

The Raptor Center

2011 Annual Report



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

College of Veterinary Medicine

Driven to DiscoverSM

A message from the director and board chair

Dear friends,

We are pleased to present you with The Raptor Center's fiscal year 2011 annual report, which highlights our achievements of the past year—from our work in the Galapagos Islands to our vital research and unique educational opportunities. None of this would have been possible without funding from our donors. These are challenging times, and we are most grateful for your steadfast support of our mission, “to ensure the health of raptors and the world we share through teaching, research, and service.”



Rachel Hollstad and Dr. Julia Ponder

As worldwide populations of raptors are harmed by habitat degradation, environmental toxins, and emerging infectious diseases, so is the stability and long-term security of the world upon which humans depend. Because raptors are a sentinel species, they are exceptional animals for us to study to better understand ecological processes and the health of our shared environment.

As we all struggle with the uncertainty of our world, please know that we are working hard to restore and preserve raptors and the natural world for generations to come. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Julia Ponder, DVM
Executive Director

Rachel Hollstad
Advisory Board Chair

Thank you

We are pleased to list the individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations that contributed \$250 or more during fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011). We regret that space limits us to listing only those who have contributed that amount. Every donor is important to us, and your continuing support makes our work possible. A complete list of donors can be found at www.TheRaptorCenter.org.

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The Raptor Center worked on a mitigation plan to protect Galapagos hawks during a project to eradicate invasive rats in the Galapagos. Invasive rodents are responsible for most extinctions on islands around the world.

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This young barred owl, whose eyesight is permanently impaired, is the newest member of The Raptor Center's education team.

Thank you



New curriculum is being developed based on data from Harley's travels.

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The Raptor Center is committed to maintaining an accurate donor list that acknowledges all of our supporters. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact Ellen Orndorf at 612-624-8457 or eorndorf@umn.edu.



A conservation officer rescues a great horned owl from a soccer net for transport to The Raptor Center.

The Raptor Center

Ensuring the health of raptors and the world we share through teaching, research, and service

Teaching: sharing avian orthopedic, rehabilitation, and captive management expertise

The Raptor Center continued to provide unique learning opportunities in surgery and medicine to students from the U.S. and abroad, expanding its reach in offering state-of-the-art medical care for raptors and training future veterinary professionals in promoting conservation.

After years of teaching avian orthopedics at veterinary conferences, TRC offered its own advanced orthopedics workshop in 2011. The Avian Orthopedic Workshop gave veterinarians hands-on experience in avian orthopedic repair. Also new in 2011: TRC's first Basic Raptor Rehabilitation Workshop, which provided an international cohort of rehabilitators and veterinarians with knowledge about raptor rehabilitation. The popular Care and Management of Captive Raptors Workshop trained bird curators in the finer points of caring for and maintaining captive raptors for educational purposes.

Research: investigating threats to raptor health

TRC's research efforts are based on the knowledge that raptors and other wildlife are environmental sentinels. This past year—

- Morris Animal Foundation awarded TRC a grant to assess the impacts of crude oil on reproduction of migratory birds in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.
- A lead prevalence study of five species of birds admitted to TRC and other rehabilitation centers across the country completed its first year. This project is part of the Clinical Wildlife Health Initiative, a collaboration of public and private academic and scientific institutions led by TRC and other partners. This is an important area of development for TRC as it positions itself as a leader of the College of Veterinary Medicine's Ecosystem Health Initiative.
- With a grant from the Association of Avian Veterinarians, TRC and colleagues from the College of Veterinary Medicine conducted a study of the use of MRI to localize brain lesions from lead toxicity in bald eagles.

Service: inspiring human stewardship of raptors worldwide

TRC's service efforts center on protecting raptor populations, treating injured and ill birds of prey, and inspiring human stewardship of raptors for generations to come.

