

# On the Horizon

Horizon Wings Newsletter – Winter 2018  
[www.horizonwings.org](http://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 creates the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

## “New Arrivals”



It was a hot and humid morning on the 3rd of August when Horizon Wings received a phone call about an injured juvenile eagle on the ground at the Kensington Fish Hatchery. Horizon Wings volunteers Jeanne and Sandy gathered up the rescue gear and hit the road. Given the fact that the weather was so hot we wanted to get to the bird as quickly as possible to minimize dehydration and any fly issues. When we arrived on the scene, we were met by some of the workers at the hatchery who drove us down to where the eaglet was last seen. It didn't take long to find the young bird. It was sitting in the middle of an open area. After slowly approaching the bird, it was scooped up in a blanket and put in a carrier to be taken to the Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital which was on standby for us.

There was an eagle's nest just on the other side of the fencing to the hatchery and the thought was that this young bird left the nest and soon after got caught on the top of the chain linked fence. Upon examination at the veterinary hospital, it was obvious that the eagle had open fractures in his wing. The staff immediately took action to get him into surgery that afternoon to remove the tip of his wing to save his life. The surgery went well and Horizon Wings picked him up the next morning to bring him back to Ashford for his recovery. After spending several weeks getting cage rested and receiving his medications, we were able to move him outside to a larger aviary.

While it was very sad that this eagle would not be living his life in the wild, we decided that he would make an excellent addition to our education team. Permission was needed by both our state and US Fish and Wildlife in order to keep him. After anxiously waiting for word on the paperwork, we were finally granted permission to keep him on October 31st.

This young eaglet was thought to be about 4 months old when he was rescued. He was a “hatch” year bird and found at a hatchery. What better name than Hatch. Both his rescuers – Jeanne and Sandy and the staff at KBAH named him this. We also added a second name to this eagle – Hopkins. The 2nd half of his name is in honor of a dear friend, Don Hopkins, who passed away this year. Don started the Bald Eagle Study Group in Connecticut and was instrumental in keeping track of the Bald Eagle population in the state.

We would like to thank everyone involved in helping us to save this eagle's life – from the hatchery workers to the staff at the KBAH. Please welcome Hatch Hopkins to Horizon Wings. He is currently sharing an aviary with Atka, our 8 year Bald Eagle, and is working hard at gaining his handler's trust and working on glove training. We are looking forward to the time when we can bring both Atka and Hatch to programs. We are so excited to have him join our team!



*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

## ....More New Arrivals



Maeve is a Common Raven that became a human imprint when she was raised in an apartment after falling from her nest at a young age. She was eventually put outside to rejoin her family but had already imprinted on her human family. She was found this summer chasing people and begging for food. She was not fully flighted and would not have been able to survive on her own.

Oakley is a red morph Eastern Screech Owl that was hand raised along with her siblings from a very young age after their nest tree was taken down. Despite being given directions to take them to the local Audubon where they would have been fostered into other nests, the owlets were given to the finder's friend who raised them for 2 months before turning them over to the

Audubon. After being raised by humans, and played with by children, these birds including Oakley imprinted upon humans and are not releasable.

Oakley is currently doing educational programs and Maeve just made her debut on November 24<sup>th</sup>. She will now be a star in our Bird Brain program. Both of these beautiful birds teach an extremely important lesson about baby birds being raised by birds rather than people and what to do if you find a baby on the ground. Join us in welcoming these two to Horizon Wings!



*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

At the time of this writing, Horizon Wings has had 80 birds come into rehabilitation.

## 2018 Projects

2018 has been a busy year with completing projects that have been on our "to do" list. First was the refurbishing of our oldest aviary, built in 2005. This was done with the help of a grant from the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, along with matching funds from Vaughn and Sheila Numrych.

Once the funding was in place materials were purchased, and the hardworking volunteers of Horizon Wings got busy! Work crews were formed to tear down the old aviary. More crews were formed and material was painted, the ground was leveled and the framing began. After a summer of hard work, the aviary was complete and ready for its first inhabitant.



Many thanks to the hardworking volunteers of Horizon Wings, and to our sponsors who made this project possible!

## ...more 2018 Projects



Other projects include a beautiful walkway leading to our aviaries. This was built as an Eagle Scout project by Zackary Laroche of Troop 81 from Stafford Springs. Zack's family funded this entire project for us.

Will Delaney of Troop 56 from Mansfield built a new aviary for our Coopers hawk, Adara. This project was funded by Kathy Welles Menges in memory of her parents Harry and Edie Welles.

Thank you to both Will and Zack, as well as their families, and the other scouts who participated in these projects. *Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser*



## Special Thanks

Horizon Wings wishes to thank the following people and agencies for their support in 2018:

### Grants

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association  
The 1772 Foundation  
Katharine L.W. and Winthrop M. Crane, 3D

### Aviary Donations

Vaughn and Sheila Numrych  
Kathleen Welles Menges

### Food Donations

Jackson Laboratories-mice  
Charles River mice-rats  
CT DEEP-fish

### Veterinarians/ Veterinary Hospitals

Tufts Wildlife Clinic, Grafton, MA  
Bolton Veterinary Hospital, Bolton, CT.  
Northeast Bird Clinic Ashford, CT.  
North Veterinary Clinic Ashford, CT.  
Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital

### Photographers

Jeanne Wadsworth  
Sandy Vinton  
Brian Bennett  
Ann Pacheco  
Colleen Backman

And of course, all the amazing **volunteers** who are the wind beneath Horizon Wings!

## 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

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