



Illinois Raptor Center
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Decatur is a wonderful community full of interesting people, wonderful organizations, and great businesses. There is one Decatur organization many people may or may not be aware of. If you aren't familiar with the Illinois Raptor Center please let me introduce you. If you are, please let me update you about our organization.

By having both a city animal shelter and nonprofit humane society, Decatur openly shows concern and compassion for homeless dogs and cats in our community. But what if a person happens to find an orphaned or injured hawk, falcon, owl or eagle? Where would they go to find help for that animal? Well, they have to look no further than right here in our own community.

The IRC owns a 25 acre facility on Decatur's west side along the Sangamon River. It has been working from that location since 1994. Having received generous support from individuals throughout the years, the IRC has become the largest raptor center in the state and the only one in central Illinois.

Not only does the IRC provide wildlife rehabilitation and state-wide conservation education programs, but it partners with other organizations, such as Millikin University, to offer student projects and exciting avian research. Next year the IRC will begin its fourth year partnering with the University of Illinois Springfield and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in a program to reintroduce Ospreys back to Illinois. You may have seen media coverage of the Osprey in the Herald & Review, or on WAND and WSOY.

I hope you have had the opportunity to see a Bald Eagle fly over Decatur. There has been a nesting pair of Bald Eagles here for quite some time. In addition, the IRC has released several rehabilitated adult and juvenile eagles on its property along the river over the last few years. Someday Decatur may be able to host its own eagle day event.



Perhaps you thought you saw a Peregrine Falcon near downtown Decatur. The IRC was able to document the first nesting pair of Peregrines in central Illinois at Decatur's Tate and Lyle plant this year. Our "Decatur Peregrines" are now listed on the Chicago Field Museum's Peregrine Report.

Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Osprey are rapidly becoming familiar patients. As the IRC admits more and more of these very large birds, its facilities must expand to accommodate them. To solve the problem the Illinois Raptor Center has begun its largest project ever. It is called "Super Flight." The structure is 400 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 17 feet high at the highest point. It will be the largest raptor flight cage in the Midwest.

The purpose of this flight cage is to give large raptors the flight space they desperately need to recuperate after surgeries and long hospitalizations. It will give orphaned raptors a chance to build stamina, muscle, and flight skills they will need to survive in the wild. Many raptors in IRC's outdoor caging come from a partnership with the Wildlife Medical Clinic at the UIUC Veterinary School of Medicine. The IRC transfers birds in need of veterinary care to the UIUC and they transfer birds in need of rehabilitation to the IRC. Super Flight will benefit the patients of both organizations. And this wonderful flight facility will be right here in Decatur, Illinois.

The IRC has received wonderful support for Super Flight from individuals, businesses, and organizations in and around our Illinois. You can see a list of those donors on [website](#). IRC's dedicated volunteers have donated several thousand dollars as well as their time to make sure Super Flight becomes a reality.

Super Flight's poles are set and underground hardware cloth barriers are in place. The framing is completed as you can see in the photo below. The next step is assembling alternating steel panels and wood slats that will make up the side walls and roof. Interior folding walls will be constructed to give the option of dividing Super Flight in up to 7 individual flights. The last step will be adding perches and habitat.



When the construction is finished the IRC will install video cameras making it possible for staff to monitor rehabilitating birds. Because orphaned and injured wildlife cannot be put on display, the cameras will allow the IRC to share live wildlife rehabilitation video with the public for the very first time.

I am asking for your help. The IRC needs donations to finish this project. As you can see, Super Flight is beneficial not only to the people and wildlife of the Decatur area but across the state of Illinois as well. The IRC is a one of a kind facility that Illinois can be extremely proud of. Add your name to the list of wonderful donors that support conservation in Illinois through the IRC. Please donate today.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Seitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jane Seitz, Executive Director



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) nonprofit organization. The IRC FEIN is 37-1287919. Your donation to the Illinois Raptor Center is tax deductible.



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

Donate to Super Flight by Mail

Name of Business _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Donation Amount _____ Check # _____

Any special instructions? _____

How Can We Thank You?

Your will receive a receipt for your donation by mail along with a decal showing your support of the IRC for display on your business door or window. Your business will be acknowledged on IRC's website and Facebook page, in IRC newsletter mailings and E-Newsletters. You and your guests will be invited to a private viewing of Super Flight when the work is completed.