Dear Friends,

Humans have a long history of exploiting Earth’s natural resources, including its wildlife. However, over the past six decades, a strong environmental movement has taken hold. Stewardship of the environment that we all share has become a mainstream public goal, not only in developed nations but also in much of the developing world.

In this issue of *Raptor Release*, you will read about how the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty—and the subsequent legislation it spawned—has saved the lives of billions of individual birds as well as some species from extinction.

No longer are bald eagles being shot in large numbers by humans who considered them to be pests, and the plume trade that drove the snowy egret nearly to extinction has also vanished. Moreover, some harmful chemicals like DDT have been banned from use in the U.S.

However, new threats to raptors and wildlife are sprouting up. Some of these modern-day threats are more complex and involve numerous stakeholders across international borders, and thus are taking time to solve. We have covered some of these burgeoning threats in past issues of *Raptor Release*, and we discuss a few of them in this issue as well.

Public perception of the role birds and other wildlife play in the health of the environment has come a long way in the past century, and there is plenty to be hopeful about. But a lot of work still needs to be done by citizens, scientists, companies, communities, countries, and the world.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about raptors, wildlife, and our efforts to rehabilitate raptors, educate the public, and help develop solutions to modern-day threats that wildlife and humans face. Your continued support of our important work is invaluable. Together, we can make the world a safer place for all living creatures.

Sincerely,

Julia Ponder, D.V.M., M.P.H.
Executive Director
Tales from the trauma center

By Lori Arent

In 1916, Woodrow Wilson was president, the Chicago Cubs played their first game at Wrigley Field, the United States National Park Service was created, and a Boeing aircraft took to the skies for the first time. It was also the year that the skies and landscape became safer for raptors and other migratory birds under the protection of the Migratory Bird Treaty and later the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Since then, the Twin Cities metro human population has increased five-fold, and raptor species have had to adapt to major landscape changes and more congestion at the intersection where humans and wildlife meet. Birds are often victims of this cohabitation, as evidenced by the more than 23,000 raptors that have visited The Raptor Center’s clinic since its inception in 1974.

The medical care provided to these birds is made possible under state and federal rehabilitation permits, which require notification to state and federal law enforcement agencies of birds that are confirmed shot, trapped, poisoned, or electrocuted. Rehabilitation permits are restrictive; they do not allow holders to remove birds from nests, move nests, band birds, or maintain a collection of permanently disabled birds for education. These activities and more all require different permits.

Due to The Raptor Center’s location in the heart of an urban environment, The Raptor Center’s clinic carries one of the highest raptor caseloads in the country. This, along with its affiliation with the University of Minnesota, has positioned it to set standards of care and best practices that have been adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and care facilities throughout the world. The Raptor Center conducts more than 1,000 veterinary and rehabilitation consultations annually and provides guidance to state and federal agencies upon request.

The summer is usually the clinic’s busiest time, and this July was record-breaking, with 169 admissions. The majority of July admissions were urban youngsters—Cooper’s hawks, broad-winged hawks, bald eagles, and merlins. These youngsters face extreme challenges once they leave their nests.

Patient highlight

One species whose survival has depended on the MBTA is the osprey. In the early and mid-1900s, the osprey population dwindled under the pressure of DDT, habitat loss, and shooting. Reintroduction efforts have been extremely successful in many states, and today ospreys can be observed nesting and hunting over many Minnesota lakes.

In September 2013, a juvenile female osprey was standing on the shore of Sunrise Lake in Blaine, Minnesota, unable to fly. She was admitted to The Raptor Center with a fractured scapula, an injury most often caused by a collision. Clinic staff knew that since Midwest ospreys are migrants that start their journey south in early September, time was of the essence. Scapula fractures heal fairly quickly, so once the patient was healthy, The Raptor Center’s flight crews immediately started preparing the bird for her migration south. A short time later, she was banded with a U.S. Geological Survey aluminum leg band and returned to her recovery location in Blaine.

