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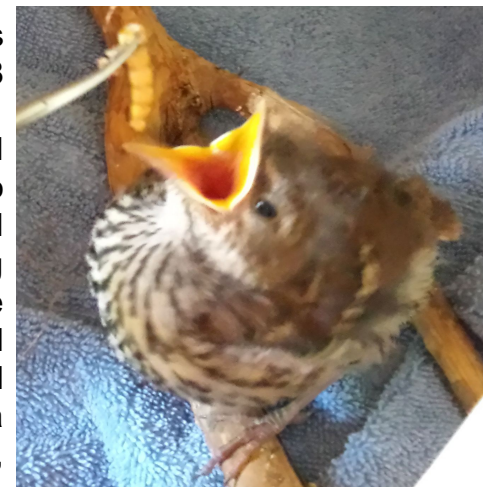
The Raptor Chapter

Volume 28 # 2 of 3
Summer 2019

The Newsletter of Three Rivers Avian Center

Our time between the beginning of April and the end of August (known as "Baby Season") has been busy this year. We've had 20 species of songbirds turned in, 8 raptor species and 2 species of aquatic/wading birds.

The mild wet Spring seemed to lead to more numerous and larger clutches of chicks, but the weather also contributed to dangerous conditions for those chicks at times. Heavy rains washed down several chimney swift nests, causing blunt trauma to the young developing chicks that was hard to overcome. Several Robins were rescued from toppled trees, as were some Eastern Phoebes. Barred owls also had a very good breeding season, but we received several youngsters who thought that hunting the roadway was a good idea and instead got hit by vehicles. Sadly we received 2 bald eagles, both of which tested positive for high lead toxicity. As of this writing, we are currently caring for a great blue heron, 2 great horned owls, 2 Carolina wrens, a red shouldered hawk and a red tailed hawk - both first year birds.



It is now time for the annual Fall Migration! Many warblers, thrashers, thrushes and others have started their long journey to their Wintering lands. You can help them along their way with a few thoughtful actions: 1) keep your hummingbird feeders up and filled with fresh sugar water until you haven't had a hummer in 2 weeks or so (remember not to use red dye!). This could be as late as October or even later. Research has shown that hummingbirds remember feeder locations all along their routes and a quick energy sip can be sustaining. 2) Window strikes are a major cause of injury and death during Migration. If you have a window that birds fly into, take a text highlighter marker (the kind with florescent ink) and make squiggles or drawings on the inside of the window where they are hitting. The florescent ink acts like a stoplight to birds, and they see it easily. It clues the birds in that there is glass there, even if there is a reflection that is strong. 3) Keep your cat indoors, especially during the early mornings, early evenings and overnight. Many smaller birds migrate at night and come down at daylight, exhausted and hungry. They then feed frantically and sleep HARD, often very near the ground which makes them easy prey for cats. At evening, they are congregating and getting up into the air, which also intrigues cats and attracts them to try to get an easy meal. At night, your cat can become prey for foxes and larger owls, both of which are showing their young where to find food. Cats are wonderful companions! Keep your fuzzy friend(s) safe and wild birds as well.

A Very Special Thank You to:

The Beckley Area Foundation's Nancy R. Smith Family Foundation

In loving memory of:

William Norman Jones, Duncan Hollar, Grady McRae,
Robert L. & Ann V. Morris, Zack Steenstra, Betty Smith, Clyde Wallin



Three Rivers Avian Center
2583 Brooks Mountain Road
Hinton, WV 25951-5621

A private nonprofit organization dedicated to wild bird conservation & to educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship since 1990

www.tracwv.org trac@tracwv.org





Over 45,000 Scouts from over 152 nations came to the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Mount Hope, WV between July 22 and August 2 this year for the 24th World Jamboree. For those 10 days the site became the third largest city in WV, populated mostly with young men and young women Scouts ages 14 to 17 moving between activities such as zip lines, BMX, paddle boarding, skateboarding, river rafting, scuba diving, boulder and rock climbing, and so much more. Following through with the event theme "Unlock a New World", the Jamboree included a World Culture Day where the different countries shared their customs, traditional uniforms and most of all, food. The Department of the Interior hosted a large tent in the Legacy area where the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management teamed up to create a series of activities that would earn participating Scouts and visitors a beautiful and unique patch. Three Rivers Avian Center with Regis our Bald Eagle Ambassador were featured in the center of the tent and he was very popular! It was interesting and fun to interact with so many young people from so many different countries, learning ways to get past language difficulties and sharing laughs.

