

On the Horizon



Winter/Spring 2022 Edition

www.horizonwings.org

Welcome to Horizon Wings' semi-annual newsletter – On the Horizon. We would like to keep you informed of happenings, events, and news going on at Horizon Wings.

Our mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild, in order to maintain their population and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

Horizon Wings celebrates 20th anniversary



Tyton with handler Deb

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, more than 300 visitors joined us for a celebration of Horizon Wings' 20th anniversary. At our first public event since the onset of the pandemic, guests enjoyed a wide array of fun and educational activities. Volunteers introduced our birds to visitors and shared stories and information about the hawks, owls, falcons, eagles, ravens, crows, and vulture for whom Horizon Wings is home. Guest exhibitors brought with them a diverse assortment of other fauna.

Nicole Bilodeau and Casey Knowlton from Riverside Reptiles brought along Starburst, a Brazilian rainbow boa; Percy, a Burmese python; Percy, a red-footed tortoise; and an Argentine black and white tegu named Panda. Pam and Bill Lefferts of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue held a meet-and-greet with their ambassador opossums, Patch and Bella. Wildlife rehabilitator Maureen Heidtmann spoke about bats and her bat rehabilitation work, and Master Wildlife Conservationist Ray Hardy offered information on bobcat and deer in Connecticut. Annie and Mike Bourke of Cairn O Mohr Farm brought their Soay sheep, a rare heritage breed from islands off the west coast of Scotland, believed to be the ancestors of the first domestic sheep.



Isaiah Smith getting hands on experience with a snake from Riverside Reptiles.



Falconer David Stevens

A raffle fundraiser offered an assortment of themed baskets and other items, including wine, movie night, birding, children's, and kitchen baskets, a handmade quilt, a stained-glass eagle panel, and bird books. A nearby display offered notecards and calendars showcasing photos of Horizon Wings' ambassador birds and our new Horizon Wings T-shirts, which feature an image of Atka.

Thank you to all who helped us celebrate Horizon Wings' 20th anniversary and make the event our most successful fundraising event ever. With the generous support of people like you, we continue our mission of rehabilitating birds of prey for release in the wild, caring for our ambassador birds, and enhancing public awareness of birds of prey and the environment.

Our next onsite event will be an Owl Prowl, scheduled for October 22 (rain date October 29). Watch horizonwings.org and our Facebook page for more information. We hope to see you there!

Written by Sara Putnam



Visitors at our education station dissection owl pellets.

Projects



In addition to ongoing aviary refurbishments and improvements, we have completed a number of projects that will add to the quality of life of the resident birds in our care. One such major project was the installation of electricity to the back of the property. This enables us to provide the heat needed for some of our older residents, such as the Broad-winged Hawks, and for certain rehabilitation birds. The addition of electricity also makes it easier to provide fresh water to the birds in the back aviaries. Not only are we able to carry water buckets a shorter distance, but we can now reach the back area with a hose for easier and more effective cleaning.

Written by Patricia Cebrelli

Rehabilitation and Education 2021

Due to the challenges posed by Covid-19, Horizon Wings has had to adapt and find creative solutions in order to continue our mission of rehabilitation and education.

In 2021 we were able to rehabilitate 65 birds. One such rescue was an American Kestrel found at Bradley Airport, the result of a suspected window strike. (The photo was taken the morning of his release after banding).



Another example was a Great Horned Owl found on the Willimantic River, tangled up on fishing line. He was released last summer. The photo shows him the day of release, awaiting a final veterinarian check.

Last year, despite restrictions, we were pleased to be able to provide over 80 educational programs, including Zoom format and outdoor settings.

Written by Patricia Cebrelli

In Appreciation

Horizon Wings would not be able to accomplish our goals without the generosity of the community, friends, and volunteers. We are appreciative of the grants we have received from the Connecticut Ornithological Association, Hartford Audubon, and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the estate of Marie Unwin, to sponsors Vaughn and Sheila Numrych for their ongoing support, and to all who have contributed so generously. Thank you also to those who have donated their time, materials, and skills. And last, but not least, thanks to our many dedicated volunteers who work so tirelessly each day.

Wish List

- Lumber (Plywood, 2x4s, 2x6s)
- Roofing material
- Hardware (deck screws, rafter hangers, hinges, hasps)
- Pea stone for aviary flooring
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, Simple Green)
- Office supplies (Postage stamps, paper, envelopes, card stock)
- Gift cards for building supplies
- Hardware cloth
- Disposable vinyl cleaning gloves
- Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/2QDT9KR9W3EX2?ref_=wl_share)

Please support your local merchants whenever possible!

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Did you know? Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education is on



www.horizonwings.org

Visit us for current news, photos, and information on upcoming programs.