



# WILDLIFE LIFELINE

Eugene, Oregon 2025



A Record Setting Year

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*CELEBRATING 35 YEARS*

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Impact Report 2025

## OUR MISSION

Through wildlife rehabilitation and public education, Cascades Raptor Center fosters a connection between people and birds of prey. Our goal is to help the human part of the natural community learn to value, understand, and honor the role of wildlife in preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific Northwest.

## 2025 STAFF

Julie Collins, **Executive Director**  
Kit Lacy, **Chief Operations Officer**  
Maddy Broedel, **Development Director**  
Dr. Katie McInnis, **Staff Veterinarian**  
Sidney Campbell, **Bird Curator**  
Laura Farah, **Senior Trainer and Educator**  
Jesse Pline, **Senior Rehabilitation Technician**  
Brian Schug, **Facilities Manager**  
Riley Gibbons, **Rehabilitation Technician**  
Carrie Lorenz, **Trainer and Educator**  
Alex Murphy, **Trainer and Educator**  
Taylor Hardman, **Trainer and Educator**  
Nate Walsh, **Assistant Trainer and Educator**  
Laura Ratti, **Office Manager**  
Melissa Green, **Creative Engagement Designer**  
Jennifer Appleby Chu, **Adoption/Membership Coordinator**  
Chris Reeder, **Grant Writer**  
Levi Whittier, **Marketing and Development Associate**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Goeres, **President**  
Stephanie Hand, **Vice President**  
Daniel Kruse, **Secretary**  
Pam Whyte, **Treasurer**  
Clara Rigmaiden  
Robert Steck

## CONTACT US

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CascadesRaptorCenter.org  
info@cascadesraptorcenter.org

Visit us!

Follow us!



Graphic Design Services by Heather Van Doorn

Cover: Padawan, Barn Owl, flies above crowds during a summer flight show. Photo Credit: Jesse Pline



**INJURED BIRD?**  
Call 541-485-1320 Ext.2  
8 am - 6 pm  
7 days a week

As I reflect on my fourth year as executive director, I'm proud of how far we've come. In a constantly shifting world, Cascades Raptor Center continues to advance our work by responding to the needs of our community and the wildlife we are dedicated to protecting.

This year, we celebrated a significant milestone—35 years of caring and connection. What began as a small, home-based effort to care for injured birds of prey has evolved into a thriving community of wildlife advocates, educators, and supporters. Every success we celebrate today is built on decades of dedication, compassion, and shared purpose.

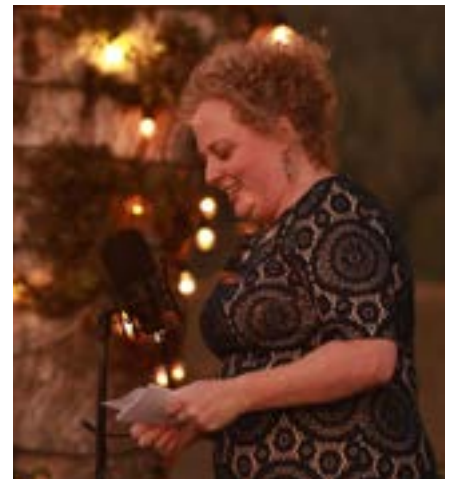
- Our medical team treated a record number of species, delivering exceptional care while increasing our capacity to meet growing community needs.
- Strengthened staff training allowed us to grow our flight show program—offering more opportunities for visitors to witness raptors in flight and deepen their connection to wildlife.
- Our outreach programs supported kids across Lane County in building meaningful connections to wildlife through creative, art-centered explorations of birds of prey.

These achievements are the result of hard work, unwavering commitment, and a collective goal: to inspire and educate, fostering positive actions that benefit people, habitats, and our shared future.

Your support remains the cornerstone of our progress. I invite you to continue this journey with us—visit, share our mission, and consider giving to our work.

Continue reading to discover more.

Julie D. Collins  
Executive Director



Cascades staff and volunteers march alongside an enormous Osprey puppet in the 2025 Bright Parade