It is reported that young ospreys spend their first 18 months or so south of the U.S. border. Not only did our former patient survive her long migration south, but she later reappeared in Minnesota with a mate and built a nest in 2015. Thanks to Vanessa Greene of Twin Cities Metro Osprey Watch, we learned that she was spotted again this spring. As of this writing, she had one chick ready to fledge. One day soon, this youngster will take flight. and it too will travel south thousands of miles under the protection of the MBTA.

Lori Arent is The Raptor Center’s clinic manager and the author of Raptors in Captivity, Guidelines for Care and Management, available at www.TheRaptorCenter.org. She is currently working with Amber Burnette on the development of Raptor Academy.
Migratory Bird Treaty celebrates 100 years

By Fran Howard

One hundred years ago on August 16, the United States and Great Britain, on behalf of Canada, signed the Migratory Bird Treaty. That was the start of what evolved into intercontinental efforts to protect migratory birds—including raptors—from human depredation. In 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) became U.S. law, but it wasn’t until 1972 that raptors gained protection. In 2004, the law was expanded to protect all bird species native to the United States.

“While the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is not part of our consciousness as we go about our day-to-day business, we are engaged in the protection of migratory birds in so many ways—rehabilitating raptors, educating the public about the environmental challenges that raptors face, and influencing policy to protect raptors,” says Dr. Patrick Redig, co-founder of The Raptor Center (TRC). “Almost everything we do is in support of migratory birds.”

The National Audubon Society estimates that the Migratory Bird Treaty and subsequent acts and treaties have saved millions, if not billions, of birds from the depredatory activities of humans. Of the 1,027 protected species under the MBTA, approximately 8 percent are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act and 25 percent are designated as Birds of Conservation Concern, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The value of migratory and other native birds cannot be overstated. They connect people with nature, country with country, continent with continent, and hemisphere with hemisphere. Migratory and other native bird species contribute to the health of the environment as pollinators, by providing insect and rodent control, and for their role in seed dispersal. Migratory birds, particularly raptors, are excellent indicators of environmental health, a premise that forms the foundation of TRC’s research efforts. Birds also support recreational activities that create jobs and billions of dollars in revenue, according to data provided by the USFWS.

The MBTA makes it illegal to pursue, hunt, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory or native bird, or any part, nest, or egg of these birds, unless authorized under a permit issued by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Some regulatory exceptions apply, such as lawful hunting of game species, collection of bald eagle feathers by Native Americans for religious use, and the use of raptors for falconry.

TRC was founded two years after the MBTA was expanded to include raptors.

“At that time, 35 percent of TRC admissions were due to shooting incidents,” Redig says. “The Migratory Bird Treaty Act made it illegal to shoot raptors, but it took time before people became aware of the law, and educational efforts by us and other groups were a necessary part of making sure the law was upheld. Today, probably less than 5 percent of admissions are due to gunshot wounds.”

The MBTA and subsequent treaties have created a network of federal, state, nongovernmental, tribal, and international partners that share a long and successful history of conserving, protecting, and managing migratory and native birds and their habitats. The MBTA also regulates TRC’s work. Regional offices of the USFWS and authorizing state agencies issue permits under the act to qualified applicants, including TRC, for purposes of wildlife rehabilitation and education.

Fortunately, some human activities, such as hunting wild birds for their feathers, overhunting of particular species for food, using birds as target practice, and unregulated scientific collection, have been nearly relegated to the history books. But modern-day threats continue to challenge both migratory and nonmigratory native birds. These threats include environmental contaminants, manmade structures, and habitat loss. Currently, the USFWS is working on a proposal that would give the agency more general authority to permit and limit the take of protected species killed by manmade structures, including communication towers, fracturing wastewater open pits, and wind turbines.
Another conservation milestone, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) offers additional protection to these species and makes it illegal to poison eagles. But debate continues about whether there has to be intent to poison the birds or whether indirect poisoning—like that which occurs when eagles ingest spent lead ammunition—violates the BGEPA and the MBTA.

