



THE RAPTOR TRUST



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST



COVER PHOTOGRAPH: SAW-WHET OWL, BY ASHLEIGH SCULLY, AGE 16, MORRISTOWN, NJ

Ashleigh Scully is an accomplished nature photographer with a keen interest in bringing awareness to wildlife conservation. A junior at the Morristown-Beard School, Ashleigh donates many of her images to several notable nature and wildlife preservation groups, and has given presentations on a variety of conservation topics. Ashleigh's photography focus is to produce images which give a glimpse into the emotions of our country's native fauna, exposing individual and family wildlife

behaviors that we wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to see. Ashleigh hopes that her images will give the viewer a sense of empathy and respect for all creatures.

Ashleigh's interest in raptors was inspired by a chance meeting with Len Soucy at The Raptor Trust in 2008. She fondly recalls sitting on the bench outside of the bird admitting center chatting with Len about New Jersey's many species of owls. This conversation inspired Ashleigh to devote much of her photography work to owls, and she has since fostered this passion, using her work to raise awareness of these special raptors. Ashleigh has donated her images to several Raptor Trust publications, fundraisers and most recently, hosted a photography workshop at the Raptor Trust for young photographers - something she hopes to continue.

Ashleigh's honors include the 2017 Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice Youth Photographer of the Year, and the 11-14 year old winner in London's prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. She has been published in National Geographic Kids, Shutterbug, Outdoor Photographer and Amateur Photographer magazines. Ashleigh was chosen by Adobe as one of the top young photographers. She was one of five teenage girls selected for Ellen DeGeneres' "GirlPower" campaign for The GAP. Her images have been exhibited in London's Natural History Museum, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. and in other top galleries and museums in more than 70 countries. Ashleigh is on the advisory council for Wyoming Untrapped and is an active contributing writer, photographer and youth workshop co-leader for The Canid Project. She hopes to one day work alongside her biologist friends at the Teton Raptor Center in Jackson, WY, studying Great Gray Owls.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THREE PRIMARY MISSIONS:

1. TO PROVIDE FREE CARE AND ASSISTANCE TO INJURED, SICK, OR ORPHANED NATIVE WILD BIRDS.
2. TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT WILD BIRDS, ESPECIALLY BIRDS OF PREY.
3. TO PROVIDE A HUMANE EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.

THE RAPTOR TRUST

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Fed Tax ID #: 22-2420295

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

6,002 IN 2018!

It seems The Raptor Trust hits a benchmark or breaks a record almost every year. Last year The Raptor Trust celebrated its landmark 35th anniversary as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We thank all of you who attended or contributed to our celebratory event in September. It was a blast! We honored our Board Chairman and long-time Raptor Trust supporter, Bill Conger, and raised money to help tackle necessary upgrades and renovations to many of our outdoor aviaries, which will be an ongoing project for at least the next year.

Also last year, The Raptor Trust admitted more birds than ever before: 6,002. That's more birds than any wildlife center in New Jersey has ever taken in for care in a single year. Ever. Why so many birds? HOW so many birds? It's a muddy question with lots of answers, and there are many factors in play. As our human population grows and we continue to develop more and more land for our own species' purposes, we put a strain on the rest of the planet's inhabitants, crowding them into smaller and smaller areas. Interactions between humans and wildlife simply happen more frequently when there are more people and less room for everything else.

And surely, technology plays a role. 25 years ago, those who found an injured bird on the side of the road would need to make a series of phone calls to various resources before they found The Raptor Trust. Today, people can use their smartphones to search "wildlife rehabilitator near me," and in less than a minute, they are directly connected to The Raptor Trust, often sending us a photo while still outdoors keeping an eye on an injured bird.

The pace of everything has increased, and with it, the numbers of birds admitted to The Raptor Trust has soared. It has put a strain on our resources to some degree, and we have had to adjust from time to time, but 35 years later The Raptor Trust is still here, providing care for injured and orphaned birds and maintaining a facility where people can visit—for free—more than 50 raptors and other birds to learn more about these amazing creatures.

I'm so proud of what we do, and thankful to you for your continued support.

CHRISTOPHER D. SOUCY, ED M
Executive Director

Director, Chris Soucy, with Red-shouldered Hawk, admit #18-4660, released Jan, 2019



