



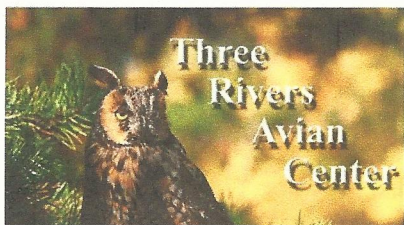
The Raptor Chapter

Volume 27 #1 & 2
Summer 2018

The Newsletter of Three Rivers Avian Center

M meet Jessy Perrine, our Education Assistant and the newest member of the Staff at Three Rivers Avian Center! She comes to TRAC with a 14 year background as a veterinary technician, a degree in Wildlife Biology and a deep love of the outdoors. She was raised in Monroe County, WV and began her career working with animals by raising and training horses in her teenage years. Later as a single mother of three boys, she shared her love of wildlife and the natural world with them in camping trips and adventures all over West Virginia and into surrounding states.

Jessy was introduced to TRAC at All Creatures Veterinary Clinic in Princeton by our Staff Veterinarian Dr Bill Streit, and she fell in love with helping the wild birds brought in for care. Now besides still working at All Creatures she spends several days a week here at TRAC helping us provide our educational programs and caring for the Ambassadors and patients here on site. We are delighted to have her! Welcome aboard, Jessy!!!



Hope Takes Flight!

Annual Fundraiser for
Three Rivers Avian Center

**Saturday,
March 24, 2018
5 to 7 PM**

Our first annual fundraiser "Hope Takes Flight" was a huge success in March, raising almost \$5,000 for needed projects here at TRAC. It was held at the Buckskin Council Scouting Headquarters at the H. Bernard Wehrle Sr. Scout Leadership Service Center in Charleston WV and the outpouring of community support was wonderful to see! (We have a list of all the partners and sponsors for the event listed on our website: www.tracwv.org/htf.html. Take a look and support them!) The event included 4 of our Educational Raptor Ambassadors including Regis the bald eagle, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, good food and beverages and a lot of fun for all. We are looking forward to our next Hope Takes Flight fundraiser in the early fall of 2019!

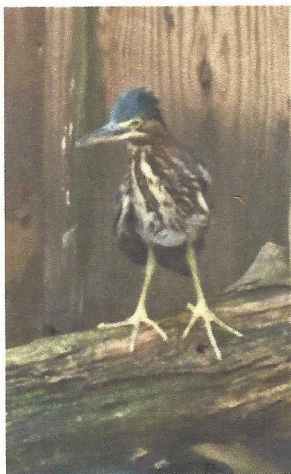


The question came haltingly from the young man's mouth: "is this donation going to help at all?" Cub Scout pack 466 from Summers County held donut sales to raise funds for Three Rivers Avian Center. Their hard work paid off, raising \$514 in April to help the birds in our care. I looked at the check and looked at the young man and thought of the \$430 lead testing materials I needed desperately to purchase right away to test the lead level of our current rescued bald eagle. (The lead testing kit has materials that are date sensitive and will not allow the machine to test using

outdated materials - hence the worry.) I looked at him and the group of young scouts and told him why this effort mattered. That they now were helping heal a young bald eagle by helping us test for lead in his bloodstream as he healed so we knew how much medication he needed to stay on. The additional funds were going to provide new water filters for our water system giving healthy clean water to all in our care, and helping purchase cleaning supplies. Yes, the donation helped. Yes it made a difference. Thank you so much Pack 466!!! YOU ROCK!!!