“The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a worldwide effort, and that is a model we have adopted and drilled down to the local level, particularly on the issue of lead ammunition and poisoning of bald eagles,” says Redig. “Our success on this issue so far has come about as a result of engaging the various stakeholders, hunters, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The only way you can proceed and succeed is to have the various stakeholders in the path of migrating birds managing the process.”

Fran Howard is a St. Paul-based freelance writer specializing in veterinary medical and conservation writing.

The snowy egret’s role in raptor conservation

Swainson’s hawks, northern saw-whet owls, ospreys, and other raptor species owe a huge debt to the snowy egret.

In the late 1800s, a women’s fashion trend stormed the country, pushing snowy egrets to near extinction. Plume hunters who sold the long, wispy feathers of breeding egrets to the fashion industry, primarily to decorate women’s hats, slaughtered these birds without conscience. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, plumes from snowy egrets were selling for $32 per ounce in 1886—twice the price of gold at the time.

“The plume trade was a sordid business. Hunters killed and skinned the mature birds, leaving orphaned hatchlings to starve or be eaten by crows,” wrote William Souder in the March 2013 issue of Smithsonian magazine.

Enraged at the slaughter, Boston socialites Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall sparked an upper-crust revolt in 1886 by asking women to join a society for the protection of birds, especially the snowy egret. An estimated 900 women joined.

Hall and Hemenway’s Massachusetts Audubon Society led to the formation of the National Audubon Society. The group was also instrumental in garnering support for legislation that paved the way for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the establishment of the first National Wildlife Refuge in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. —F. H.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Bald Eagle Protection Act amended to include golden eagles</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Rachel Carson’s book Silent Spring published, detailing the environmental impacts of widespread use of DDT in the United States</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>U.S. and Japan sign Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction, and Their Environment</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico amended to protect raptors for the first time</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>DDT use banned in the United States</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>U.S. Endangered Species Act passed</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>The Raptor Center established as part of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Migratory Bird Treaty with the Soviet Union signed</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act passed</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>DDT banned for agricultural uses worldwide, the result of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act expands protection to all bird species native to the United States or its territories</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>The Raptor Center celebrates its 40th anniversary</td>
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Giving comes in all styles and sizes

By Ellen Orndorf

There are many ways to support The Raptor Center (TRC). Some donors enjoy the excitement and challenge offered on Give to the Max day, while others prefer to provide support on a regular, sustained basis. Still others like to donate to specific causes, like helping orphaned raptors during nesting season. Whatever your preferred style of giving, your donation, whatever its size, is greatly appreciated and helps TRC veterinarians, staff, and volunteers conduct their important work.

**Give to the Max on November 17**

Give to the Max Day, Minnesota’s annual 24-hour online giving event, is November 17 this year. The first $53,000 in gifts to TRC will be matched by our loyal friends the WM Foundation, the Hollstadt family, and the Sarah J. Andersen Fund of the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation. Generous donors have also made gifts to the University of Minnesota for additional prizes that The Raptor Center could win that day, including a grand prize of up to $12,500 for fundraising, an additional $2,500 if TRC also has the most donors, and randomly selected donor gifts of $1,000 to $3,000.

“Give to the Max day has become very important to The Raptor Center,” says Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director. “We raise a large amount of our operating budget on this one day each year. We are extremely grateful to our committed donors who donate online, drop off donations, or mail gifts of support for this incredible effort.” Please consider giving on November 17. The generous matching gift will double the value of your donation (up to $53,000). To give, visit crowdfund.umn.edu/TRC_GTMD2016.

**Monthly giving is green giving**

Gifts of all sizes allow the mission of The Raptor Center to take flight. Nearly 65 percent of TRC’s operating budget comes from philanthropy, with many small gifts received from committed individuals. Many donors now choose to give monthly gifts. These recurring gifts offer TRC a consistent source of support that allows for better planning.

