.

2013 Ryan Angey	2013 Bonnie Lamont
2013 Denisse Angulo	2013 Anamarie Lauren
2012 Jody Austin-Dominguez	2012 Conor Maguire
2013 Janine Barr	2005 Pat Mallon
2003 Nita Blatt	2003 Jan Markey
2013 Leanne Block	2013 Audrey Martin
2012 Jennifer Books	2013 Ruth Therese Martin
2013 Lavanya Chakrapani	2013 Jason Mast
2006 Janet Cicariello-Cook	2010 Kate Matta
2013 Amanda Connelly	2013 Natalia Anna Mazur
2013 Linda Constantino	2013 Marie McMillan
2013 Colin Critchlow	2013 Emily Melander
2013 Megan Crouse	2013 Melissa Middleman
2005 Bob Cruickshank	2013 James Mona
2013 Melanie Dodds	2002 Bill Most
2006 Richard D'Orazio	2003 Muriel Mota
2012 Erin Dougher	2012 Nathan Paramanthan
2013 Rena Dziopa	2002 Marion Philips
2008 Debra Falanga	2013 Olivia Plocinski
2001 Barbara Feno	2013 Keenan Porter
2009 Caroline Ford	2011 Debbie Quin
2009 Barbara Franko	2013 Sammayah Rattley
2013 Richard Gibhey	2006 Alan Roberts
2013 Samantha Globerman	2011 John Roepke
2011 Denise Gotti	2013 Ellen Rubio
2003 Bob Gray	2013 Cooper Sacks
1999 Stephen Gruber	2013 Mark Schmidt
2011 Henry Halama	2013 Amanda Shortell
2003 Fred Harvey	2013 Stephen Soares
2013 April Heliotis	2012 Chassidy Speir
2013 Megan Helsel	2010 Chris Springle
2007 Joan Hoeckele	2013 Doris Stoner
2013 Maggie Holsten	2012 Renee Sugerman
2013 Mercury Hogan	2013 Henry Symanski
2000 Lisa Huguenin	2009 Lucy Taggart
2011 Tatiana Jenss	2013 Alaina Uhouse
2013 Emma Johnson	2013 Sara Vanderbogart
2009 Robert Kaempfen	2013 Craig Verduin
2013 Melissa Kraehenbuehl	2012 Richard Wislocky
2013 Melanie Krebner	2009 Esther Yakobofsky

### Volunteers needed:

- General non-raptor cage cleaners
- Admitting receptionists
- Gift shop staff

If you are interested please contact Kristi Ward at [volunteers@theraptortrust.org](mailto:volunteers@theraptortrust.org) for availability. Thank you.

## THE ART OF RAKING SAND

By Pat Mallon, Volunteer

If it takes a village to raise a single child, it takes roughly 70-80 volunteers to raise a brood of ducklings and goslings. Every year, dozens of new volunteers learn first-hand how needy – not to mention how messy – these little darlings are. And caring for them is just one part of the work they do.

Volunteers are the unsung heroes of The Raptor Trust. They don't treat the birds, they don't heal the wounds, but we couldn't function without them. For the most part working in the background, they take care of the mundane and endless cleaning tasks that keep this place running. Their work is essential, freeing up the medical staff to provide the skilled care that saves so many of the injured birds that are entrusted to us.

Who are these wonderful people and what brings them here? Our volunteers represent the best in people. They come for their love of birds, a desire to help preserve our wildlife, an opportunity to explore a potential career path, to learn about wildlife rehabilitation, to do something useful and productive, and occasionally perhaps just for an excuse to get outdoors. They stay because they discover a community of like-minded people who share a common bond in trying to make a difference.

So what does it take to be a good volunteer? The easy answer is that one must be willing to give their time and effort to show up week after week and get the job done, regardless of the circumstances. For the many seasonal volunteers it's working through the oppressive heat and humidity of a New Jersey summer. For our stalwart year-round volunteers, it's enduring the icy, bone-chilling days of winter.

And then there's that crazy cadre of permanent raptor display cage cleaners. The messiest brooder box or the most ornery swan pale in comparison to the experience of cleaning a raptor display cage, despite the objections of the raptor. Praise must be given to Bob Gray, a truly dedicated volunteer, who inspires us week after week with Zen-like lessons in the art of raking sand.

So here's to all our volunteers – those who come for a single summer season and those who stick around for years. There is not a day that goes by that we don't recognize how important you are. We cannot thank you enough for all you do for The Raptor Trust.



Bob Gray  
raking sand.

## ***DONATIONS***

We depend entirely on donations to run The Raptor Trust. If you are not able to visit, please consider donating through one of these online programs.

