



## Wingover Newsletter



2nd Quarter 2014

Former First Lady Hillary Clinton's book, *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us*, was published in 1996. It presented her vision of the future for children of the United States. She wrote about the impact that individuals and outside groups can have on children and if that influence was for the better or worse. Clinton very much supports the idea that "it takes a village to raise a child." I thought of that saying recently as individuals and organizations of all different kinds assembled at the IRC's Wildlife Hospital to meet the needs and secure the future of a fellow creature, a raptor, known as the Osprey.

When you hear the word "osprey" you may think of the Osprey backpack for hikers, the Boeing V-22 Osprey that serves as a helicopter/airplane hybrid, the Missoula, Montana minor league baseball team, or a tactical rifle scope company – that are all named Osprey! But the original Osprey is one of a kind. There are no look-alikes or hybrids when it comes to this bird.

The Osprey is a magnificent fish-eating hawk sometimes weighing up to 4 pounds with a 6 ft. wingspan. The first time I saw an Osprey in the wild was at Sam Parr State Park in southern Illinois just before Jacques and I were to present a program. We were at the end of a dock overlooking the lake when we both saw something very large plunge into the water. I will never forget those large wings coming up and out of the water as if in slow motion. The bird was manipulating a fish in its feet while shaking the water from its feathers. As the water droplets scattered into the air they hit the sunlight and it seemed like the bird was sprinkling diamonds over the lake! Jacques and I were both jumping up and down and screaming for everyone to look. But no one was close enough to hear us. No one saw the Osprey but me and Jacques. So now we can only share that rare, once in a lifetime, "Kodak moment" in the scrapbook of our minds.

So when we were asked last year to participate in the eight year long Illinois Osprey Recovery Program we were there! The Osprey, like the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, was effected by DDT induced eggshell thinning. Their populations have dwindled and they are endangered in many states, including Illinois. This program's objective is to take nestling Osprey that are removed from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia for aviation safety and resettle them into a temporary nest or "hack site" in Illinois where they are cared for and eventually released. Since adult Osprey often return to the place where they were raised, it is hoped that the anticipated 52 to 55 Osprey introduced to Illinois over the life of the program will help to re-establish the bird to its once healthy population.

It takes a village of caring individuals, organizations and volunteers, working with very little money, to raise an Osprey – or what is more correct – return the Osprey's population to a pre-DDT numbers. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois River Biological Station, Langley Air Force Base, the University of Illinois at Springfield, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Raptor Center, Millikin University's Biology Department and volunteers from all over the state have played vital roles in the Osprey recovery. It is just a totally awesome group of people working together for a common cause.

One day our precious children and grandchildren will once again see the magnificent and spectacular Illinois-born Osprey dive into a nearby Illinois lake. To nurture productive citizens and protect our environment – it truly does take a village!

Osprey Continued



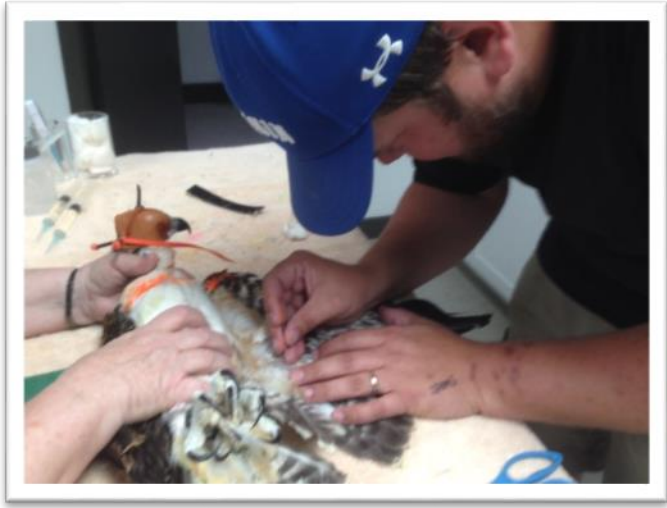
Bob Bluett of the IDNR arrives with 10 Osprey from Langley Air Force Base – an 870 mile trip!