2018 INTERNS

Moira Brennan
Stevens Institute of Technology

Amanda Cannizzo
Unity College

Greg Farrell
Rutgers University

Rebecca LaRitz
Delaware Valley

Elizabeth Mohan
University of the Sciences

Caroline Niehoff
Virginia Tech

Michael Stellitano
Ramapo College

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TRT STAFF

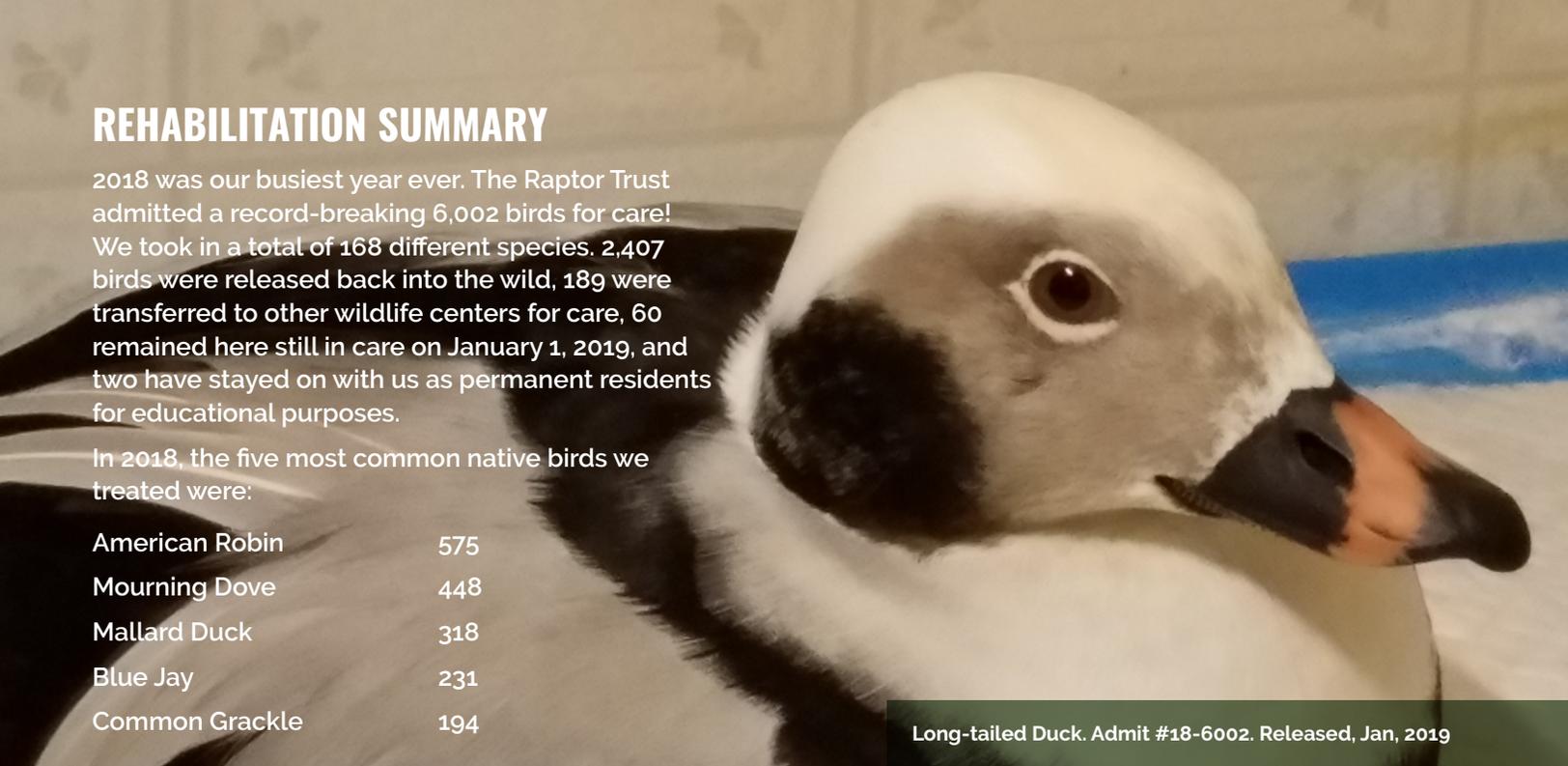
Executive Director: Chris Soucy
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Senior Rehab Technicians:
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Rehab Technicians: Shari Stern,
Alyssa Frediani
Rehab Staff: Robert Blair,
Lucy Taggart, Barbara Franko,
Debra Falanga, Amanda Cannizzo,
Kate Matta, Nikki Nobles
Director of Education:
Donna Pandolfino
Educators: Shari Stern,
Alyssa Frediani, Kate Matta
Facilities Manager: Dylan Cobb
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Fred Harvey, Jack Callahan,
Jason Rudin

REHABILITATION SUMMARY

2018 was our busiest year ever. The Raptor Trust admitted a record-breaking 6,002 birds for care! We took in a total of 168 different species. 2,407 birds were released back into the wild, 189 were transferred to other wildlife centers for care, 60 remained here still in care on January 1, 2019, and two have stayed on with us as permanent residents for educational purposes.

In 2018, the five most common native birds we treated were:

American Robin	575
Mourning Dove	448
Mallard Duck	318
Blue Jay	231
Common Grackle	194

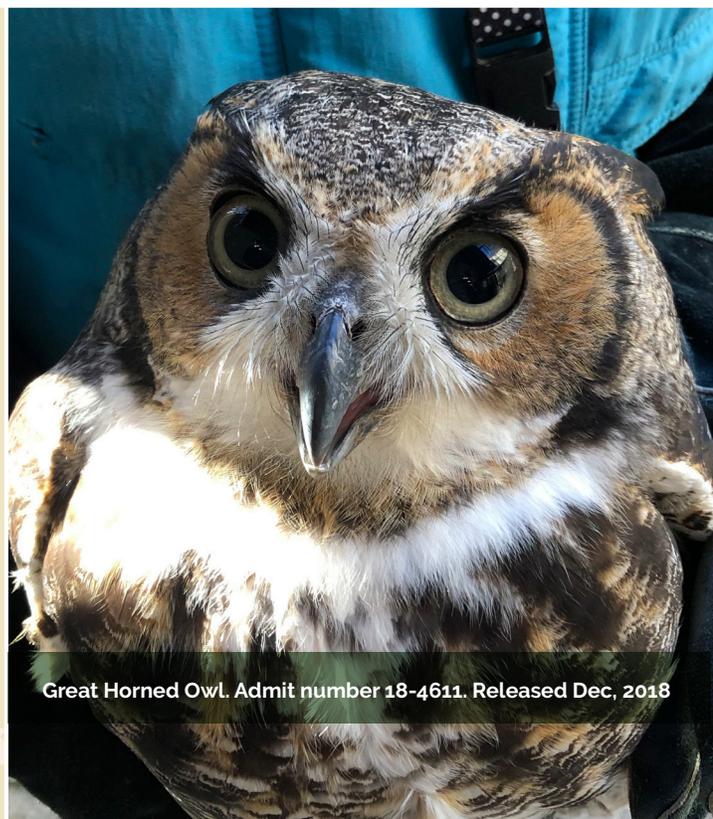
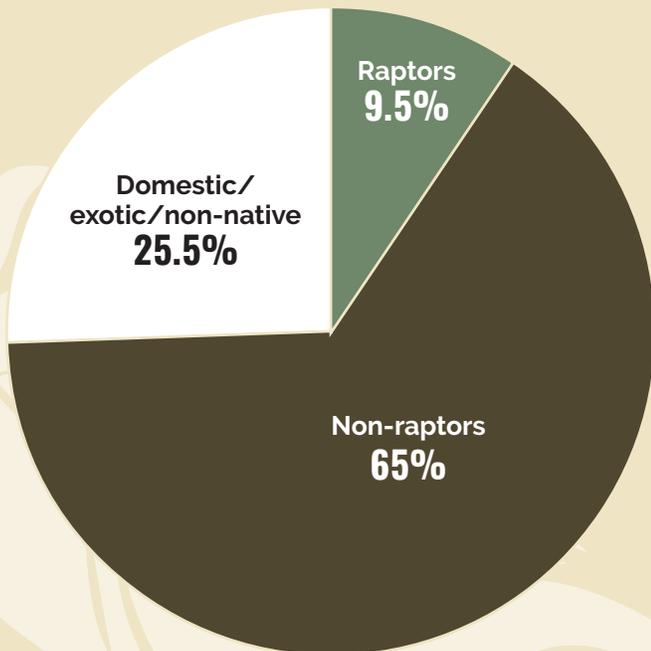