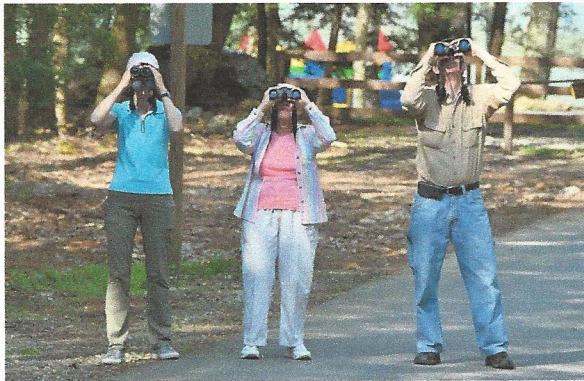
-Wendy Perrone, TRAC Executive Director

Our 2018 Summer Intern this year was Daniel Moreland. He joined us in early May as soon as Marshall University classes ended for the semester. Danny is pursuing a degree at Marshall in Natural Resource Recreation and Management. He began his Internship here with the Migration Celebration and moved on to learning how to present programs to larger audiences in more formal venues. Of course there was the required cage cleaning and patient rescue that sometimes needed him to drive to meet someone who had rescued a wild bird(s). He was always willing to take on a challenge. Thank you Danny! We appreciate your help and work very much. Best of luck to you in your Senior year! *To our readers: if you know of a college student interested in a Summer Internship at Three Rivers Avian Center, our application will be available in early January from our website: www.tracwv.org. We accept one applicant annually.*



This least bittern was turned in as a fledgling from Madison Animal Hospital in Boone county with a right wing that was broken in many places. Dr Sarah Stephenson at Good Shepard Animal Hospital was able to stabilize it with a surgical pin and immobilization wrap, TRAC worked on the physical therapy as the wrap came off and the pin was removed. The result was a young bird able to hunt and care for itself, had a bit of a wing droop but was otherwise good to go. It was released in a swampy riverine area with lots of small fish to hunt.

This year has been a huge year for intakes - we think it's possibly because the Spring and Summer have been wet and mild. This gave insect eaters lots of food in the form of bugs and also allowed the entire ecosystem to thrive. More birds having babies made for more concerns as nests were sometimes in the wrong place for humans, discovered after many miles going camping with the family travel trailer, etc. It's been a very interesting Summer. We try to keep up our news feed on our Facebook page, so keep a watch on it for news and events between newsletters. Also look at our website: tracwv.org.



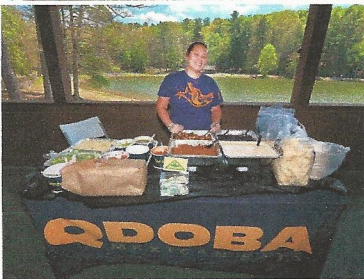
Migration Celebration 2018

A festival of West Virginia's wild birds & our natural heritage held annually on World Migratory Bird Day

This year's Migration Celebration hosted by Three Rivers Avian Center ("TRAC") was a big hit on May 12! Lovely weather encouraged people to come out and enjoy a full day of activities at Little Beaver State Park outside Beckley.

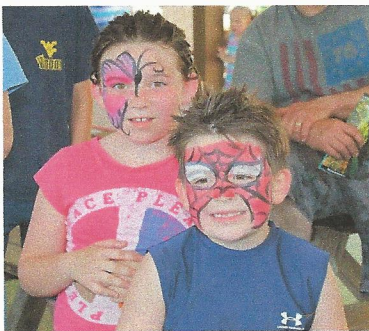


The day was filled with kids crafts and storytelling with Carla Long, face painting by Nicole Watson, birding walks led by Bev Delidow and Rodney Davis, nature walks led by the National Park Service, animal shape painting with the WV Division of Natural Resources, and magic shows by Tricky Chaz. A bounce castle and a double bungee run gave little children entertainment all day long. In the afternoon Steven Wayne Rotsch led an hour long outdoor raptor photography workshop.



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BECKLEY AREA FOUNDATION
EST. 1988

While all this was going on, interactive displays were provided by Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory, New River Gorge National River, the Golden Winged Warbler Initiative, Piney Creek Watershed Association, and the WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. TRAC brought our display too, including Gimli the American Kestrel, Dori the Peregrine Falcon, Hoolie the Great Horned Owl and Regis the Bald Eagle.



