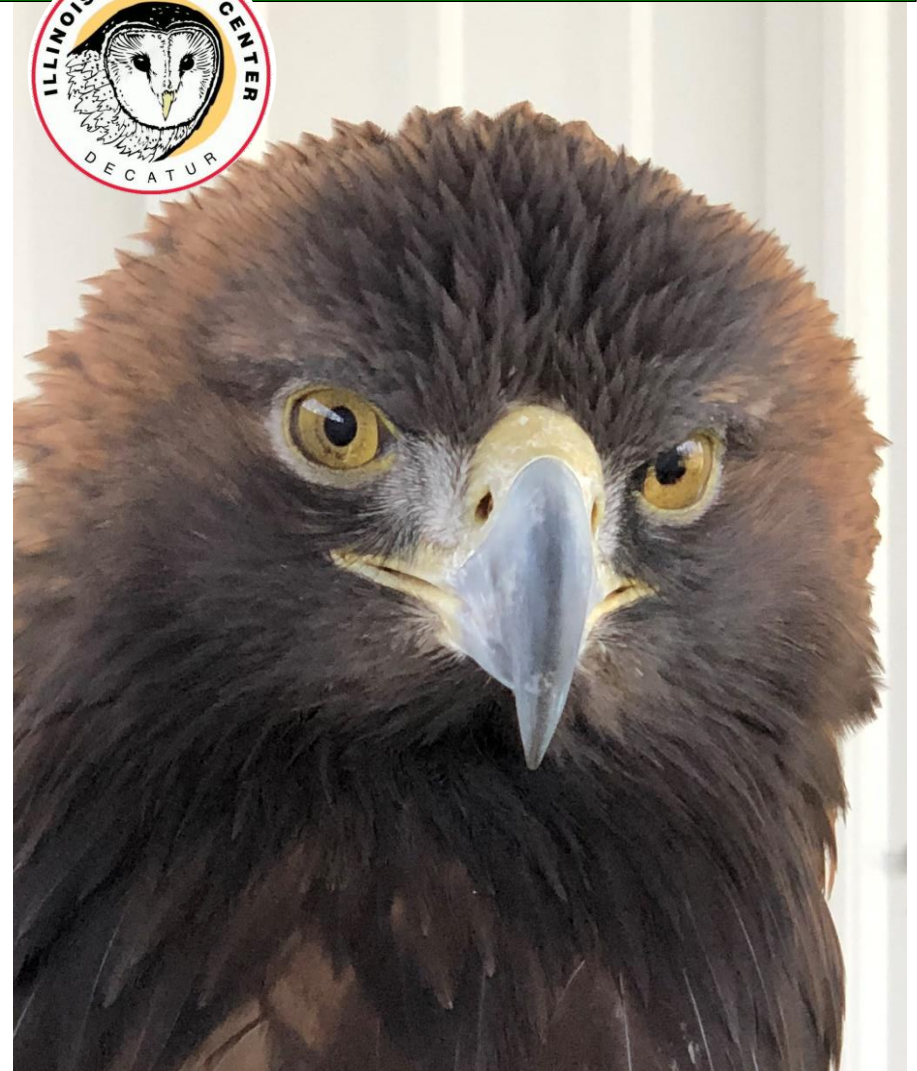


Wingover Newsletter

December 2018



*Phoenix, IRC's Golden Eagle
has been with us for 24 years*

From the Executive Director's Desk

Greetings from the Illinois Raptor Center!

As Bald Eagle populations recover, we realized it would not be long before we would see eagle admissions increase. This year we admitted 11 Bald Eagles through rehab and 7 from another facility that was being closed. Super Flight has not been unoccupied since the day it was dedicated.

The IRC has devoted volunteers, supportive Board Members, and generous contributors that have never failed us. That gives us a solid base from which to grow. The IRC is a "people" organization serving wildlife and you, the contributor, the volunteer, the board member are the "people".