**AmazonSmile** (through Amazon.com) and **Igive.com**, you choose The Raptor Trust as your charitable organization and a percentage of your purchase will go to directly to us.

If your company or organization would like to contribute via a matching gift program, information is available through **AmeriGives.com**.

You may also donate any dollar amount through **PayPal** safely via the web.

Also, please consider purchasing some of the needed supplies we've added to our **Amazon Wish List**. We are always in need of the following supplies:

- gift cards to supermarkets, hardware and pet stores
- paper towels
- chicken & chicken broth baby food
- unscented lotion-free tissues
- mixed bird seed
- Eukanuba dry puppy food
- artificial trees and plants

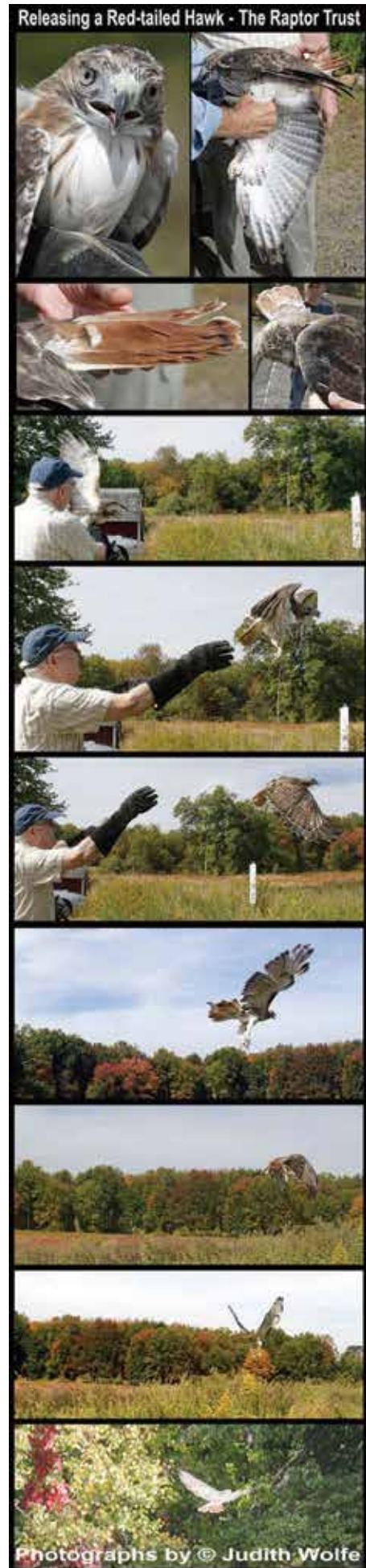
Anything you are able to provide would be helpful and greatly appreciated. If you have contacts with the retailers or manufacturers of any of these products, please send them our way. Many companies can benefit from the tax deductions available to them by donating to charitable causes like The Raptor Trust.

## ***GIFT AND BOOK SHOP***

The Raptor Trust Gift and Book Shop is filled with a variety of fun gift ideas: first time birder books, field guides and log books, raptor books for every age, hand-crafted art items and fun unique bird shaped jigsaw puzzles. The next time you're at the Trust please make it a point to visit our store; it's worth the look. Remember, all proceeds benefit the birds in our care.

**We are in need of volunteers to staff our Gift Shop.** Duties include stocking shelves, customer service and entering sales at the register. If you are interested please contact Kristi Ward at [volunteers@theraptortrust.org](mailto:volunteers@theraptortrust.org).

Coming in 2014  
***New Jersey's Hawks***  
a new book by Len Soucy







*Interns Matt, Betsy, Kate & Scott prepare for kestrel release.*

### **2013 SUMMER INTERN CREW**

Our wonderful interns this past summer were Becky Marcus, Kate Matta, Andy McAdam, Scott McCullough, Betsy Meyer, Bobby Rodriguez and Matt Vail. This crew was one of the best, most dedicated groups of interns we've ever had. Our interns tackle a variety of administrative and maintenance tasks here at The Raptor Trust in addition to completing a summer academic curriculum. As a thank you for all their hard work, each intern was given the opportunity to release a bird back into the wild. A huge thanks to all of you from all staff. We would also like to acknowledge the following benefactors for their support of our internship program: the Amanda Crosby Memorial Fund, The Conger Family Internship Fund through Wheaton College, the Investors Bank Foundation, and the Mary Johnston Memorial Fund.