# IMPACT 2024-2025

624

Youth Outreach: free in-school programming



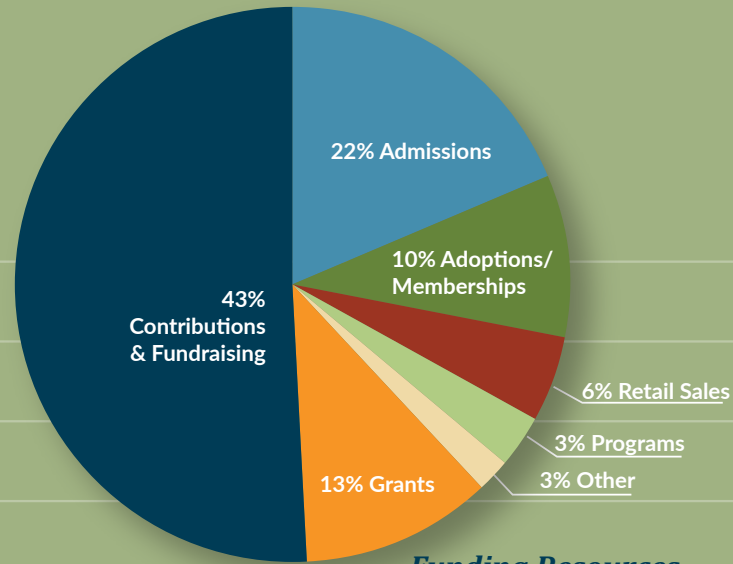
25,704

Raptor training sessions a year

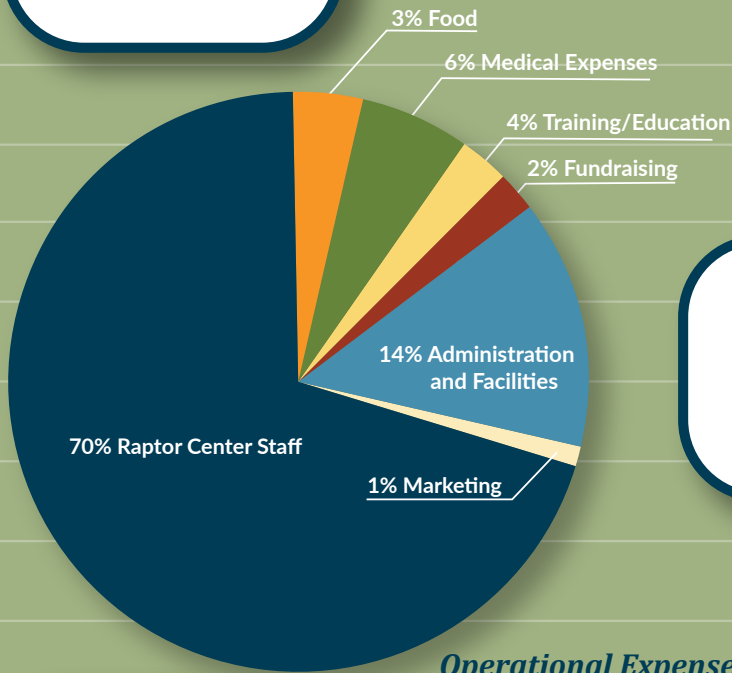


Educational resources distributed

1,750



*Funding Resources*



*Operational Expenses*



33,428

Visitors to the center



638

Raptor Art Challenge participants



128

Flight shows

5,941

In attendance



1.2 tons

of food fed to the resident raptors



81

Volunteers

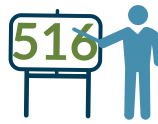


9,569

Donated hours

Total hospital admissions

1,038



516

Educational programs

11,449

Program participants



698

Hours of Community Work Parties





## HOSPITAL INTAKE

# A REMARKABLE YEAR OF WILDLIFE CARE

*A juvenile Red-Tailed Hawk safely re-nested*

It's been a record-setting year here at the Louise Shimmel Wildlife Hospital, with over 1,000 patients admitted, by far the largest number of intakes in our history!

Ever since our founding in 1990, we've been driven by the belief that caring for birds of prey and other wildlife is good for the environment, good for the community that we're part of, and good for the world. As Lane County's only licensed wildlife rehabilitator and Oregon's only raptor-specific facility, we've been putting that belief into action for 35 years now. Still, nothing could have prepared us for the staggering volume of patients that came our way in 2025.

We are grateful to have a collaborative and compassionate hospital team guiding the care of every animal we treat. New equipment, better systems, and deep trust among team members led not only to improved quality of care for our patients but also optimized efficiency, allowing us to keep up with the record number of intakes.

Despite the season's fast pace, our staff still found

time to share their expertise with the broader wildlife rehabilitation community. They hosted re-nesting workshops and classes for both the Oregon Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the Michigan Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. Dr. Katie McInnis, Staff Veterinarian, presented at the 2025 Raptor Research Foundation Conference in Costa Rica, and Jesse Pline, Senior Rehabilitation Technician, is preparing to speak at the 2026 National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium in Louisiana.

### Caring for All Wildlife

Although raptors are our specialty, they make up only about 20 percent of the animals that arrive at our hospital. Under the guidance of Dr. Katie McInnis, our team provides triage and stabilization for a wide variety of species from Lane County and beyond. Songbirds and small mammals remain with us for up to 48 hours before being transferred to our friends at Chintimini Wildlife Center in Corvallis.

This year, we were able to upgrade our X-ray system and donate our previous radiology unit to Chintimini, increasing their capacity to diagnose and treat wildlife from across the Willamette Valley. We are deeply grateful to Janet Mitchell and Jerry Cromwell, who made both our radiology upgrade and this gift to Chintimini possible.

## A Community Resource

Making a busy year even busier, in 2025, we received a staggering 4,000 calls to our Wildlife Hotline. Providing concerned community members with the information they need to assist distressed wildlife, these phone calls allow us to rescue, re-nest, and rehabilitate as many birds as possible. If you ever encounter injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife, regardless of species, please call our wildlife hotline at 541-485-1320 ext. 2. Our hotline is open from 8 AM to 6 PM, seven days a week!