Long-tailed Duck. Admit #18-6002. Released, Jan, 2019

Some of the more unusual non-raptors admitted in 2018 included a Long-tailed Duck, a Great Cormorant, a Northern Gannet, a Wilson's Storm Petrel, a Cory's Shearwater, and a Yellow-Throated Warbler.

The Raptor Trust admitted 570 raptors of 18 different species:

Red-tailed Hawk	194	Turkey Vulture	23	Merlin	7
Cooper's Hawk	82	Black Vulture	21	Osprey	5
Eastern Screech Owl	61	Red-shouldered Hawk	16	Barred Owl	5
American Kestrel	54	Northern Saw-whet Owl	15	Snowy Owl	4
Great Horned Owl	34	Broad-winged Hawk	12	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Peregrine Falcon	27	Bald Eagle	5	Northern Harrier	2



Great Horned Owl. Admit number 18-4611. Released Dec, 2018

CASE STUDY

BALD EAGLE, TRT ADMIT #18-3368, HATCHING YEAR, MALE

Rescued: 8/21/18, Monmouth Beach, NJ

Released: 10/18/18, Sandy Hook, NJ

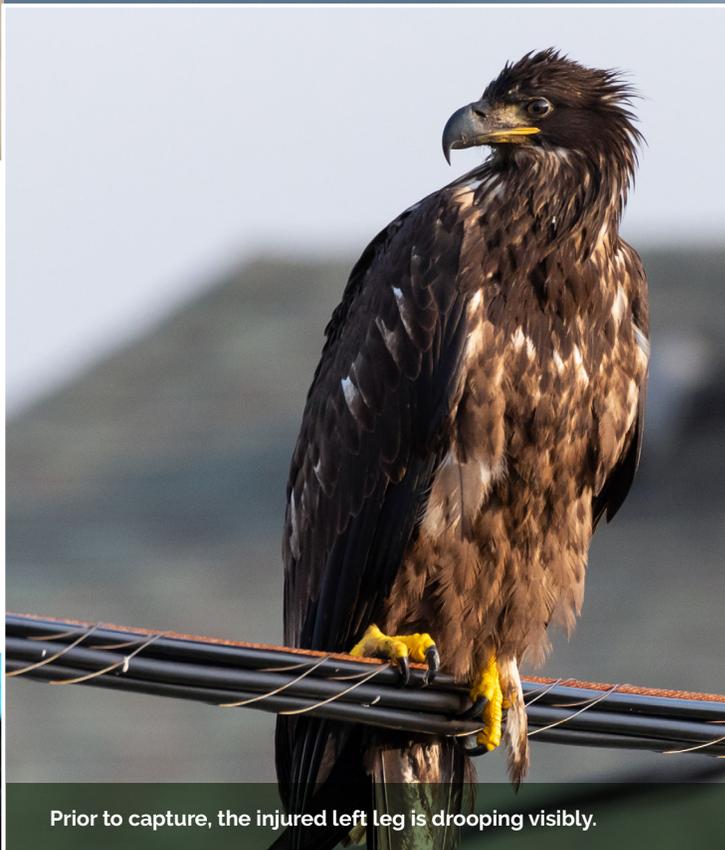
Injury: Fractured and displaced femur, soft tissue infection around eyes/beak, puncture wound to lower mandible, feather lice, gastrointestinal parasites.

Treatment Plan: Take radiographs and consult with veterinarian to determine course of action to treat femur fracture, antibiotics to address infection, oral and topical meds for parasites and lice.

Cost of Rehab: \$2,105



Released and flying free! Photo credit: Robert Hillman



Prior to capture, the injured left leg is drooping visibly.

Summary: This Bald Eagle was found in a residential yard and had been hanging around for several days, looking weak, before it was able to be captured. Upon arrival we administered supportive care to get the bird stabilized prior to taking radiographs to determine the severity of the damage to the leg. Though the femur was fractured, our vet determined that surgery was not required and that if stabilized, the leg should heal on its own and the bird should regain full use of its foot. Antibiotics were administered to treat the infection. Bloodwork confirmed the bird was a male.

Approximately ten days after arrival, the eagle was standing up and starting to use his leg properly. He was an enthusiastic eater—always a good sign—chowing down on quail and fish frequently. One month after arriving, he was moved into a small outdoor cage where he could move more freely, but still be closely monitored. The eagle continued to improve and was then moved into a larger enclosure to encourage flight. After 58 days in care, the eagle was released at Sandy Hook, NJ. Thanks go to our partners, Kathy Clark of NJ Fish & Wildlife and volunteer eagle transporter and photographer, Randy Lubischer.



Chris Soucy and Cathy Malok secure a US Fish and Wildlife leg band before releasing the eagle.