## ***DIRECTOR'S THANKS***

By Len Soucy

The Raptor Trust is a not-for-profit organization and a tax-exempt corporation under IRS 501(c)(3) regulations. We are a self-determining autonomous facility and do not receive public funding of any kind. The dollars we obtain come from private sources: foundations, trusts, corporations and organizations, individual contributors and money we raise ourselves. To everyone that supplied us with financial assistance this past year, I thank you for caring about us. There's not enough room in this report to list all your names, but please know how much we appreciate your support. We would also like to say a special thanks to everyone who reached out to lend a hand, financial or otherwise, after October's storm.

A sincere thank you to the trustees, directors and managers of the following foundations and trusts for their generosity during 2013:

- Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
- Helen & William Mazer Foundation
- Berlin Family Foundation
- The Ann E. Clark Foundation
- The Gelfand Family Foundation
- Brady Foundation
- Robert & Jane Engel Foundation
- Harmony Fund
- Scarlett Family Foundation
- Brisgel Family Charitable Foundation
- Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation
- Keefe Family Foundation
- Jay R. Monroe Memorial Foundation
- The Gayda Family Foundation
- The Tyler Foundation
- Garrett Family Foundation
- Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation
- The Binky Foundation
- Melza M. & Frank T. Barr Foundation
- Charles & Lucille King Family Foundation
- The Druskin Family Foundation
- Grassmann Trust
- Arthur & Barbara Vitarius Foundation
- The Conger Family Foundation
- The Jeffery Trust
- Holt Charitable Foundation
- The Frelinghuysen Foundation
- The E.D. Foundation
- The Wildwood Foundation
- The Kean Foundation
- Baker Street Trust
- Taussig Foundation
- Albert Payson Terhune Foundation
- Bassett Foundation
- American Endowment Foundation
- Cookie Jar Foundation
- Union Foundation
- Glenn N. Howatt Foundation
- Brundage Foundation
- Duke Farms Foundation
- KH Dominion Foundation
- 3 B's Foundation
- M.S. Worthington Foundation
- Exxon Mobil Foundation
- Tonzola Family Foundation
- Foxx Family Foundation
- Valerie Brackett & Nikolaos Monoyios Charitable Foundation
- Kluiber & Zlatnik Fund
- Farrand Family Fund

My sincere thanks to the following corporations and organizations for their generous support this past year:

- Ace-Twill Printing
- Albatross Partners LLC
- Becky Bedrosian Photography
- Bergen County Audubon Society
- Bergen County Zoo
- Conoco Phillips Co.
- Dan's Tree Care
- EM United Welding & Fabrication
- Fyke Nature Association
- GAF Corporation
- Garden Club of Montville
- Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex
- Great Swamp Greenhouses
- Hilltop Country Day School
- Jaeger Lumber
- Lacquerite, Inc.
- Linda Rossin Studios
- Laeger Metal Spinning Co. Inc.
- Ludlow Heating and Cooling Co.
- Merck Partnership for Giving
- Meyersville Veterinary Group
- Millington Savings Bank
- Monmouth County Audubon Society
- Morristown Unitarian Fellowship
- Mount Olive Veterinary Hospital
- Prudential Foundation Community Giving
- Raccoon Ridge Raptors
- Red Bank Veterinary Hospital
- Red Hook Management
- ShopRite of Stirling
- Spheres Web Design
- The Johnson & Johnson Companies
- The O'Hara Project
- The Stirling Hotel
- Town & Country Garden Club
- Township of Long Hill
- Woodlands Wildlife Refuge
- Yardville Supply and Smith's Ace Hardware

**OUR 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| William F. Conger | Andrew Major, VMD    |
| Lynne Combs       | James F. Diverio     |
| Diane D. Soucy    | Marion D. Philips    |
| James Fiorentino  | Barbara Franko       |
| Nancy Miller-Rich | Leonard J. Soucy, Jr |

**MONEY MATTERS**

Who could have imagined, 30 years ago, when The Raptor Trust consisted of a few backyard bird cages, a few volunteers and a few hundred birds each year, that it would one day require nearly three-quarters of a million dollars a year to operate? But to provide quality care 365 days a year, and to maintain our professional staff and facility, it does! We are proud once again (and as always) to be “in the black.”

During 2013 our operating income came from the following sources:

<b>(Cash Basis)</b>	
Foundation grants .....	342,217.00
Individual, group & corporate contributions ..	263,174.00
Sales & investment income .....	55,659.00
Educational programs & events .....	30,378.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>691,428.00</b>

During 2013 our operating funds were expended in the following manner:

Salaries .....	332,512.00
Insurance & taxes .....	97,476.00
Vehicle maintenance ..	3,587.00
Facility maintenance, improvements & supplies ..	60,899.00
Bird food, medical supplies & outside medical fees.....	29,985.00
Outside services & supplies .....	55,916.00
Printing & postage ..	11,490.00
Licenses & permits.....	1,018.00
Professional fees & payroll services .....	31,510.00
Utilities .....	36,184.00
Miscellaneous ..	2,275.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>662,852.00</b>



Former NJ Governor Tom Kean with Red-tailed hawk.