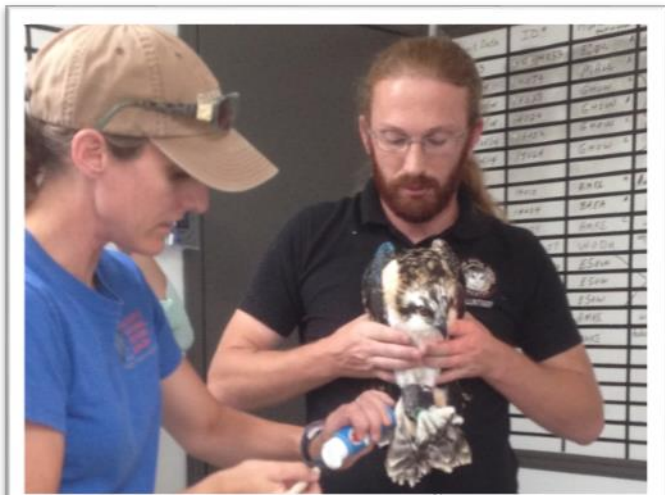
Jacques discusses the exam process with Dr. Tih-Fen Ting of the University of Illinois Springfield.



Ten Osprey chicks wait to be weighed, measured, banded, examined, fed and hydrated.



Blood sample data taken by Dr. Travis Wilcoxon for the joint IRC and Millikin University bird study will be shared with the UIUS and IDNR.



Tara Beveroth of the Illinois Natural History Survey and David Souther, IRC volunteer and UIUS Field Station Tech, band the Osprey.



Patrick McDonald of the IDNR (who also made the 870 mile trip) and David look at the rope system that will raise the birds to their new nest.



Illinois Raptor Center Community Outreach

# Education On The Wing



Brancher Camp and Youth Raptor Camp are over for this year. Once again we had wonderful groups of kids who learned, had fun, shared and made friends. Brancher Camp kids investigated the world of birds and bugs and plants through sight, sound and touch. They went on a prairie hike, looked at insects under a microscope and got to hold a Merlin (a small falcon).

This year the Youth Raptor Camp got to job shadow Jacques and Jane as we examined a Great Horned Owl and a Bald Eagle. They also helped to equip the new Screech Owl flight cage with perches and limbs. When the cage was completed, each camper got to release one of the Screech Owls into the cage for its first solo flight. They also made their own "I Survived Raptor Camp" tee shirt to wear during their Raptors Rock Program for family and friends. This year IRC volunteer, Yvette Casner, assisted Jacques with the camp. She is a grade school teacher in her "real life" so we were very happy to have her on board. Next year we are revving up the camps with longer hours and more days. The information and camp schedules will be posted the first of next year.



The IRC is happy to announce that we are the recipient of two more Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grants! And just to remind everyone – this is NOT state money.

These grants come from money that is donated when tax payers “check off” a charity

to donate \$1.00 to at the bottom of their individual Illinois income tax form. Many organizations benefit from check off funds.

The grants that the Illinois Raptor Center applies for are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and are ear-marked for the maintenance and repair of wildlife rehabilitation centers that care for Illinois endangered species.

This year we are happy to receive \$2,000 for an electrical upgrade to the wildlife hospital. In 1994, the IRC started a wildlife hospital in a building with a small breaker panel, two lights and a couple outlets. In 2014 that same building still houses the IRC wildlife hospital but has eight fluorescent light fixtures, one refrigerator, two freezers, three incubators, well pump, water heater, barn lights, staging building lights, pavillion lights, air conditioner, microscope, oxygen concentrator, heater fan, pressure washer, vacuum sweeper, computers, printer, scanner, centrifuge, two outside security lights and miscellaneous heating pads - on that same small breaker panel! As you can see – we are VERY grateful for this grant!