Folks rescue animals because of their overwhelming compassion for them. But without knowledge, physical and financial support, a goodhearted soul can quickly get in over their head. Obtaining funds to build facilities, purchase food, and train volunteers is hard to do. Admitting more animals than you can care for is easy to do. Without funding, some rely solely on donations of outdated meat or roadkill to feed patients. When people get overwhelmed, animals suffer. In some cases, animals have to be rescued from the rescuer.

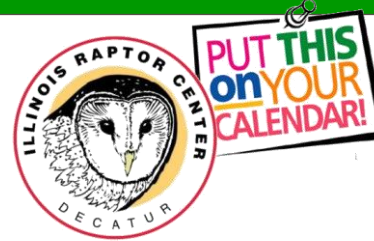
Take a look at this little female Eastern Screech Owl. She spent 8 years at the now closed facility. In the top picture she weighed only 99 grams, was anemic, and her feather condition was shocking. After only 5 months at the IRC, you can see by the bottom picture how good nutrition and proper facilities make a huge difference. She now weighs a whopping 190 grams and is feather perfect! She is happy in her little flight facility with plenty of quality mice to eat.

The IRC is an entrepreneur in wildlife rehabilitation. We aim higher and build bigger to give the best care to wildlife patients. We study and research to better understand their needs. We partner with organizations that have our same goals. And as a nonprofit organization we strive for stability and longevity as we move forward into the future. We, the people of IRC, are making a difference in the lives of wildlife, the least of these, that have been underserved for so many years.

Jane



Upcoming Events



Focus on Feathers

February 14, 2019

Hickory Point Banquet Hall

727 W Weaver Rd, Forsyth, IL

Make your reservations starting January 1st

Register for Raptor Camps, Owl Days, and much more at

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/browse.html> and search for "Illinois Raptor Center"

Many IRC programs are free to the public thanks to generous sponsors.

Ameren Illinois will be sponsoring our programs at Starved Rock Bald Eagle Watch Weekend on January 26 and 27, 2019.

<https://illinoisaudubon.org/programs/bald-eagle-watch-weekend/>

The **USFWS** is sponsoring "Search for Eagles" on January 12, 2019 at the Prairieview Education Center in McHenry County.

<https://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/special-events/#>

US Army Corps of Engineers is sponsoring the IRC at Shelbyville Eagle Days on February 2, 2019 <http://lakeshelbyville.com/calendar.htm>

Springfield Audubon Society is sponsoring IRC Raptor Focus Series on February 21 and March 21, 2019 at Adams Sanctuary.

<http://www.springfieldaudubon.org/>

Decatur Audubon Society is sponsoring our program at the Rock Springs Festival of Spring on April 27th, 2019.

<https://maconcountyconservation.org/events/>

The International Festival of Owls in Huston, Minnesota, will be the sponsor for IRC programs at their event that runs March 1st through March 3rd, 2019. <https://www.festivalofowls.com/schedule.html>

Stories from the Field.

Some folks were very surprised to find a Great Horned Owl floating in their backyard pool. They rescued the owl and brought it to the IRC. When Jacques came in to look at it, it was drying out in a warm incubator. He said it looked familiar. What? Out of curiosity we ran our microchip reader over the bird and sure enough, it beeped and displayed a number - 900085000213066!

Because we track the health of each individual bird, we microchip birds if we have more than one bird of the same species housed together. Many birds have been microchipped but this is the first one that has ever returned!

Here is its history: Last year the owl was transferred to the IRC as an owlet by a fellow rehabber on 4/4/2017. It was successfully raised with other owlets and released on 9/5/2017.

On 8/16/2018 it was admitted to the IRC – again. We examined and found a light abrasion on its left wing and a couple feathers were broken. It is possible that a car brushed it without doing any real damage - though that may have kept it on the ground for a day or two. However, we have no idea how it ended up in a swimming pool! It sure is interesting! The owl was successfully rehabilitated – again - and released – again - on 8/29/2018.



