

On the Horizon



Horizon Wings Newsletter – Winter 2015

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.

Owl Prowl 2015

The evening was crisp and clear and the grounds were decorated in all manner of owlsh fun, from lighted owl eyeballs peering from the trees, to lighted pumpkins carved in elaborate owl designs. Joy and laughter filled the air as loyal friends and supporters mingled with families new to Horizon Wings. Some rushed to greet their favorite owls by name, while others delighted in the opportunity to see these mysterious creatures up close, perhaps for the first time. A special station was set up in memory of Silo, our beloved barn owl.

In keeping with this year's theme of the hazards of window strikes to birds and how to help prevent them, children were invited to paint "stained-glass" owl ornaments to put in their windows. Children were also actively engaged at the education station, dissecting owl pellets and examining how the unique structure of owl feathers makes their silent flight possible. As usual, the refreshment table overflowed with home-baked goodies of every sort, and the raffle table brimmed with unique owl-themed gift baskets.



We would like to thank all those who showed their love and support for Horizon Wings by attending our annual Owl Prowl on Saturday, October 24th. This is one of our major fundraisers and helps us provide food, medical care and housing for the birds in our care, as well as the many injured raptors which we rehabilitate each year. Your generosity makes our mission possible.

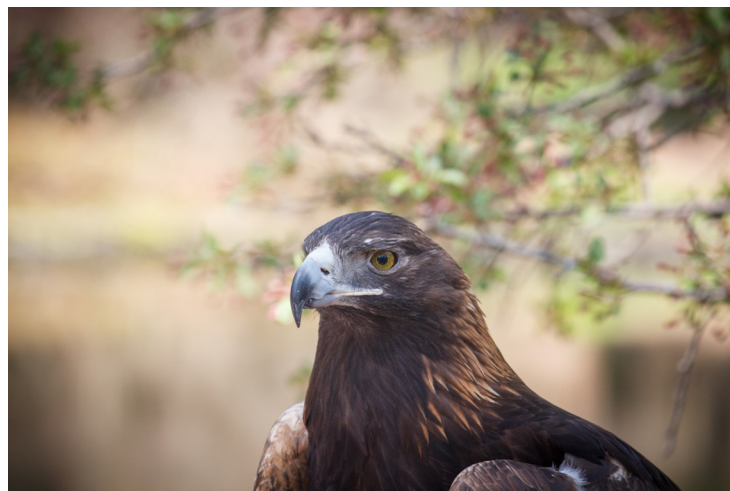
Written by Patricia Cebrelli



Horizon Wings' New Endeavor – A Photographer's Dream

This last spring Horizon Wings hosted their first photography event and it was a resounding success! Photographers signed up for the event where they were able to take photos within a few feet of the magnificent birds, which included two eagles, as well as owls, falcons, and hawks. Each photographer got to photograph each bird more than once in varying locations – with plenty of time to get the shots they desired (some of the photos from the event are on the Horizon Wings Facebook page). Each photographer paid a fee to hold their spot and that fee acted as a donation for the Horizon Wings Photography Event Fundraiser. The donations go to direct care of all the Horizon Wings birds and allow the continued education with program birds and rehabilitation for injured raptors in Horizon Wings' care.

The Photography Event will be held twice a year: once in the spring, once in the fall, so tell all the wildlife and photography enthusiasts that you know about this Horizon Wings event! It is a rare opportunity to get beautiful photos of Atka, Chrysos, Oscar, Athena, Sprite, and so much more! Furthermore, it helps Horizon Wings continue the excellent care they are well known to provide! So please spread the word about Horizon Wings' new endeavor; this fundraiser really is a Photographer's Dream!



Written by Colleen Backman

Rehab Report



On September 15 Horizon Wings admitted a young Red-tailed hawk.

On admission this bird was emaciated, dehydrated and appeared to be suffering some type of neurological injury. Fluids were given to help with the dehydration but the bird seemed uninterested in food. She weighed in at 750 grams. Dr. Ann Bourke of NEBird Clinic examined her and concurred the bird had a probable head injury. This along with her emaciated state made her too weak to perch or even eat on her own. After re-hydrating her we began the process of force feeding, beginning with 3 small meals daily comprised of easily digestible food with no casting materials (i.e. fur and bones) as even the simple act of casting a pellet was too difficult in her weakened state. She was offered extra heat as well to help conserve her energy and build her strength.

This process was repeated daily, decreasing feedings to twice daily and gradually adding whole prey items but there was still no interest in eating on her own. We moved her to an outdoor aviary shared by our two Red-tailed hawks, "Dakota" and "Patrick" in hopes watching them would encourage her to eat on her own. Still, she would not eat. Finally at the 5 week mark she grabbed the food off the forceps as it was offered! Two days later she ate on her own. She has not stopped since and has reached a weight of 1430 grams: a good weight for her size.

Although she is stronger and much more alert, she still has some side effects of her injury and will be wintered over at Horizon Wings. We are looking forward to a successful release in the spring.

Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser

Horizon Wings welcomes 2 new educational ambassadors: 'Forrest' a female Barred Owl and 'Rocket' a male Broad-winged hawk.



Forrest came to us in February of 2015 after being struck by a car. She sustained severe head injuries including the loss of one eye and a broken jaw. Due to limited sight in the remaining eye and a malocclusion to her beak she is non-releasable. Rocket came to us this summer as a nestling after surviving an attack by a predator. He had bite wounds and a fracture to his left wing which has left him non-flighted.

We look forward to sharing our new ambassadors with you!



2015 Thank You!

Veterinary services

Tufts University Wildlife Clinic
Northeast Bird Clinic Dr. Anne Bourke
North Veterinary Hospital
Bolton Veterinary Hospital

Donations

Vaughn and Sheila Numrych
The Peyreigne Family, and the many others who continue to support Horizon Wings.
Charles River
Local hunters who have provided food for our birds

Grants

The Vincent J Coates Foundation

And to our many wonderful volunteers, thank you for your caring and dedication throughout the year!

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
- Small P.A. system.

Please support your local merchants whenever possible!

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education
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Fill out and mail this form to be added to our mailing list, for information, and our end-of-the-year letter, featuring a photo of a raptor. You can also help Horizon Wings by including a donation.

Name: _____

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Mail to:

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**Did you know? Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education is on Facebook!
Visit us for current news, photos, and information on upcoming programs.**