ENDANGERED SPECIES REPORT

In 2018, The Raptor Trust admitted eight different species of birds that are currently on the NJ list of Endangered and Threatened species. Getting these birds back into the wild is a truly worthwhile effort and one of the most rewarding aspects of our work. The eight species rehabilitated were:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| American Bittern | American Kestrel |
| Bald Eagle | Northern Harrier |
| Peregrine Falcon | Osprey |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Barred Owl |

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife also maintains a list of Species of Special Concern, which includes animals whose habitats and populations may be shrinking, but have not yet reached critically endangered or threatened status. The Raptor Trust admitted many species on this list as well. Some, but not all, of the Species of Special Concern we took in during 2018 included:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Cooper's Hawk | Black-throated Green Warbler | Common Nighthawk | Brown Thrasher |
| Great Blue Heron | Blue-headed Vireo | Nashville Warbler | Least Flycatcher |
| Blackburnian Warbler | Canada Warbler | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Wood Thrush |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | Cliff Swallow | Broad-winged Hawk | Winter Wren |

THE SUMMER OF THE FLICKER

by Alyssa Frediani

This summer The Raptor Trust admitted a record number of Northern Flicker babies. We generally get between 10 and 15 young Northern Flickers throughout the summer, but in 2018 we admitted 47! Almost all these birds were found as a result of trees being taken down during their nesting season.

Northern Flickers excavate their nests in dead or diseased tree trunks or large branches, which makes them susceptible to human interference. Bad weather in the early spring caused many people to do their yard clean up and tree pruning later in the season—precisely during the Northern Flickers' nesting period.

Unfortunately, several of these young birds were too small and vulnerable for us to save. Of the 47 birds that we received, 62% of them were released. At one point, we had 26 Northern Flickers of the same age in our care, being hand fed every hour! It took two staff members 20-30 minutes to feed this rowdy group each go-around. These birds consumed an incredible amount of mealworms, fresh blueberries and puppy chow.



THE NORTHERN FLICKER

Habitat: They can be found in woodlands, forest edges, open fields, city parks, and suburbs.

Food: Northern Flickers eat mainly insects, especially ants and beetles. They hammer on the ground, like other woodpeckers hammer on trees, to search out the more nutritious larvae of the bugs.

Nesting: They excavate nest holes in dead or diseased tree trunks or large branches. Northern Flickers often reuse cavities that they or another species excavated in the previous year. They generally place their nests 6-15 feet off the ground.

Clutch Size: 5-8 eggs. 1 brood during the summer

2018 BALD EAGLE RE-NESTING

by Cathy Malok

On May 8th, we received a call from Kathy Clark of the NJ Div. of Fish & Wildlife, Endangered Species Program, about a problem at a Bald Eagle nest in Somerset County, NJ. The nest had lost one of the parents, and just one of the three nestlings known to be in the nest was visible.

I met a F&W biologist and Joe Mish, a volunteer, at the nest site. We found two nestlings on the ground and only one parent tending the nest. A third nestling remained in the nest, 60 feet above our heads. Because one adult was missing, we suspected the nest had been the scene of a territorial fight between the resident pair and an intruder. Clashes like that happen occasionally and are usually the result of an intruding eagle. There was no way to know for sure.

The two nestlings were rescued from the ground and taken to The Raptor Trust. Upon exam, one of the nestlings was found to have severe fractures in the wing and leg with no hope of repair or survival in the wild. Fortunately, the other eaglet was in good shape.

We called Kathy Clark at Fish & Wildlife to give her the news: while one of the nestlings was in good condition, the other was beyond repair and it was decided the bird should be euthanized. This is not a decision that is taken lightly, but the amount of damage left us no alternative.

But what was to be done with the remaining nestling? The bird's original nest had just one parent, and we didn't know if the nest was safe from another intrusion.

There was another nest nearby with two parents and two nestlings of the same age and size. It had been a successful nest in previous years and these adults were good candidates to "adopt" the displaced youngster. Further, Fish & Wildlife already had plans to climb to this nest to band the chicks. The nest is located on a power line tower, and PSE&G had offered to send their expert climbers to help.

On May 11th, I transported the nestling to the site in Three Bridges, NJ. The re-nesting of the displaced eaglet, and the banding of all three, was quite the production; every precaution was taken to ensure the birds were kept safe and returned to the nest as quickly as possible. PSE&G climbers lowered the nestlings to Kathy Clark and Dr. Erica Miller, who attached federal bands as well as alpha-numeric, green state ID bands. These bands help volunteer nest monitors identify the birds as they grow and leave the nest, and throughout their lives should they be encountered again. The foster nest was the perfect place for the displaced nestling, now banded with "Green E/68."

The birds were returned to the nest, and all three young eagles successfully fledged some weeks later, as did the single chick from the original nest.

All photos courtesy of Joe Mish



THE RAPTOR TRUST'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

On a beautiful autumn evening in September, The Raptor Trust celebrated its 35th Anniversary with a gala event at The Stone House in Warren, NJ. Hundreds of The Raptor Trust's supporters, current and former staff members, volunteers, and trustees attended the event. Delicious food, live music and many photos and stories from The Raptor Trust's long history were enjoyed by all. Nick Dawes of *Antiques Roadshow* led the live auction.

The event honored our good friend and long-time Board Chairman, William F. Conger. Bill has been a part of The Raptor Trust story since the very beginning and has been a trustee since the organization's founding. There were many words of praise and thanks for Bill's dedication to The Raptor Trust. Among those who spoke and recognized Bill's contributions were 35th Anniversary Event Committee Chair, Nancy Miller-Rich; former Governor Thomas H. Kean; Director of Development, Blake Putnam; and The Raptor Trust Executive Director, Chris Soucy.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of those who supported our 35th Anniversary, both those who attended and those who could not. It was a fantastic event: beautiful, fun, well-attended, and very successful!



TRT Founder Diane Soucy receives a well-deserved standing ovation!