Monthly giving is the greenest option because it saves paper, postage, and other resources by eliminating renewal notices in your inbox, on your voicemail, and in your mailbox. More of your gift goes directly to helping the raptors in TRC’s care and throughout the world.

Monthly giving also benefits donors.

“Growing up in England, I developed a real passion for birds of prey,” says monthly donor James McGrath. “Since moving to Minnesota, I have been excited to see so many raptors in my urban neighborhood. I am happy to be able to support The Raptor Center with a monthly gift. Giving each month allows me to better budget and to make a bigger annual gift. As I grow in my career, I am hoping to be able to increase my level of support.”

**Baby raptors showered with donations**

Funds raised by this spring’s “baby shower” were crucial in helping baby raptors this past nesting season. TRC donors contributed more than $20,000, which unlocked an additional gift of $5,000 from TRC board of advisors member Teresa Daly and her husband, Greg Konat. Thanks to all of the donors who helped these youngsters when they needed it most.

Ellen Orndorf is the development officer for TRC. If you are interested in exploring monthly giving options, which start at just $5 a month, please visit http://give.umn.edu/giving/monthly, call Orndorf at 612-624-8457, or e-mail her at eorndorf@umn.edu.

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Thanks to you, our feathered friends are getting back on their own two wings.

An estate gift can support wildlife rehabilitation. Contact Planned Giving at plgiving@umn.edu or 612-624-3333 to learn more.

*Handwritten note from Ilisa, age 7*
Raptor Lab provides new ways to connect students

By Mike Billington and Amber Burnette

Just as the Migratory Bird Treaty has connected countries and continents, the internet has created a much smaller world. With the touch of a finger, one can access or share information with others across the metro, state, nation, and world about environmental, health, and regulatory issues affecting migratory and nonmigratory birds.

The Raptor Center (TRC) is introducing new ways to connect its experts with people around the world via Raptor Lab. This new online curriculum addresses scientific investigation, raptor rehabilitation, the threats raptors face, and what can be done to help these incredible birds and the environment they share with all animals, including humans.

Raptor Lab is an educational partnership between TRC and the University of Minnesota’s Learning Technologies Media Lab. Program development for Raptor Lab was funded through a Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

Raptor Lab unites budding scientists with real-world issues

After two years of a successful pilot program, Raptor Lab is going live. An online learning environment that models the process of scientific investigation, Raptor Lab allows students to take on the role of a wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian. In addition to teaching students about the process of scientific investigation, Raptor Lab teaches them about the threats facing wildlife and the environment, and what they can do to help.

Recently, nine of the 14 teachers who piloted Raptor Lab in their classrooms participated in a final evaluation workshop to ensure that the program meets the needs of teachers and students alike. The results were positive. About 600 seventh graders in the Prior Lake school district already are using Raptor Lab, and by the end of the school year, 1,200 students statewide could be using the program.

Raptor Lab will connect rehabilitators and veterinarians

To address a need for continuing education, TRC is also developing Raptor Academy, a virtual-learning environment for wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians. Currently, there are few online professional training opportunities for people in this field. While TRC and two national professional associations offer in-person workshops, these programs are often limited by class size. Raptor Academy will greatly expand the educational opportunities available to wildlife rehabilitators, wildlife caregivers, and wildlife veterinarians—creating an even larger network of these professionals around the world.

While still in the development stage, Raptor Academy will eventually offer three multi-module, multi-week courses that provide interactions with instructors. One course will cover raptor medical care and management; another will educate participants on raptor rehabilitation and reconditioning. Raptor Academy will also offer eight self-study modules on raptor identification and natural history as it pertains to rehabilitation; baby identification; nutrition; physical exam; handling; housing; anatomy and physiology; and bandaging.

Interested in learning more about Raptor Lab? Contact Mike Billington, interpretive naturalist, at mbilling@umn.edu. Amber Burnette, program associate and blog master, is working with Lori Arent, clinic manager, on the development of Raptor Academy.