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

Phone: 217-963-6909

E-mail: information@illinoisraptorcenter.org

Website: www.illinoisraptorcenter.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/illinoisbirds/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IllinoisRaptorC>



Illinois Raptor Center Mission Statement: The purpose of the Illinois Raptor Center is to ensure the well-being of native animals through wildlife rehabilitation; to increase conservation awareness through educational outreach; to contribute expertise and support to conservation partners; and to improve our understanding of wildlife health through hands on research.

Your donation is tax deductible: The Illinois Raptor Center is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. The IRC FEIN is 37-1287919. Your donation to the Illinois Raptor Center is tax deductible.

For donations of stocks and investments to the Illinois Raptor Center please contact Ms. Lee Morthland
Raymond James Financial Services
<http://raymondjames.com/hickorypointbank/>
Hickory Point Bank
225 N. Water Street
Decatur, IL 62523
217-872-3909



The Illinois Raptor Center has received the GuideStar Exchange Gold Logo as a symbol of our organization's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Illinois Raptor Center Board of Directors



| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| Jane Seitz | Jacques Nuzzo | Chris Young | Jo Fessett | Travis Wilcoxon |
| Executive Dir | Program Dir | IDNR | IL Audubon | Millikin University |

Give Wildly!



The survival of our native birds is in our hands. Please donate.

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(creditcards without paypal account accepted)



The Illinois Raptor Center will never sell, give away, or share your information. We will always keep your information confidential.

[< Click here to donate](#)

A First for the Illinois Raptor Center



On May 28th we got a call from some paddlers near Moline, IL that witnessed a nestling Bald Eagle fall from a nest into the water. They rescued the eagle and called the local police who called the IRC. Jane arranged to meet the rescuers in Morton to pick up what would be the youngest eagle ever admitted to the IRC.

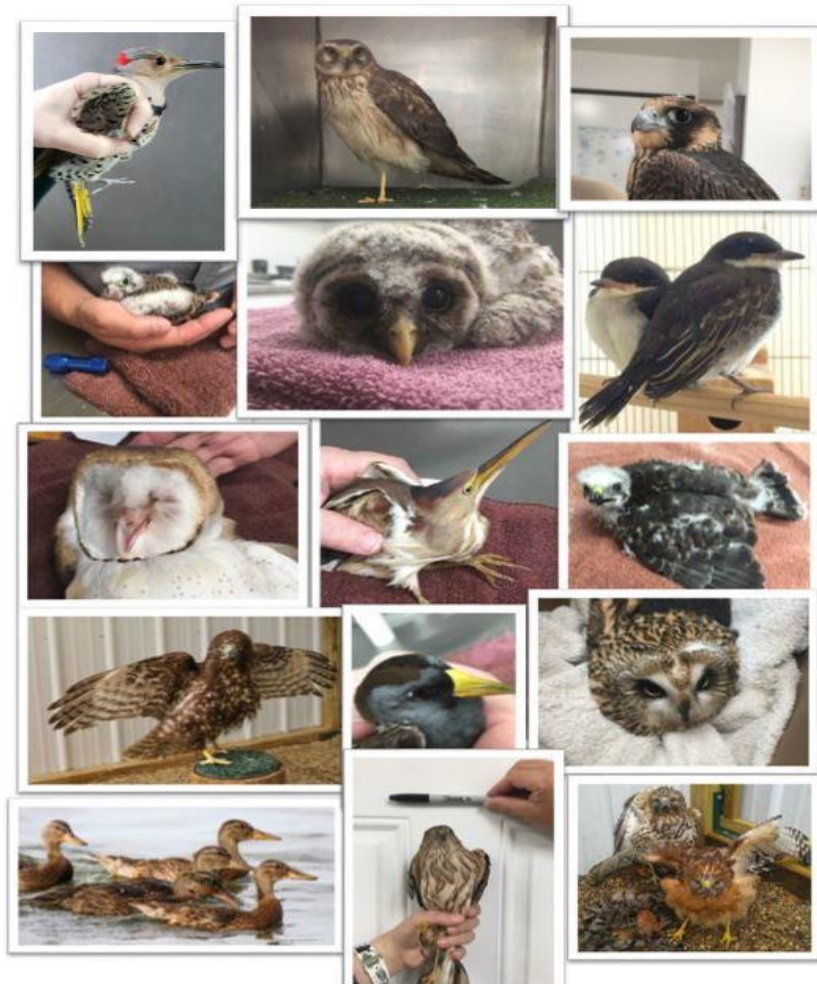
The chick was about 3 weeks old, dehydrated and thin. With fluids, and nourishment he soon was able to stand. But x-rays showed that the right leg was broken but the break was “clean” and did not need surgery. We wrapped the leg and put him in a sling to keep him off the leg.