Photo Courtesy of Jim Diverio

**IN CONCLUSION**

As I was writing this annual report, I realized that it will be the last one I do as the Trust’s director. My 30 year tenure as its leader is ending. I’m understandably saddened by this fact after so long at the helm, but my saddened state is offset in knowing that the right person is here to take over. Chris Soucy, I know, will lead this organization professionally and securely into the 21st century. I’m sure that the best times for The Raptor Trust are yet to come.

Although Diane and I are retiring, we intend to remain living in our home of 46 years here in Millington. We hope to assume some sort of advisory positions with the Trust, though the details of that matter are yet to be finalized. So, for the near future we might be a couple of semi-retired old geezers.

With this major change in leadership, I’m sure other changes will inevitably follow. But the philosophy that has guided us since our beginning will remain intact:

*We believe that all living things are important, and if, because of humans and human activities, injuries and injustices befall wild creatures, then humans have a responsibility to help heal the injuries and attempt to correct the injustices. And if, through education and understanding, many of the injuries and injustices can be prevented, so much the better for us all. And if, by living in this manner, The Raptor Trust can provide a humane example for others, then our efforts truly have been of value.*

I can’t stand good-byes – they get me all teary-eyed. I’ll just end with a “so long for now.” If at all possible, please continue your benevolent support of The Raptor Trust and Chris.

On behalf of the entire Raptor Trust family – Diane, Cathy, Kristi, Libby, Donna, Ben, Robert, Liz, Laura, Karyn, Fred, Barbara, Andy, Chris, Shari, Lauren and Dr. Major – I wish you a happy and healthy 2014. God bless.

Sincerely,



Leonard J. Soucy, Jr., D.Sc.  
President, The Raptor Trust

*For more information about The Raptor Trust, see our website at [www.theraptortrust.org](http://www.theraptortrust.org).*



Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  
Mrs.  
Ms.

\_\_\_\_\_

Receipt requested

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Visa or MC \_\_\_\_\_

Amount authorized to charge \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Credit Card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Your tax-deductible donation supports the work of The Raptor Trust. Thank you.



**THE RAPTOR TRUST**

1390 White Bridge Road  
Millington, NJ 07946

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Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Union, NJ  
Permit No. 363

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS.**

**For more information or to register, please call 908-647-1091.**

#### ***Raptor Trust Tour Talks***

Join us for a guided tour of The Raptor Trust's outdoor aviaries. Learn about the work of the Trust and hear the stories of the nearly fifty birds of prey, including hawks, eagles, falcons and owls, that have a permanent home at our center.

***Saturday, May 24, 1 - 2 pm***

***Saturday, July 5, 1 - 2 pm***

(Possible raptor release in honor of the day!)

***Saturday, August 30, 1 - 2 pm***

Tours meet in front of the Gift Shop.

\$10.00 adults, \$5.00 kids 12 and under.

#### ***Saturday, October 11: "Focus on Raptors"***

An opportunity for committed shutterbugs to take close-range photographs of our educational raptors in outdoor settings. Possible species include: barn owl, barred owl, screech owl, broad-winged hawk, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, peregrine falcon.

2-4 p.m. at The Raptor Trust Education Center.

Adults only. Limit of 10 people. \$150.00.

#### ***Saturday, November 15: "Owls in the House" Nest Box Workshop***

As the temperatures dip low, owls are looking for shelter in tree cavities and nest boxes—but, before too long, they'll stake their claims on these cozy winter homes for their springtime nests. Come meet a live owl, learn about the owls that call NJ home, and then learn how to build an owl house for your own backyard. Screech owl box kits will be available for purchase. What a great holiday gift—for family, friends, and for the owls.

2-4 p.m. at The Raptor Trust Education Center.

Ages 7 years – adult. \$10.00 (\$40 owl box kit optional).

#### ***Saturday, November 22: "Great Swamp Owl Prowl"***

Who's filling the winter nights with hoots and trills? We'll find out! Come meet a live owl during a brief indoor program, and then head out with us into the Great Swamp to call and listen for owls.

7-10 p.m. Meet at The Raptor Trust Education Center.

Ages 15 – adult. \$10.00 suggested donation.

**For event updates and directions, visit [www.theraptortrust.org](http://www.theraptortrust.org) or find us on Facebook.**



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