A fond farewell to Baron

Winged ambassador Baron, TRC’s American kestrel, was humanely euthanized this spring. Diagnostic tests showed that Baron had several progressive conditions that made it hard for him to eat and maintain a healthy body weight. Baron retired from programs in 2015, but during his 15 years at TRC, he participated in approximately 1,650 educational programs, averaging 117 per year. TRC’s records show that he helped teach more than 123,000 people about his species, other raptors, and the world we share.
Nest cams raise questions about intervention

By Fran Howard

Around the world, cameras are increasingly being placed in the nests of raptors and other birds. These nest cams are positioned on osprey nesting platforms, high in the trees of bald eagle nests, and in the backyard nesting boxes of chickadees, as well as in the various nests of other species.

Most North American species monitored through the use of nest cams during nesting season are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other legislation. This means that it is illegal to install a camera or disturb a nest during breeding season—and that if something goes wrong during nesting season, only authorizing regulatory agencies can determine whether intervention is the best course of action.

“This is one area where the rapid advance of technology has superseded regulation and education,” notes Dr. Julia Ponder, TRC’s executive director. “While nest cameras provide a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn exciting things about our natural world, we must recognize that we may also see the tougher side of life for a wild animal.”

For instance, she explains, without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or an authorizing state agency, no one—not even TRC or another licensed rehabilitator—can go into a nest and remove a sick or injured bird.

“In Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the state and federal regulatory agencies that have authority to determine what action is or is not taken when a sick or injured bird is spotted on a nest cam,” Ponder says. “Even when the cause of the injury or illness is manmade, such as entanglement in fishing line, there are significant risks associated with intervening. The risk to the other chicks must be heavily weighed in any decision, and the potential to cause additional harm or more damage also cannot be overlooked.”

Often it can be difficult for the public to watch a sick or injured baby bird failing, but intervening can cause additional problems. For example, as humans approach the nest, a young bird can become distressed and inadvertently fall to its death or sustain a permanent injury that would prevent it from surviving in the wild.

Veterinarians and physicians live by the promise that, above all, they should do no harm to their patients.

“There are times when the most appropriate action is no action,” Ponder says. “If we let nature take its course, as it has throughout time, natural selection will ensure the survival of the fittest within a population, providing the best hope for healthy native populations.”

From a citizen-science perspective, letting nature take its course—as difficult as that can be sometimes—also provides wildlife researchers with much-needed information. It is possible that, without intervention, the adult birds could help a nestling in trouble survive. With intervention, the answer to what would have occurred naturally will never be known.

Fran Howard is a St. Paul-based freelance writer specializing in veterinary medical and conservation writing.
Children’s book explores recovery of bald eagle

*The Eagles are Back*
By Jean Craighead George
Dial Books for Young Readers, 2013, $16.99

By Sue McCarthy

*The Eagles are Back*, by Jean Craighead George, with paintings by Wendell Minor, is one of three books in a series. The other two books are *The Wolves Are Back* and *The Buffalo Are Back*. In this juvenile literature book, George tells the story of how a young boy who lived many years ago finds an eagles’ nest with adult eagles and two broken eggs. The boy shares his concern with his friend, the ranger, and they come up with a plan to help the adult eagles raise a healthy chick.

George weaves an interesting tale while using accurate vocabulary, such as aerie, incubate, pesticide, talons, and thermal winds. In the text, George elaborates on why the bald eagle was chosen as the national bird and how the eagle, at the top of the food chain, helps many creatures survive. George also explains about the pesticide DDT and its effect on eagles in a way that it is understandable to a young reader or listener.

Minor’s accurately detailed paintings illustrate an eagle carrying and catching fish in its talons, a nest made of sticks, and a fledgling eagle with dark eyes, beak, and body feathers. Sitting down with a child and reading *The Eagles Are Back* would be a wonderful home activity before or after a visit to The Raptor Center, where the child can see a live bald eagle up close.