WV Division of Culture & History

Great food was provided by Ol' Skool Concessions, and Qdoba of Beckley raised funds for TRAC by donating a tasting presentation. Funding for this festival was provided by the Nancy R. Smith Family Fund at the Beckley Area Foundation and with support from the WV State Legislature and the WV Division of Culture and History. Thanks also to Little Beaver State Park for providing the great venue!





This first year bald eagle was rescued out of the Greenbrier River at Ronceverte in the early evening of August 29th, weak and soaked to the bone. He was terribly thin, weighing in at 5 pounds 4 ounces when he should be around 9 to 10 pounds. His pupils were severely dilated and his wings showed signs of breaking feathers on tree limbs as he would try to land. (This fit the account that the rescuers told us that he'd tried to land in a tree but crashed instead and fell into the River.) His feet were weak in

their grip but he could stand. He had minimal control of his head movements, constantly having his chin sink downwards only to jerk it back up again. It became very apparent in several tests that he was having trouble seeing anything, probably in good part to how dilated the pupils were. When we tested his blood for lead toxicity, it came back positive. A level of 8 micrograms per deciliter. Suddenly all the symptoms made sense. Lead toxicity causes all these problems and more, especially in youngsters. He had eaten a meal or meals that contained lead fragments, probably either from an animal shot with lead ammunition or consuming fish or waterfowl that had been eating lead shot or sinkers - or all the above.

We are now on week #2 of treatments and he is showing some real progress. He is eating everything we give him as long as we hand feed it to him, and he has gained almost a pound of weight. As of September 2nd he is up to 6 pounds 2 ounces. He is still not able to see, but if we speak to him he starts snapping at the air around him trying to find the hemostats holding the food he knows must be there somewhere. Chelation therapy to remove the lead from his body will continue for many weeks yet. In the meantime we are keeping our fingers crossed! Watch our Facebook page for updates. We refer to him as Ronceverte.

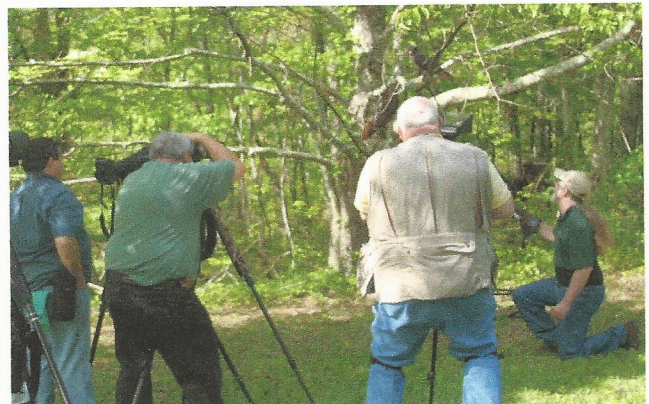
Spots are still available for the TRAC Fall Photo Workshop, October 13th!

Join Steven Wayne Rotsch and Three Rivers Avian Center's staff in a day of congenial photography fun! Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to take this opportunity to capture images of raptors native to West Virginia in natural settings in either half day or day-long sessions.

Ten to twelve live birds of prey will be modeling for the cameras, including a Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawks, a Peregrine Falcon, an American Kestrel and a Great Horned Owl among others. All raptors will be available during the both the morning and afternoon sessions, those who wish to join both sessions will receive lunch on site.

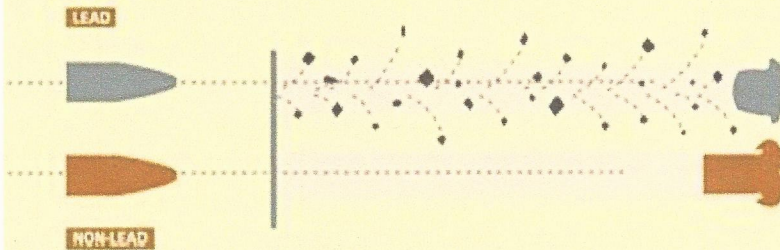
Participants should bring a camera, flash, a telephoto lens if you have one, extra batteries and lots of memory cards. Tripods and/or monopods are helpful. In one day, participants can take photographs of these raptors that would take a lifetime to duplicate in the wild, if at all. All photograph sessions will be outdoors, so dress appropriately.