TRT supporters Chris Barr and Patricia Shanley with Bill and Nancy Conger



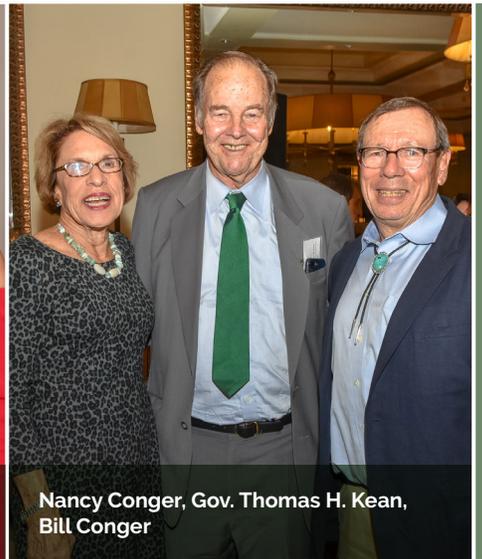
TRT Volunteers: Heather Dobosz, Mobin Ahmad, Stacey Volanto, Grace Eid



Chris Soucy with Event Sponsors from GAF Corp: Ana and John Meyer; Rick and Pat Weiman



TRT Director, Chris Soucy; TRT Founder, Diane Soucy; Nancy and Bill Conger; 35th Anniversary Event Chair, Nancy Miller-Rich



Nancy Conger, Gov. Thomas H. Kean, Bill Conger



Auctioneer Nick Daves, from *Antiques Roadshow*



TRT trustees, staff and volunteers: Nancy Miller-Rich, Alyssa Frediani, Kristi Ward, Barb Franko, Libby Haines, Jenn Books

SAW-WHET IRRUPTION!

by Kristi Ward

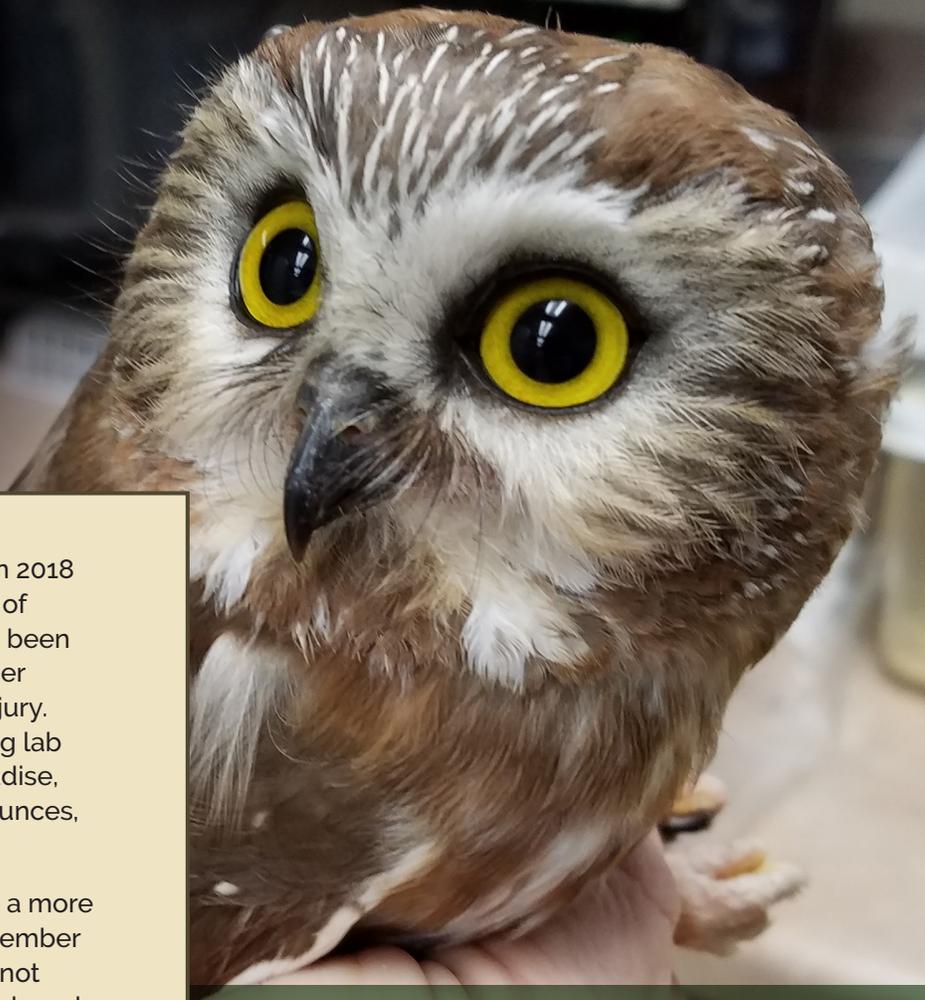
Throughout the winter of 2018 (and continuing into 2019), we saw a significant increase in the number of Saw-whet Owls brought in for rehabilitation. In 2016 and 2017 combined, we admitted just two Saw-whets. But 2018 brought us 15 and we continue to admit more in the early months of 2019. Most of them have sustained impact injuries of some sort, often from a car or window.

Interestingly, two of the Saw-whets admitted in 2018 were wearing US Fish and Wildlife bands. One of them had been rescued in Edison, NJ. She had been hit by a car and sustained serious damage to her spine. Unfortunately, she did not survive the injury. The information obtained from the bird banding lab told us she hatched in 2016 and was from Paradise, Michigan. This small owl, weighing just a few ounces, had traveled over 950 miles to end up in NJ!

The second banded Saw-whet story ended on a more positive note. She arrived from NY in early November with a damaged left eye, but the damage was not severe. After approximately two months of rehab and treatment, she was released on December 6, 2018. The banding lab information revealed that she was banded as a hatching year female on 9/27/2018 in Steuben, Maine. She traveled almost 500 miles before her brief stop at The Raptor Trust.

These tiny terrors stand just 7 – 8 inches tall. They breed in northern climates and migrate south in the winter months. Occasionally, they experience what is known as an “irruption year,” when plentiful food supplies in the breeding range increase the numbers of young that survive. When this happens, a resulting increase in competition for food in the winter forces larger numbers of Saw-whets (usually juveniles) to fly farther in search of prey. Saw-whet owls are hole-nesting raptors, so destruction of habitat, particularly nesting snags, represents a threat to their population, although Saw-whets take readily to nest boxes.

