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Getting Ready for Babies

The mild Northwest winter is likely to have some interesting ramifications on predator populations this upcoming baby season. Reports seem to indicate a very healthy vole population, which will translate to successful - and possibly early - nesting. After the record hospital admissions year CRC had in 2014 (54 baby barn owls alone), we have already started ramping up our mouse production and have built two hack boxes for off-site care and release of nestlings that we cannot re-nest.

'Hacking' is often done with bird-catching species like the accipiter hawks and large falcons, because it is pretty much impossible to provide live prey practice in an enclosure, even a large one like ours. When orphaned nestlings of these species arrive, they are placed in hack boxes as soon as they can pick up food from a plate (or 'hack board'). The hack box becomes their nest, so they imprint on the surrounding territory; they are fed through a small door on a blank wall so

they do not associate food with people; the hack boxes are large enough for the youngsters to practice flapping their developing wings, and as soon as they can fly a little, the door is opened. The youngsters then come and go as they explore, gradually staying out longer, practicing their hunting skills, while having back-up food still being presented on the hack board.

We have also built a hack box for Great Horned Owlets, as they have a very long post-fledging dependency period with LOTS to learn! They nest in early Spring and stay with their parents until the Fall, so a hack box and lots of time to practice hunting is critical for their survival after release.



Still time to help raptors in India

Update on the project to help bring a raptor rehabilitator from India to a US national conference and to spend time at four excellent rehabilitation facilities in the Eastern US -

We still hope to raise enough funds to provide Nadeem with at least \$50/day for food and travel (his lodging is being taken care of by the conference scholarship and the facilities he's visiting) - but we're not there yet! We admittedly set a probably unrealistically high goal overall, with the hope of having extra available to bring Nadeem's brother Mohammad over next year - and I'm sorry we are nowhere near accomplishing that - but for now we really just want to make sure Nadeem has what he needs for this trip.



Won't you please take this opportunity to help raptors in India by assisting a dedicated caregiver coming here for continued education? Every little bit helps!

A recent study has indicated that India is home to 18% of the raptor species in the world - and they are having a hard time. Wildlife Rescue, founded and run by Nadeem and his brother Mohammad, are doing very important work under difficult circumstances - and we really hope this time in the US will help.

With deep appreciation to those of you who have already contributed, and in hopes there may still be some interested in doing so - here's the Indiegogo link again! Thank you all so much!

>> [Click here to go to the Indiegogo site to help India's birds of prey!](#)

International Volunteer

CRC is delighted to welcome a volunteer who has come all the way from Germany to spend three months learning about raptor rehabilitation. Simon Breidenbach is from near Dusseldorf in Germany, is 19 years old, and has long had an interest in birds and in wildlife rehabilitation. His personal experience with sick or injured birds has mostly been with doves and crows, working with a local veterinarian. He loves hiking and watching the common buzzards and ravens, as well as other wildlife such as ibex and chamois, in the Austrian Alps, where his family has a vacation home.

Simon is very athletic, particularly enjoying running - so his coming to Track Town USA as his first exposure to the US seems quite apt. Please join us in welcoming Simon! We look forward to sharing what we do, helping him practice his English, and showing off our beautiful state of Oregon.



More International Connections

In mid-February, CRC Education Director, Kit Lacy attended the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a member of IAATE's board of directors, Kit assists in making sure the conference runs smoothly for the over 160 attendees. She is also the chair of the Awards Committee, which determines the best interpretive, husbandry and show behaviors submitted by IAATE members. Networking, sharing and learning are a big part of this conference. Kit brings back a lot of great information on training and husbandry to help CRC provide the best possible care and training for our resident birds. The CRC education team members are excited by the new bits of information that will further the health and welfare of our avian ambassadors.



Photo: Kit presenting the Best Show Behavior award to Natural Encounters Inc.

Recurring Contributions

We want to extend a hearty thank you to our members and supporters who make monthly, recurring contributions! Knowing there's some level of predictable gifts coming in is a big help. Some donors use bill pay through their banks, some use our online donation page through PayPal, some simply mail us a check each month (we provide envelopes!), some donate through payroll deductions and get an employer matching gift, and some have us charge their credit card monthly. Anyone interested in exploring the options is invited to contact Louise, our Executive Director, at Louise@eRaptors.org.

However it is done, we deeply appreciate it - so please accept a huge thank you from the birds at CRC!



Work 'Parties'!

A big thank you to Oregon Community Credit Union and University of Oregon students from Phi Gamma Delta fraternity for doing some awesome community service projects for us this month! OCCU helped build panels for our hack boxes, as well as pulled invasive geraniums (a never-ending project that we've been involved with for years!), while the "Fiji" students hauled gravel for trails. Our sincere gratitude to Wildish Sand & Gravel for their donation and delivery of two loads of different crushed rock for trails and other recent projects.

Our own volunteers have also gone above and beyond, pulling geraniums, doing other winter clean-up, and hauling gravel. And very sincere thanks to Rocky Sigloh and Ritta Dreier for building a level (!), beautiful, and efficient platform and railing outside our education supply shed.

The mind boggles at how much we owe Jim Ott, a special projects and animal care volunteer who has rebuilt some dangerous steps and installed railings on other stairs in the staff area; organized and helped re-roof our big shed; built an eagle transport box; installed a drainage system in two places that always flood in a heavy rain - due to the springs that pop up - and way more!

Our work directly helping the birds truly could not happen without the assistance of our awesome team of volunteers and community supporters. THANK YOU ALL!

Many Ways to Help!

As spring gets underway, we love to watch the Turkey Vultures, hummingbirds, and so many other birds as they return to the area or pass through to breeding grounds further north. Just wanted to end with a reminder about the many different ways you can support the birds of prey who play such an important role in an intact ecosystem. Thanks for all your support!



Fred Meyer Community Rewards - Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to CRC at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for Cascades Raptor Center by our name or by our non-profit number **80821** and Fred Meyer will donate to us a percentage of what you pay for your purchases!

iGive - choose from hundreds of vendors that donate a percentage to the non-profit of your choice at no additional cost to you. www.igive.com/CascadesRaptorCenter. Thank you for choosing CRC!

GoodShop - Go to www.GoodShop.com, choose your charity (we are listed - just put Cascades Raptor Center in the Choose Your Cause search box), and shop away! No cost to you!

AmazonSmile - choose CRC and we will receive a percentage of what you spend on purchases at no cost to you. smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1038827

And don't forget that donating to us and to the **Oregon Cultural Trust** can result in a tax credit to you! www.culturaltrust.org

Of course, you can also simply join, adopt a bird, or make a financial contribution directly on our website.

>> [Click here for a secure online contribution.](#)

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