The second grant we received will allow us to replace and repair our wells systems to comply with Illinois state code. The amount awarded was \$1,825.00. There are 3 wells on the IRC property. One feeds the wildlife hospital where wildlife patients are kept, one feed the nature center where nonreleaseable resident animals are kept. The third is in the valley where we sometimes release recovered animal patients. We just found out that these wells are not up to code. Two well tops are either broken or rusted and are letting ground water into the wells. New tops will be put on and raised higher above ground level. These well tops are located in our parking lots so that will help to keep drivers from backing into the wells. The well in the valley has only a temporary cover and it will soon be capped and permanently sealed. Doing this will certainly ease our minds and get the center up to state code.

In this picture Jim and Jodi Baldwin, Deb Lebo and Yvette Casner help Jacques take down a metal awning next to the wildlife hospital. The awning is being moved to make room for two mew complexes that will let animals on long-term cage rest have a few minutes in the sun every day but be close to the hospital for monitoring. In turn, the complexes are being moved to make room for “Super Flight”, the 300 ft. long flight cage that we are about to break ground for.



Illinois Raptor Center

# Wildlife Rehabilitation

*Serving Species  
in Peril*



Illinois state-endangered short-eared owl



This is just a few of  
the 2014 summer  
patients IRC has  
cared for  
so far this year.  
Screech Owls,  
Cooper's Hawks,  
Wood Ducks,  
Great Horned Owls,  
Cardinals  
and rabbits.  
Oh, my!





## Tweets from the Directors

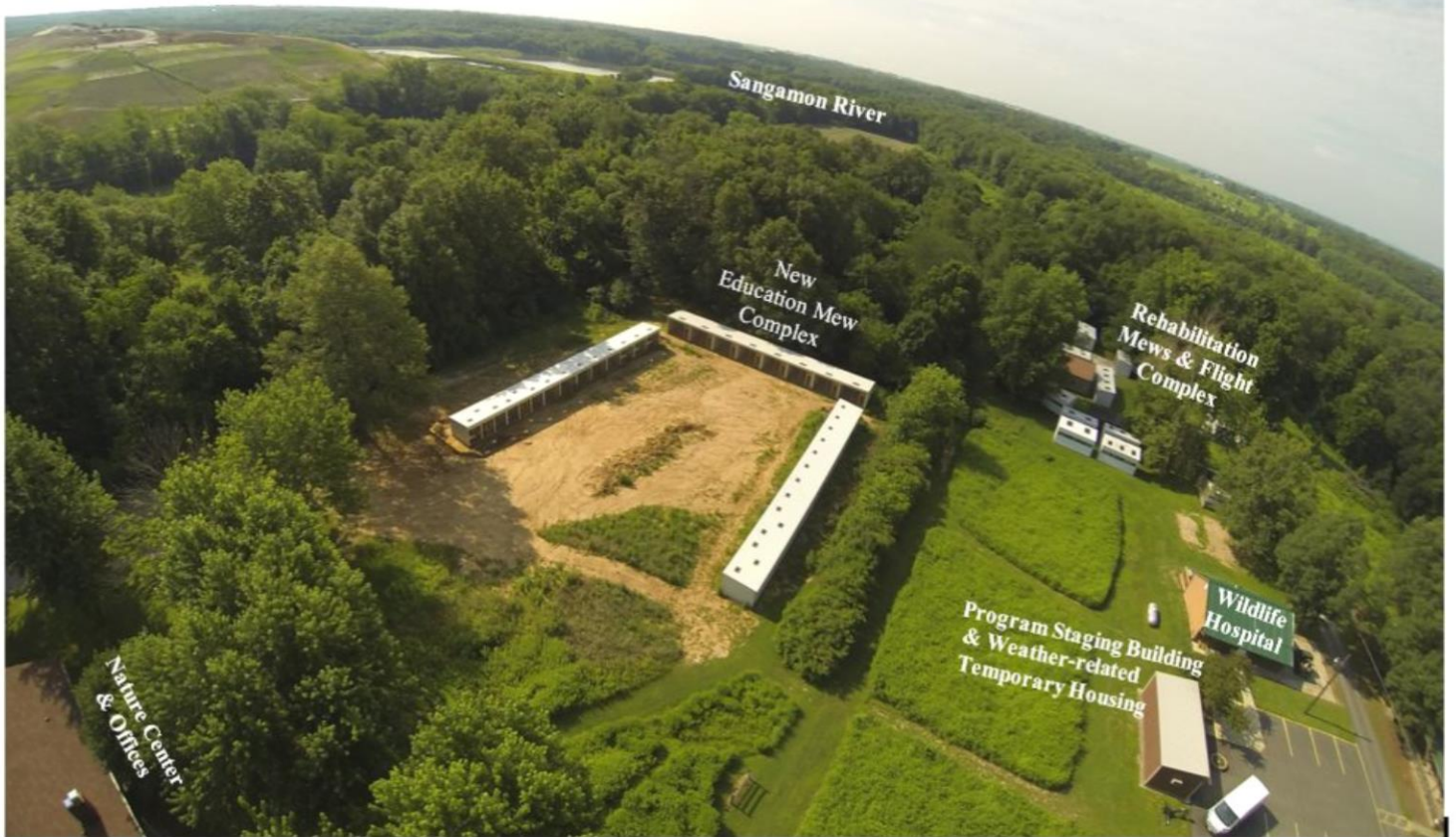
The last day to register for the September 20<sup>th</sup> Adult Raptor Camp is September 15<sup>th</sup>. One Intense Day with Birds of Prey! To get information and a registration form for the camp email to [ircinfo@comcast.net](mailto:ircinfo@comcast.net). Seating is limited, so get those registrations in!