Saw-whets are remarkable birds for their size—ferocious and full of personality—successful nighttime predators which weigh little more than a golf ball! It has been very rewarding to help so many of these owls through our rehab activities this year and to release them back into the wild.



Northern Saw-Whet Owl, admit #18-4536. Released, Dec, 2018

Northern Saw-whet Owl, admit #18-4261. Still in rehab.



JERSEY CITY PEREGRINE FALCONS (PEFAS)

by Alyssa Frediani

On May 8, 2018, Kathy Clark, with the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, called to tell us that she was transporting three Peregrine Falcon chicks, approximately three days old, to us for care. Construction workers, who were demolishing the old Goethals Bridge, had discovered the young birds inside a steel girder they had taken down. The nestlings had been unattended for over 24 hours before workers heard them making noise. The lead engineer called Kathy Clark and got the chicks into a box. Kathy arrived to find them cool to the touch and barely responsive. She handed each of the three nestlings to a worker at the site. They warmed the birds in their hands and they slowly began to revive.



The Peregrine Falcon chicks were in surprisingly good shape upon arrival at The Raptor Trust. We placed them inside an incubator and the chicks quickly perked up and started demanding food. They were hand-fed small pieces of quail meat for several days. The chicks grew quickly in their time here and it was apparent we would need to find them a more permanent housing situation. With the help of Kathy Clark, these three Peregrine Falcon chicks were re-nested in Jersey City just six days later. The pair of adults at that nest had proven themselves good parents in past years, but their lone nestling this year had been taken in for rehab at a different facility, hence the opportunity to adopt the orphaned chicks.

Re-nesting them in Jersey City gave The Raptor Trust staff a unique opportunity to keep tabs on “the kids” while they grew. In addition, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ’s web camera at the nest site facilitated close monitoring. All three young female falcons successfully fledged and were sighted in the area later in the summer. We recently received word that one of them was seen in September at a wildlife refuge in New York, and another in Monmouth Beach in December. These three young Peregrine Falcons from the Goethals Bridge beat the odds!

PEREGRINE FALCON BANDING WORKSHOP

by Moira Brennan 2018 summer intern, Stevens Institute of Technology

This summer, the other interns and I got the chance to meet with Chris Nadareski, of the Peregrine Falcon Program and the New York City Department of Environmental Conservation, while he banded several of the young Peregrine Falcons being rehabilitated at The Raptor Trust. Chris demonstrated how to properly handle and band falcons, while explaining how banding is used to track bird populations. I learned so much about Peregrine Falcon life history and anatomy, and though I have lived in the NYC metropolitan area for 3 years, I hadn’t realized how many Peregrine Falcons were

living there until this workshop. Now, I keep my eye out for them and frequently spot them perched on top of buildings or flying overhead!

One of the important aspects of Chris’ job is community relations; making residents in areas where Peregrine Falcons live and breed feel comfortable with their neighborhood raptors and helping them understand the value these birds bring to their lives. Many raptors, including Peregrine Falcons, were once persecuted as pests, but fortunately, times have changed, and people now install nest cameras to watch them raise their young year after year, even naming them. Raptors provide an important environmental benefit, even in urban areas, by helping to keep down populations of rodents and other animals that can cause public health problems. Getting the public more connected with the wildlife around them, and instilling a sense of ownership for their success and survival, is a huge step in conservation for animals that were once labeled as “dangerous” or “vermin”. The New York Peregrine Falcon Project is one such initiative.

I am so glad to have had the opportunity to meet Chris and gain so much knowledge about Peregrine Falcons.



FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILLIAM F CONGER

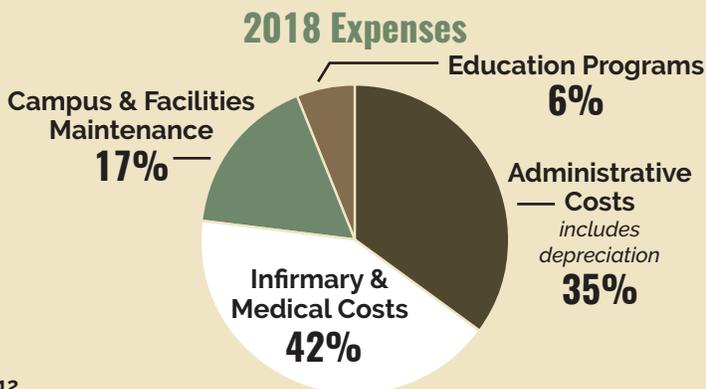
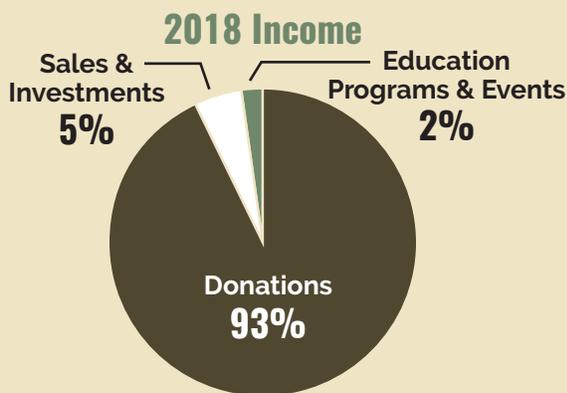
2018 was another stellar year for The Raptor Trust. We admitted 6,002 birds (a new record) and celebrated our 35th anniversary in grand style with a well-planned, fun and informative gala. I was lucky enough to be this year's honoree and it made me reflect on the changes I've seen at The Raptor Trust over the decades. It started with the addition of a single employee in the 1980's and the realization by founders Len and Diane Soucy that for long-term success, outside financial help would be required. With that in mind, The Raptor Trust was incorporated as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) entity in 1983. Throughout the years, we have addressed issues ranging from succession of management and strategic planning to governance and internal controls. The Raptor Trust has become a nationally respected leader in avian rehabilitation with a center that is visited by tens of thousands of people from across the globe each year. The Board is engaged, supportive and strong and we are well-positioned for any future challenges.