As some of you may know, our 2011 Chevrolet Express van has been experiencing transmission and drive train issues. At 165,000 miles it is to be expected to some extent, but the transmission has been repaired 3 times this year and the drive train repair is still having issues. The van has been in the Dealership shop mostly since the end of May, causing TRAC to have to rent vans to get to our programs and to go out on rescues. An online fundraiser on Facebook in June helped pay some of the bills associated with the repairs, but we are still thousands of dollars out-of-budget. We are hoping to make it into the Fall somehow when Ford is coming out with an AWD Transit van. As of this writing Raptor 1 is back for repairs associated with the drive train fix. We are hoping to get it back this week and fully functional...fingers crossed!!



&



2019 WV State Park Summer Performance Schedule

programs are open to the public, FREE & great fun for all ages. We bring 6 non-releaseable Raptor Ambassadors with us: hawks, owls, falcons and Regis our Bald Eagle Ambassador. It's a fun filled, interactive program focusing on how interesting various birds are, how they are adapted to their specific roles in the ecosystem and ways you can help wild birds. Come join us!

August 24 Twin Falls Resort State Park 7 PM in the Azalea Room

August 31 Audra State Park 7 PM in the main shelter by the River

September 14 Kanawha State Forest 1 PM in front of the main building

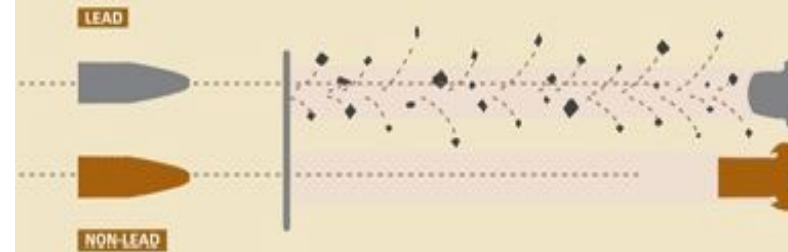
September 14 Pipestem Resort State Park 7 PM in the Cardinal Room

September 21 Tygart Lake State Park 7 PM at the Campground (in the lodge if it rains)

The Summer is winding down, but TRAC's award winning "Wings of Wonder: WV Birds of Prey" programs still have 5 more performances in the WV State Parks and Forests! All Park

Lead and Non-lead Bullets

Lead-core rifle bullets leave a trail of toxic lead fragments that spread a surprising distance from the bullet's path.



Non-lead bullets expand on impact just like lead bullets, but stay in one piece, leaving a clean path with no contamination.

National Park Service

As we come into hunting seasons this Fall, please hunters, make sure you are using non-lead ammunition. If you are using lead ammunition (which is classified as a toxic hazard), there is almost no part of what you kill that will be healthy for your family. If you leave pieces of it in the field, wildlife will suffer: all scavengers including eagles, hawks and owls. Please take a minute to look at our website page on this issue for more information and links to resources to purchase non-lead ammunition and to learn of the effects of lead ammunition: www.tracwv.org/lead.html
Your family, TRAC and all wildlife will thank you.



If you shop at Kroger, you can help TRAC! All you need to do is go to www.Kroger.com/comm and select Three Rivers Avian Center as your charity of choice. You need to re-register your decision annually, but other than that, every time you swipe your Kroger card with a purchase, Kroger makes a quarterly donation to TRAC!! You still keep your fuel points, still get your discounts, but TRAC also benefits. It really adds up!!

Memberships are vital to the success of Three Rivers Avian Center. As an IRS registered 501(c)3 charity, your donations are tax-deductible. Members receive several informational mailings annually. Feathered Friends receive the mailings as well as a frame ready certificate featuring the Raptor Educational Ambassador of their choice. Memberships & Feathered Friendships are renewable annually, the renewal date is included on the mailing label of your newsletter. Credit/debit cards & Paypal are accepted on our website: www.tracwv.org, by phone or in person. Please let us know if this is a gift or in memory of a loved one!