Popular Recycling for Raptors program ends

By Fran Howard

After 13 years of success, the popular Recycling for Raptors program ended August 31. The 100-percent volunteer-driven program recycled more than 170,000 inkjet printer cartridges since 2003.

Over the program’s life, a small but dedicated group of volunteers picked up inkjet cartridges from public collection sites and companies, sorted them, and brought them to vendors who would pay a small fee for each one.

“The initiative and commitment of the volunteers who worked on this program was very much appreciated,” says Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director. “The Recycling for Raptors program had a direct and measurable impact on both The Raptor Center and the raptors in its care. We cannot thank the volunteers who worked with this program enough.”

While 10 volunteers worked directly with the program over the years, countless others helped collect cartridges and dropped off their own cartridges to support The Raptor Center (TRC), says Nancie Klebba, volunteer coordinator.

Founded by volunteers Jon Jacobson and Dick Stanley, Recycling for Raptors provided three main benefits: it positively affected the environment by keeping cartridges out of landfills; it raised money for raptors; and it helped disseminate TRC’s message to the public.

Since 2013, however, market changes, including cartridge refill programs and subscriptions, meant fewer people were recycling their empty cartridges.

“The program was very successful during its 13-year history,” says Klebba. “And The Raptor Center benefited tremendously from the publicity the program received and the funds it generated. We owe a big debt of gratitude to the volunteers who independently ran this program.”

Volunteers from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota will continue efforts to recycle printer cartridges.

---

**Recycling for Raptors volunteers**

*Founders*
Jon Jacobson
Dick Stanley

*Current team*
Jim Colten
Dennis Johnson
Mary Katynski-Johnson

*Former crew members*
Trista Briese
Sue Gegen
Ken Lessley
Jan Reyers
Don Sims
Dr. Adrien Pesque, a graduate of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, joined TRC as a clinical intern in June. Pesque’s career goal is to work at a wildlife rehabilitation center in the United States or internationally. His specific interests include environmental protection, disaster management, and battling the illegal wildlife trade.

Dolly Schmidt joined the staff as project manager in May to provide leadership for a number of special initiatives, such as developing new exhibits for TRC’s lobby and renovating the clinic to provide more space for patients.

Lori Arent, clinic manager, Dr. Michelle Willette, staff veterinarian, and Gail Buhl, education program manager, are writing a chapter on the role of rehabilitation, education, and outreach in urban communities for the book Urban Raptors: Ecology and Conservation of Birds of Prey in an Urbanizing World, by Clint Boal and Cheryl Dykstra.

The March 8-12 National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium included the presentations “Wildlife Education and Training” and “Enrichment for Raptors,” by Gail Buhl, education program manager; “To Place or Not to Place” and “Picture This!” by Katie White, veterinary technician; and “Defining Wildlife Health and Record Keeping,” by Dr. Michelle Willette, staff veterinarian.

TRC’s Basic Raptor Rehabilitation workshop was held May 3-6. Nineteen participants from 10 states, three Canadian provinces, and Brazil attended, including five veterinarians. The four-day workshop provided hands-on learning on best practices for raptor rehabilitation.

Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director, was one of three inaugural speakers for the University of Minnesota’s new Minnesota Sparks events, a series of outreach events aimed at raising awareness about critical research being done at the University. Ponder’s presentation was on the effects of lead poisoning on humans, animals, and the environment.

In March, Ponder and Buhl made a presentation on Raptor Lab at the University of Minnesota’s “Grand Challenges” conference. Raptor Lab is a middle-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum developed with funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. (Read more about Raptor Lab on page 7).

TRC’s website won this year’s Mike award from the University of Minnesota Communicators Forum, a group that promotes excellence in communications and enhances cooperation among communications professionals working at the University.

Raptor Center was saddened to hear about the death of Louise M. Gabbert on August 10. A longtime friend of The Raptor Center, Louise’s interest in TRC was first sparked when she saw a TRC education program at the Minneapolis Women’s Club. She and her husband, Don Gabbert, went on to donate the funds to construct and equip the Gabbert Raptor Center.