Capacity has always been a looming demon and this past year the chickens really came home to roost. The number of birds we take in has grown and grown, and although we have upgraded the facilities, our location prevents any real expansion. We cannot continue to tax our staff to the breaking point and expect them to perform at the level required to provide the best possible care to our patients. Reluctantly, we have concluded that the best choice is to limit the number of baby birds we admit during "baby bird season" by excluding certain non-native species, which now account for approximately 25% of our admittees. We are not the first, nor will we be the last rehab center to take this necessary step, but it must be done. We hope you understand our position and will continue to support The Raptor Trust going forward.

Kindest regards,
Bill

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and a successful 35th Anniversary event, the finance department had another busy year in 2018! We do not receive any funding from federal, state or local governments and therefore rely solely on the individuals, foundations and corporations who have been extremely supportive. Below is an overview of our income and expenses for the past year.



LEN SOUCY MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES NOVEMBER 2018

Our 2018 keynote speaker for the Len Soucy Memorial Lecture Series was Christian Hagenlocher of Buena Vista, CO. Christian is the founder of The Birding Project (www.TheBirdingProject.com) and a 2016 Big Year birding event winner. His epic 2016 adventures found him traversing the continent on a shoestring budget, alone in his Subaru, in pursuit of as many species of birds as possible. In the end, Christian cataloged over 750 species of birds in a single calendar year.



Christian's presentation highlighted many of the unusual and often dangerous situations in which he found himself in 2016—from run-ins with law enforcement along the Mexican border, to face-to-face showdowns with various beasts, including: snakes, spiders, bears, and especially angry cows!

Christian's entertaining presentation was enjoyed by a sold-out crowd at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center, which also hosted the Raptor Trust's "Bird of Prey" art show during November, featuring the wildlife art of Michael McNelly and James Fiorentino.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

by Alice Fernandes and Shari Stern

During the summer of 2018, The Raptor Trust began a new Education Department Open House program on Saturdays to enhance our visitor experience. Staffed by trained volunteer docents and loaded with interactive games, educational displays and a touch table, Open House hours in the air-conditioned education center allowed visitors to extend their visits with some indoor time after viewing our resident raptors in the outdoor enclosures.

Docents were available to answer questions about The Raptor Trust's mission and engage guests with fun facts and information about local bird species. Education staff members dropped in to facilitate Q&A sessions, offering in-depth discussions and enabling visitors to see some of our birds up close for a "raptor meet and greet!"

After the success of last summer, we are looking forward to expanding the program in 2019. We plan to train more docents, expand the Open House hours, enhance and improve our interactive exhibits, and eventually offer more guided tours of The Raptor Trust aviaries. We hope this program will continue to foster active curiosity in both adults and children about the natural world, birds and The Raptor Trust's mission.



Alyssa Frediani, with "Zizi" the American Kestrel. Zizi is one of the many ambassador birds who participate in our education programs.



NON-INDIGENOUS BIRDS

The Raptor Trust has adopted a policy change concerning non-indigenous (or non-native) species to allow us to best fulfill our mission. All **native** wild birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as well as other state and federal laws, and by law can only be handled for rehabilitation at licensed facilities such as The Raptor Trust. Non-indigenous species are not protected by state and federal law and they have other options for care.

In past years, we have accepted many non-indigenous species (exotic pet birds, domestic farm animals, European Starlings and English Sparrows, for example). We believe that all life has value and we have spent considerable time and effort on all birds that have come through our doors. However, The Raptor Trust has reached a point (with over 6,000 birds admitted last

year) where our admit numbers have surpassed our facility's capacity and reasonable expectations of work for our staff. We cannot put ourselves in a position where we compromise the care of native birds, especially raptors and endangered species, which by law have no other options for care except at licensed facilities.

Beginning this year, during breeding season, The Raptor Trust will no longer be able to care for baby European Starlings and English Sparrows (also called House Sparrows). We must focus our resources on the birds for which there are no other options. It is not a decision made lightly, however, it is what we must do in order to provide the best quality care to the native and protected birds we are licensed to rehabilitate. Please see our website for more information.

SNAGS: AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE

by Libby Haines

Many people don't realize that snags (standing dead trees) are vital to wildlife. Numerous species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians depend on them for roosting, nesting and egg-laying sites, as well as a food source from the insects inhabiting the dead wood. Allowing snags to remain will provide an abundance of resources to a wide variety of wildlife.

SCREECH OWL FAMILY

On May 14, The Raptor Trust admitted a mother Screech Owl, one newly hatched owlet and three unhatched eggs. The snag housing this family had been cut down during spring clean-up, no one knowing that there was an entire family living inside. Unfortunately, the chain saw had severed the adult Screech Owl's wing; the damage was severe and we knew immediately she would not be releasable. The young owlet and three eggs were placed in an incubator. The mother was too badly injured to care for them at first. Within three days, two more of the eggs had hatched. After a couple of days, we began putting the hatchling owls in with their mom, only for a few hours at first; she was still recovering from her injuries. After about a week we began leaving them in the cage with their mom. At first, she was sitting with them but not feeding them, and the staff had to continue an every-two-hour feeding routine. Within a few more days, the Screech Owl mom began feeding her babies. We were all very excited, since it is always better for young birds to be raised by their own kind. After approximately six weeks, the family was ready to move to an outside enclosure. We continued to monitor their progress, and everyone was doing well. After another several weeks the owlets were moved to a larger flight cage. All three were successfully released in early fall. Their mother, whose flight is severely compromised due to the damage inflicted by the chain saw, will live out her days here at The Raptor Trust, helping to educate the public and hopefully acting as a foster mom to orphaned baby Screech Owls in the future.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

This year's volunteer roster includes amazing individuals who have given not only their time to The Raptor Trust, but who have also contributed so much more through their enthusiasm, dedication, compassion and curiosity. Always there to lend a hand, help work through an idea, or lend a listening ear, we owe so much to these awesome people who work so hard to help TRT realize its mission. Thank you to the team of 2018!