Contact Steve Rotsch to register or for more information: www.stevenrotsch.com, 304-541-7574 or by e-mail: swrkab@aol.com. Full details of the workshop, registration forms, and a gallery of photos from previous workshops can be found on his website. The photo workshop is held on the grounds of Three Rivers Avian Center.



Lead and Non-lead Bullets

Lead-core rifle bullets leave a trail of toxic lead fragments that spread a surprising distance from the bullet's path.



Non-lead bullets expand on impact just like lead bullets, but stay in one piece, leaving a clean path with no contamination.

National Park Service

As we come into hunting seasons this Fall, please hunters, make sure you are using non-lead ammunition. If you are using lead ammunition (which is classified as a toxic hazard), there is no part of what you kill that will be healthy for your family. If you leave pieces of it in the field, wildlife will suffer: all scavengers including eagles, hawks and owls. Please take a minute to look at our website page on this issue for more information and links to resources to purchase non-lead ammunition and to learn of the effects of lead ammunition: www.tracwv.org/lead.html

Your family, TRAC and all wildlife will thank you.



If you shop at Kroger, you can help TRAC! All you need to do is go to www.Kroger.com/comm and select Three Rivers Avian Center as your charity of choice. You need to re-register your decision annually, but other than that, every time you swipe your Kroger card with a purchase, Kroger makes a quarterly donation to TRAC!! You still keep your fuel points, still get your discounts, but TRAC also benefits. It really adds up!!

Memberships are vital to the success of Three Rivers Avian Center. As an IRS registered 501(c)3 charity, your donations are tax-deductible. Members receive several informational mailings annually. Feathered Friends receive the mailings as well as a frame ready certificate featuring the Raptor Educational Ambassador of their choice. Memberships & Feathered Friendships are renewable annually, the renewal date is included on the mailing label of your newsletter. Credit/debit cards & Paypal are accepted on our website: www.tracwv.org, by phone or in person. Please let us know if this is a gift or in memory of a loved one!

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships:

- Eagle (\$1,000) _____
- Falcon (\$500) _____
- Owl (\$250) _____
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- Patron (\$100) _____
- Benefactor (\$75) _____
- Supporting (\$50) _____
- Family (\$25) _____
- Individual (\$10) _____

Feathered Friend Sponsorships:

- Regis bald eagle (\$60) _____
- Nick red tailed hawk (\$30) _____
- Harlan dark red tailed hawk (\$30) _____
- Ryan young red tailed hawk (\$30) _____
- Max broad-winged hawk (\$30) _____
- Dori peregrine falcon (\$30) _____
- Gimli American kestrel (\$30) _____
- Hoolie great horned owl (\$30) _____
- Robbie barred owl (\$30) _____
- Riffle young barred owl (\$30) _____
- Rudy rufous screech owl (\$30) _____
- Felix grey screech owl (\$30) _____

Many Thanks to our Sponsors!

Your name, a loved one's name or your group or company's name can be listed here for an annual donation of \$150 or more. Your donation is fully tax-deductible & will help advance the work of Three Rivers Avian Center.

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Chuck & Nancy Brabec
Joyce Broyles
Terry & Evan Buck
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James & Mona Wiseman
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Andrew & Janet Zettle

(Your name could be here.....)

A Very Special Thank You to:

The Beckley Area Foundation's Nancy R. Smith Family Foundation

In loving memory of:

*William Norman Jones, Duncan Hollar, Grady McRae,
Robert L. & Ann V. Morris, Zack Steenstra, Betty Smith, Clyde Wallin*



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A private nonprofit organization dedicated to wild bird conservation & to educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship since 1990

www.tracwv.org trac@tracwv.org

