



The Raptor Chapter Express

December 2015

A Publication of Three Rivers Avian Center

Greetings from Three Rivers Avian Center! We hope your Holiday season is off to a great start. We are stocking the feeders and prepping the facility for the upcoming Winter. Hoolie (our great horned owl Ambassador) has been settling in happily in her new cage and has adopted the top of one of the doors as her new sleeping perch. Gimli (our American kestrel Ambassador) had his cage finished right after Thanksgiving and he has been enjoying the thrills of his new abode: playing with dead leaves, yelling territory at the Chickadees, and flying in and out of his indoor quarters. The first day he was out in the cage it rained, and he had the best time spreading his wings and tail and taking a shower! Both Ambassador cages were funded by a generous grant from the H.P. and Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation. Pictures of the new cages can be found on the Three Rivers Avian Center's Facebook page, and you don't have to be a Facebook member or sign in to Facebook to look at our page.



We are happy to announce an addition to our Ambassador stables. Dori, a 1st year male peregrine falcon, has joined our non-releaseable Raptor Ambassadors! He was found on a trail under the New River Gorge Bridge in June with a shattered elbow, and is non-flighted from the injury. He began his educational life in the middle of November with programs in elementary schools on to college presentations. He is very popular! Dori will be joining Perry, our adult female peregrine falcon, and will be taking over some of her outreach duties. Peregrines have life

spans that average 16 to 20 years, usually more on the 16 year end of things. At 13 years old, Perry is beginning to show signs of her age. Thank you to Steve Rotsch for this picture of Dori, taken in October.

TRAC is continuing to collect data on Bald Eagle nesting in southern WV. Jim Phillips has several volunteers helping watch active nests and record the actions of the adults and hopefully also the youngsters when they hatch out. He would like to have more watchers, so if you have time to do some nest monitoring, please contact Jim via e-mail: jim@tracwv.org.

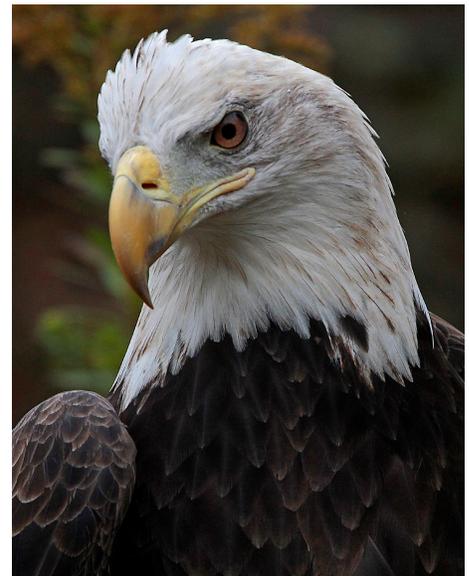
You will need a good pair of binoculars and a spotting scope is VERY helpful. There are several nests that still need monitors and nesting season is upon us!

For those of you interested in participating in either or both of the 2 Bald Eagle Surveys we do annually, we are looking for volunteers for that also! The dates are Saturday, January 9th from 10 - 2 and Saturday, March 12th from 10 - 2. Experienced folks are teamed with novice eagle watchers and all are assigned into groups to fan out throughout the research area and count adult and immature bald eagles in their set area. It is a lot of fun and is a great family outing. This survey is now in it's 11th year and helps us keep tabs on the bald eagle population in our region. The information gathered is shared with birders, researchers and with the WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. It helps to have binoculars, spotting scopes are great, and cameras are ALWAYS welcome!! The Survey goes on regardless of the weather, so dress accordingly. Pack a lunch! Results are tallied at the post-watch gathering at the Hinton Dairy Queen, usually starting around 2:45, and all participants will receive an e-mailed final tally after each watch. (Since some of the watch areas are a good distance away from the post-watch gathering spot not all data can be shared immediately at the meeting.) For more Eagle Survey information, contact Jim Phillips: jim@tracwv.org.

The TRAC photoworkshops lead by Steve Rotsch have become very popular and we've been receiving many questions about the next ones. Here are the dates: April 30, 2016 and October 8, 2016. To sign up or for more information, contact Steve at steve@tracwv.org or go to his website: <http://www.stevenrotsch.com> . Both full day and half day sessions are available. Full day sessions include lunch!

Anna Ziegler of the law firm Ziegler and Ziegler in Hinton WV is offering free will preparation to anyone interested in leaving TRAC a significant financial gift in their will. To find out more, please contact her by e-mail at anna.ziegler@zieglerandziegler.com, by telephone at 304 - 466 -1224 or stop by the law office at 110 James Street in Hinton, WV. This is a tremendous offer, and we wish to thank Anna and Ziegler and Ziegler law firm for their kindness!

One last "Wings of Wonder: WV Birds of Prey" program is scheduled for 2016, and it's at an amazing place. Please join us December 23rd at 7 PM at Canaan Valley State Resort Park for a very special presentation at this Holiday time. Regis, our bald eagle, Gimli our American kestrel, Hoolie our Great Horned Owl and Dori our male Peregrine Falcon will join us and others from the TRAC Ambassador Stables for this last program in 2015. We hope you can join us in the Lodge at Canaan Valley State Resort Park! The program is free and open to the public. This photo of Regis was taken and donated by Steve Rotsch after a recent Photo Workshop here at TRAC.



Thank you for your interest, help and support of TRAC this year. Have a wonderful & warm holiday season, and best wishes to you and yours for a happy and healthy 2016. Good birding to you!



Sincerely,
All of the human and bird crew at Three Rivers Avian Center