Youth RaptorCorps
The most recent Youth RaptorCorps sessions wrapped up in April. This service-learning program for fifth through eighth graders met once a month starting in October 2015. The youths learned how humans can affect the environment and how each of them can make a positive difference for raptors. This year, they made nest boxes for American kestrels. Parents and grandparents took part, too, so it was truly a family activity.

Milestone
A key initiative identified in TRC’s strategic plan was completed when TRC hosted a research focus planning workshop in February. Working with various disciplines and partner organizations, the workshop focused on developing research priorities, topics, and partnerships for TRC.

In memory: Louise M. Gabbert
The Raptor Center was saddened to hear about the death of Louise M. Gabbert on August 10. A longtime friend of The Raptor Center, Louise’s interest in TRC was first sparked when she saw a TRC education program at the Minneapolis Women’s Club. She and her husband, Don Gabbert, went on to donate the funds to construct and equip the Gabbert Raptor Center.

Clint Boal and Cheryl Dykstrea
Upcoming events

Raptor Release
Saturday, September 24, 2016
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Carpenter St Croix Valley Nature Center, Hastings, Minnesota
Free!

See rehabilitated raptors released back into the wild and meet some of The Raptor Center’s winged ambassadors. No pets, please. For more information, call 612-624-4745 or visit TheRaptorCenter.org.

Youth RaptorCorps
Starting October 2016

Are you in grades five through eight and interested in helping raptors and the environment? Join TRC’s youth service-learning club, Youth RaptorCorps. Each meeting will include an opportunity to see live raptors up close and learn about their natural history, the environment shared by all animals, including humans, and ways to help raptors. Registration is required and limited to 20 students. E-mail Dan Hnilicka at hnili003@umn.edu.

Family, Friends, and Feathers
Thursday and Friday, October 20 and 21, 2016
The Raptor Center, St Paul Campus, University of Minnesota
1 p.m.
Cost: $8 for adults; $5.50 for students and seniors (62-plus)

Similar to the popular weekend program “Raptors of Minnesota,” this program includes a tour of TRC’s new Douglas Dayton Education Wing.

Give to the Max
Thursday, November 17
Several loyal donor families will match up to $53,000 in donations to TRC during this 24-hour period. Please consider giving. This generous matching gift will double the value of your donation. To give, visit crowdfund.umn.edu/TRC_GTMD2016.

Contact us

Donations
Gifts, endowments, estate gifts, and grants:
Ellen Orndorf, 612-624-8457 or eorndorf@umn.edu

Sponsor-a-Raptor program:
Sue Wenker, 612-625-0201 or raptor@umn.edu

Educational programs
Field trips, outreach programs, and events
612-624-2756
raptored@umn.edu

E-communications
Want to receive e-communications? Go to www.TheRaptorCenter.org and click “subscribe to e-news” under “connect with us” in the lower-right corner of the page.

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raptor@umn.edu

Events calendar
TRC public events calendar
http://tinyurl.com/TheRaptorCenterCalendar

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Blog:
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Volunteer opportunities
Volunteer positions and upcoming training sessions
Nancie Klebba, nklebba@umn.edu or 612-624-3928

Website
www.TheRaptorCenter.org

Raptor Release
The Raptor Center

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Fall 2016

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Dr. Julia Ponder

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612-624-4745
www.TheRaptorCenter.org
www.Facebook.com/TheRaptorCenter
www.TheRaptorCenterNews.blogspot.com

Celebrating four decades of dedication to raptors

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Fall Raptor Release
Saturday, September 24, 2016
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Carpenter St Croix Valley Nature Center
Hastings, Minnesota

See rehabilitated raptors released back into the wild and meet some of The Raptor Center’s winged ambassadors.

Free!

No pets, please.

For more information, call 612-624-4745 or visit TheRaptorCenter.org.