A new volunteer training year starts in September. If you would like to volunteer for the IRC just email to [ircinfo@comcast.net](mailto:ircinfo@comcast.net) for information and an application form to be returned by August 31, 2014. We need volunteers!

The IRC is starting a weekly Senior "Honeydew" Crew - retired housekeepers, gardeners, carpenters, and maintenance people - that will get together one morning per week to walk the IRC grounds to find and perform small repairs and maintenance to trails, cages, mews and buildings. Donuts, coffee, tools and equipment provided! If you and a friend or friends would like to join up as crew members, email to [ircinfo@comcast.net](mailto:ircinfo@comcast.net) before August 31<sup>st</sup>.

*(Below is a drone's view of the IRC. It is a remarkable place for nature.....and the people who love it.)*

Illinois Raptor Center 25.5 acres wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education facilities.



**\* We continue to use your private donations for food, housing, care and medical attention for wildlife in distress. Because of product recalls there have been raptor food shortages for wildlife rehabilitation centers nationwide. Prices have almost doubled. Please continue your support. Thank you!**

# Illinois Raptor Center

**Serving the wildlife and people of Illinois with wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education since 1991.**

**DONATE, PARTICIPATE, VOLUNTEER! When a community cares about wildlife ---- it shows!**

**DONATION FORM..... PLEASE KNOW THAT THE ILLINOIS RAPTOR CENTER WILL NEVER SHARE OR SELL YOUR INFORMATION.**

Name	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Telephone	
E-Mail	
Amount of Donation	\$

Matching Donation Information (if applicable)

Donation will be matched by \_\_\_\_\_ (company/family/foundation).

form enclosed  form will be forwarded  Submit on line at \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Receipt Information

Please print clearly the name you would like on your acknowledgement for tax purposes if different from above:

I (we) wish to remain anonymous.  A receipt is not necessary.  E-mail my receipt.

**This donation is my gift**  **IN HONOR OF.....**  **IN MEMORY OF.....**

*In Honor Of and Memorials are located at [www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/honor.html](http://www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/honor.html) or [www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/memorial.html](http://www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/memorial.html)*

Recipient

Purpose or Personal Note:

**Send an acknowledgement of my gift to:**

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

**The Illinois Raptor Center is a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization. Your gifts are tax deductible.**

**Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to:**

**Illinois Raptor Center  
5695 W. Hill Road  
Decatur, Illinois 62522-9520**

**\*For donations of stocks and investments to the IRC "Forever Fund" please contact Lee Morthland at Raymond James Financial Services Hickory Point Bank, 225 N. Water St., Decatur, IL 62523 217-872-3909**