After we were certain the leg had healed, Jack made a “nest” for him in Super Flight. Several adult eagles served as foster parents. It was only a few weeks before we found him on the highest perch. Baby Eagle will soon be released in an area that is home to other eagles.



A Few 2018 Wildlife Patients

The IRC has admitted 434 patients so far this year – included in that total are 18 Bald Eagles, 21 Great Horned Owls, and 22 Red-tailed Hawks, 28 Barred Owls, 17 American Kestrels, 16 Cooper's Hawks, 1 endangered Northern Harrier, 2 endangered Short-eared Owls, 1 threatened Barn Owl, 1 endangered Osprey, and even a Snowy Owl.



Pictured (L to R from Top) Northern Flicker, endangered Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Barred Owl, Eastern Kingbird, threatened Barn Owl, Least Bittern, Cooper's Hawk, Harlan's Hawk, Sora, endangered Short-eared Owl, Mallard Ducks, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawks.

Go Outside and Look Up!

The IRC encourages everyone to spend time outdoors. It is good for the body and the soul. You never know what nature will reveal to you. On Sunday, December 16th, Jacques Nuzzo shared a few photos with our local newspaper, the **Herald and Review**. Jacques proves that you don't have to go too far to find wildlife. Just go outside and look up!



View this article, written by Valerie Wells, on the **H&R** website.
<https://heraldreview.com/news/local/education/>



At the close of another year, we gratefully pause to thank you and wish you a warm and very happy holiday season.

Whatever is beautiful, whatever is meaningful, whatever brings you happiness....may it be yours this Holiday Season and through the coming year.

*When the world's
on "your nerves"
and your head's in
a whirl, just go to
the woods and
consult with
"Dr. Squirrel."
His treatment is
effective. His
charges are light.
You'll soon be
convinced that the
world is all right.*

Alan Mays



Corndog the Flying Squirrel

Presentations on Building Partnerships

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association will have its yearly symposium 3/5 through 3/9, 2019 in St. Louis. I am very proud to say that the IRC will have two presenters at the event. Jacques Nuzzo and Dr. Travis Wilcoxon will be giving presentations on Saturday, the 9th.

Jacques' presentation is on our Nestcue Program. He will talk about our experiences in successfully returning baby birds to their parents when chicks fall from the nest or when a nest is destroyed.

Jacques places trail cameras at the Nestcue site to verify our success. Much can be learned from these videos and they will be shown to the audience.

Jacques is a recreational tree climber. We are very lucky to have a staff member with that skill. In the presentation Jacques will encourage wildlife rehabilitators to partner with arborists to help get chicks back with their parents. He also encourages arborists to work with their customers to put up nest boxes when mature trees are cut down.

Dr. Wilcoxon's presentation is on Millikin University's partnership with the IRC. He will encourage wildlife rehabilitators to contact biology departments of colleges and universities to discuss potential collaboration. These partnerships will not only benefit a rehabilitator's wildlife patients but it will also provide research projects for future biologists and veterinarians.

Millikin biology students have an unlimited resource available to them at the IRC. And IRC staff and volunteers are eager to learn from student research. West Nile Virus, nutrition, stress levels, conjunctivitis, lead poisoning, and blood parasites are just a sample of the studies that have been done.

Dr. Wilcoxon will explain how important wildlife rehabilitation is and what a significant resource it is for study and research and should not be wasted.

We are very proud to have Jacques and Travis representing the IRC.