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships:

Eagle (\$1,000) _____

Falcon (\$500) _____

Owl (\$250) _____

Sponsor (\$150) _____

Patron (\$100) _____

Benefactor (\$75) _____

Supporting (\$50) _____

Family (\$25) _____

Individual (\$10) _____

Feathered Friend Sponsorships:

Regis bald eagle (\$60) _____

Nick red tailed hawk (\$30) _____

Harlan dark red tailed hawk (\$30) _____

Ryan young red tailed hawk (\$30) _____

Max broad-winged hawk (\$30) _____

Dori peregrine falcon (\$30) _____

Gimli American kestrel (\$30) _____

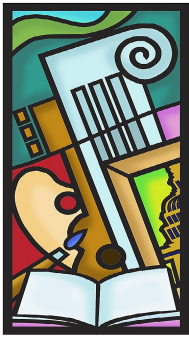
Hoolie great horned owl (\$30) _____

Robbie barred owl (\$30) _____

Riffle young barred owl (\$30) _____

Rudy rufous screech owl (\$30) _____

Felix grey screech owl (\$30) _____



WV Division of Culture & History



Migration Celebration 2019

A festival of West Virginia's wild birds & our natural heritage held annually on World Migratory Bird Day

Three Rivers Avian Center's Migration Celebration 2019 was a lot of fun, despite intermittently drizzly weather on May 11. The day was filled with kids crafts and storytelling with Carla Long, face painting by Nicole Watson, birding walks led by Bev Delidow and Rodney Davis, nature walks led by the National Park Service, animal shape painting with the WV Division of Natural Resources, magic shows by Tricky Chaz, and a presentation on bees, beekeeping and pollination by the Appalachian Beekeeping Collective. A bounce castle and a double bungee run gave little children entertainment all day long. In the afternoon Steven Wayne Rotsch led an hour long outdoor raptor photography workshop.

While all this was going on, interactive displays were provided by Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory, New River Gorge National River, Appalachian Beekeeping Collective, Piney Creek Watershed Association, and the WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. TRAC brought our display too, including Gimli the American Kestrel, Dori the Peregrine Falcon, Hoolie the Great Horned Owl and Regis the Bald Eagle.

The door prize of a large copper and glass bird feeder was won by Bonnie Smith of Beaver, WV. Great food was provided by Dickie's Barbecue Pit's Preston Reeves and his family. Funding for this festival was provided by the Nancy R. Smith Family Fund at the Beckley Area Foundation and with support from the WV State Legislature and the WV Division of Culture and History. Thanks also to Little Beaver State Park for providing such a great venue and helping so much!





Hope Takes Flight!

Annual Fundraiser for Three Rivers Avian Center

**Saturday,
October 26, 2019
5 to 7 PM**

Tickets: adults \$25.00 each, ages 9 - 17 \$15.00 each

**Event Location: Buckskin Council Scouting Headquarters at the
H. Bernard Wehrle Sr. Scout Leadership Service Center,
2829 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston WV**

Tickets include entry for door prizes, finger foods, non-alcoholic beverages, live raptors on display (including hawks, owls, falcons & Regis the Bald Eagle) and a chance to interact with TRAC Staff, Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

*** silent auction *cash bar available**

All donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS 501(c)3 regulations. Consult your tax accountant.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact

Three Rivers Avian Center

trac@tracwv.org Or 304.466.4683

Tickets may be purchased directly from our website:

www.tracwv.org

Three Rivers Avian Center * 2583 Brooks Mountain Road * Hinton, WV 25951

Spots are still available for the TRAC Fall Photo Workshop, October 12th!

Join Steven Wayne Rotsch and TRAC staff in a day of congenial photography fun! Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to take this opportunity to capture images of raptors native to West Virginia in natural settings in either half day or day-long sessions.

Ten to twelve live birds of prey will be modeling for the cameras, including a Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawks, a Peregrine Falcon, an American Kestrel and a Great Horned Owl among others. All raptors will be available during the both the morning (9AM - 12PM) and afternoon (1PM - 4PM) sessions, for those who wish to join both sessions an on-site lunch is included. Participants should bring a camera, flash, a telephoto lens if you have one, extra batteries and lots of memory cards. Tripods and/or monopods are helpful. In one day, participants can take photographs of these raptors that would take a lifetime to duplicate in the wild, if at all. All photograph sessions will be outdoors on site at TRAC, so dress appropriately. Contact Steve Rotsch to register or for more information: www.stevenrotsch.com, 304-541-7574 or by e-mail: swrkab@aol.com. Full details of the workshop, registration forms, and a gallery of photos from previous workshops can be found on his website. Come join us for a relaxing and fun filled time!



Photo by Joan Carey