Galapagos National Park, the Charles Darwin Foundation, and Island Conservation asked TRC to work with them to design and implement a mitigation plan to protect Galapagos hawks during a project to eradicate



Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director, holds the first Galapagos hawk captured as part of a mitigation plan to protect the endemic birds. Photo by Francesca Cunningham

invasive rats on ten small islands in the Galapagos. Invasive rats are causing extinction of species on islands around the world. This project exemplifies TRC's expanding role in collaborative activities aimed at global conservation of raptor species.

In partnership with schools and community organizations throughout the Midwest, TRC's public education programs and events reached thousands of people of all ages with live eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. This year brought expanded partnerships with schools and teachers, as well as several new programs focused on youth ages 10-13. Kids' University Raptor Camp programs, with sessions such as "Enraptured with Raptors," "Raptor Vet," and "Wizarding World of Wildlife," were offered during the summer months. Youth Raptor Corps offered opportunities for fifth- through eighth-graders to learn about raptors and engage in service learning projects to benefit TRC. At the annual Duke Lecture honoring co-founder Dr. Gary Duke, Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director, and Lori Arent, clinic manager, discussed their experiences working with Galapagos hawks in the Galapagos Islands.



Clinic manager Lori Arent observes as a participant in the Care and Management of Captive Raptors Workshop hones his beak-trimming skills.

Financial report

The Raptor Center

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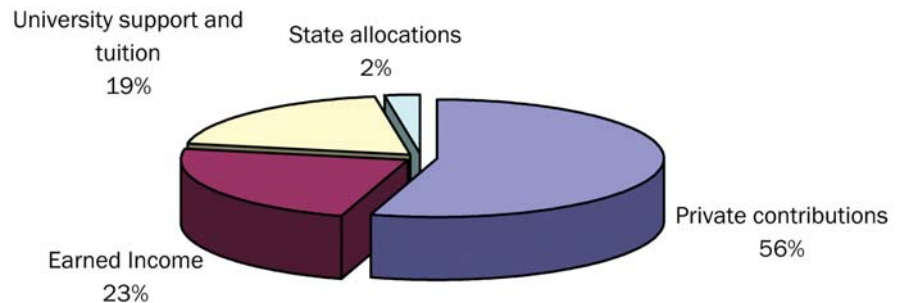
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In addition to the board of advisors and staff, nearly 350 volunteers contribute their time and effort to the program.

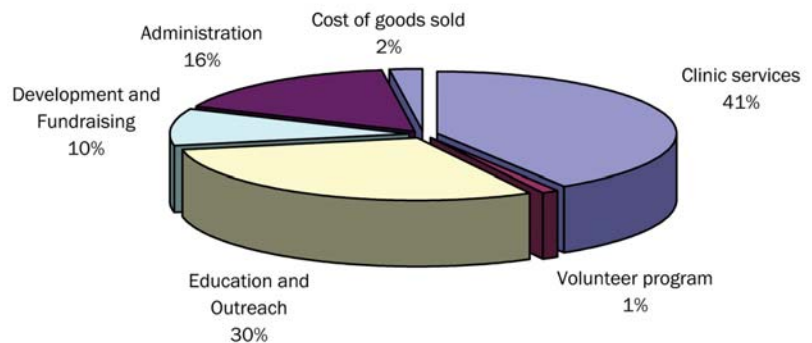
Financial Report

Fiscal Year July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011

Revenues: \$1,357,722



Expenses: \$1,277,763



The Raptor Center's many supporters are clearly as passionate about raptors and the natural world as we are ourselves. We are deeply appreciative of your gifts and take exceptional care to steward them wisely. Despite a challenging philanthropic environment, gifts to TRC grew this past year. Our international outreach was expanded both in professional training and service, increasing our impact worldwide. We continue to get extraordinary support from our many volunteers, who demonstrate their commitment to our mission through their gifts of time and effort. Almost 350 volunteers contribute more hours than our full-time staff. Thank you for your generosity. Your partnership is critical to the work we do.