Aakanksha Ahuja	Devin Racaniello	Kaitlyn Kupper	Rachael Sitzer
Abel Amare	Doris Stoner	Karen MacNaul	Richard D'Orazio
Aidan Villegas	Dylan Adubato	Kyler Rudin	Richard J. Wislocky
Alice Fernandes	Dylan O'Malley	Kyra Jean Cipolla	Russell Jackson
Allison Rietze	Einar Castillo	Lauren Belsky	Ryan Burger
Allison Tyler	Emily Cafaro	Lauren Soranno	Samantha Prestia
Amanda Schuster	Erin Gottschall	Lin Chu	Sara Marquez Durst
Andrew Hom	Gabriele Schmitt	Lindsay McNamara	Sarah Townsend
Andy McAdam	Gary Hom	Lisa Huguenin	Shannon Merolla
Artemisia Leo	Genevieve Redgate	Margaret Blewett	Sigrid Huxel
Ashley Cohen	Georgiana Ploss	Marguerite Van Wowk	Stacey Volanto
Ashley Donato	Greg Pizzano	Marion Ceruzzi	Stephanie Gunby
Barbara Feno	Heather Dobosz	Marion Philips	Stephen Gruber
Barbara Franko	Jack Callahan	Mary Kay Adams	Steven McKenna
Bob Gray	Jamie Kopacka	Melanie Krebner	Susan Browne
Brendan Quinn	Janet Cicariello-Cook	Mitchell Callahan	Tania Patch
Caroline Ford	Jason Rudin	Mobin Ahmad	Thomas Coates
Charles Gunther	Jennifer Books	Molly Miller	Tiffany Pilitowski
Chris Springle	Jennifer Linden	Muriel Mota	Tricia LaGrace
Claire Jones	Jennifer Romanek	Nicholas Sharko	Trish Gradley
Clifford Berek	Jennifer Stollery	Nicolina Lentine	Victoria Bullaro
Cynthia Davis	Jess Pearlstein	Nikki Miller	Virginia Heacock
Daniel Keller	Joan Hoeckele	Nikki Nobles	Wendy Davis
David Couto	John Roepke	Nita Blatt	Zach Rodriguez
David Moody	Joseph Horincewich	Nora Roemer	Zachary Rittner
David Walker	Joshua Amores	Peggy Lefkin	
Denise Soppas	Judy Books	Peter Monti	

AN INSIDER'S VIEW VOLUNTEERING AT THE RAPTOR TRUST

by Jennifer Books

As somebody who has been a year-round volunteer at The Raptor Trust for 10 years, I have been fortunate enough to see and experience almost all of the joys and challenges that go along with the position. Having volunteered doing bird care, as gift shop cashier and infirmary admit office receptionist, I can genuinely say that all the positions hold their own rewards.

Cleaning cages and preparing food for the birds are a large part of volunteering, but there is so much more to it than that. Behind the scenes, the little joys of working with the staff, other volunteers and interns come into play daily - whether someone is telling a joke, celebrating a birthday, sharing a funny story about a particular bird, or a story from the home front.

Volunteering year-round has its share of challenges as well, including cold hands in winter, excessive heat in summer, rain, bugs, or the occasional laundry machine or water pump failure, which can lead to some days where you feel overwhelmed and exhausted. But none of these challenges have ever made me reconsider what I am doing or why.

Simply knowing that I am helping care for the thousands of birds that The Raptor Trust takes in yearly is not only gratifying, but gives me a higher purpose in life. Here's a special thanks to everyone who has played a role in my life as a volunteer at The Raptor Trust and for all the support, opportunities, lessons, rewards and happiness you have brought to my experience. It would never have been possible without you!



1390 White Bridge Road
Millington, NJ 07946



ROCK OUT WITH **THE RAPTOR TRUST** BENEFIT CONCERT & AUCTION

LIVE BIRDS SILENT AUCTION

SUNDAY MAY 19 2-7 PM
The Stirling Hotel
227 Main Ave
Stirling, NJ 07980

With live music from **ROSS GRISWOLD AND THE SECOND LINE**
and special guests **THE RACCOON RIDGE RAMBLERS**

Featuring booths from our community partners and local environmental organizations

50/50 RAFFLE

FAMILY GAMES & ACTIVITIES

2-4 PM Live raptors on display with TRT Education Staff
Community partner tabletops and activities

2-6 PM Silent auction

4-7 PM Live music

THE RAPTOR TRUST

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE RAPTOR TRUST
Suggested donation \$5

UPCOMING EVENTS

From Rehab to Release

An in-depth look at the day-to-day rehabilitation activities at The Raptor Trust
Saturday, March 16: 1:00 pm

Bringing up Birdie

A fun, family-friendly program about the nesting habits of New Jersey's birds
Saturday, April 27: 1:00 pm

Tour Talks

Guided Tours of The Raptor Trust
Saturday, May 25: 11:00 am & 1:00 pm
Saturday, June 29: 11:00 am & 1:00 pm
Saturday, August 31: 1:00 am & 1:00 pm

Focus on Raptors

Photo event for amateur and professional photographers
Saturday, April 6: 2:00 pm
Saturday, October 12: 2:00 pm

Owls in the House

Owl program and nest box building workshop
Saturday, November 9: 2:00 pm

Eagles and Falcons, Oh My!

An hour-long educational program focusing on diurnal (daytime) raptors
December 7: 1:00 pm

Great Swamp Owl Prowl

Owl program and Great Swamp field trip
Saturday, December 14: 7:00 pm

Visit
www.TheRaptorTrust.org
for registration info



THERAPTORTRUST.ORG