*Radiograph of an American Barn Owl Patient*

# 2024 - 2025 HOSPITAL INTAKE

IF YOU TAKE CARE OF BIRDS, YOU TAKE CARE OF MOST OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD."  
- THOMAS LOVEJOY

RAREST SPECIES THIS YEAR

**GREAT GREY OWL**



MOST COMMON RAPTOR SPECIES: REPRESENTING 51% OF ALL RAPTOR PATIENTS

**BARN OWL**



NUMBER OF RAPTOR SPECIES CARED FOR **14**

MOST COMMON AVIAN SPECIES: REPRESENTING 13% OF ALL NON-RAPTOR CASES

**AMERICAN CROW**



NUMBER OF NON-RAPTOR SPECIES CARED FOR

**98**



TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS WE'VE PROVIDED TRIAGE CARE FOR

**975**

**84**

NUMBER OF YOUNG PATIENTS UNITED WITH WILD ADULTS



Cascades Raptor Center made major upgrades to our hospital equipment this year. Thanks to their hard work and the generosity of our donors, we were able to:

- Install a new digital radiograph machine and an oxygen concentrator
- Construct an isolation building for birds with contagious diseases
- Remodel and repair our outdoor recovery aviaries

These improvements have elevated the quality of care and significantly increased our efficiency, helping us keep pace with a record number of intakes.





# HOSPITAL SPOTLIGHT

## THREE CASE STUDIES



### EXTENDED STAY (RTHA 24-541)

**T**hough this Red-tailed Hawk was admitted in November 2024, she was one of our favorite patients of 2025, since her care took a grand total of eight months!

When she arrived at our hospital, she was weak, emaciated, infested with parasites, and suffering from a badly broken beak.

We concluded that she had likely sustained a traumatic impact, possibly a vehicle collision, that resulted in a fractured beak. The damage left her unable to groom herself effectively, allowing the parasites to multiply until the discomfort prevented her from hunting successfully.

Hospital staff began treating her parasites, which brought immediate results. However, she continued to show signs of anemia, and our team realized a blood transfusion would be necessary for further recovery. Luckily, CRC ambassador Eowyn was a suitable match!

After a successful procedure, the patient began eating on her own and was moved to a flight aviary to start

regrowing the keratin in her beak. This was a long, slow process that spanned many months. After eight months of care and numerous assessments, we determined that she had healed enough to be successfully released. She was released on July 17, 2025, weighing nearly 75% more than when she arrived!



© Jacob Drucker eBird S57128127

### UNEXPECTED VISITOR (COPO 25-242)

**I**t seemed like a relatively normal call to our wildlife hotline:

“Help, I think I’ve found a tiny owl that can’t stand up!”

The caller’s description led us to believe that we’d be rescuing a Western Screech-Owl, so imagine our surprise when we arrived and discovered that it wasn’t an owl at all, but a Common Poorwill! This species is a member of the nightjar family, a group of nocturnal birds that includes whip-poor-wills and nighthawks. The Common Poorwill is an especially fascinating bird as it undergoes a form of hibernation, the only bird species known to do so.

Common Poorwill are rarely seen west of the Cascades, and unfortunately, as often happens with birds that stray this far from their usual range, this bird was too severely weakened and did not successfully make it to release. However, she contributed to the scientific understanding of her species simply by being found.

As our hospital receives a variety of patients from a wide geographic area, we occasionally encounter birds that are uncommon in our region. Examples in the last five years include this Common Poorwill (only the third time this species has ever been recorded in the Eugene area), a Short-tailed Shearwater that we treated in 2023 (the first-ever inland record of any shearwater in the Pacific Northwest), and a Flammulated Owl in 2021 (the first-ever record for this species west of the Cascades in Oregon).

To help researchers better understand patterns of migration and vagrancy in these species, Cascades Raptor Center created a profile on the citizen science platform eBird so we can contribute our patient data to a vast, ever-growing ornithological database.

And you can too! eBird is a free-to-use citizen science platform where your observations—even in your own backyard—can help us understand and protect Oregon's wild birds.

Learn more at: **eBird** [ebird.org/about](https://ebird.org/about)



### **MAJESTIC RECOVERY (BAEA 25-264)**

**T**his Bald Eagle, one of our favorite success stories of 2025, came to us from Umpqua Wildlife Rescue after being shot by a farmer. Radiographs revealed numerous lead bullet fragments in his wing, along with a fractured ulna and shattered metacarpals. Thankfully, the wound was relatively fresh, and the fractures were far enough from the joints that he had a good chance for recovery, although it took multiple surgeries to remove some of the larger metal fragments.

After three weeks in our ICU and an additional three weeks in a recently refurbished aviary, his bandage and splint were removed, but there was still a long way to go before he would be ready for release.

Occasionally, when a severe traumatic injury affects a bird's wing, it can cause feather loss outside of the normal molting cycle. In this patient's case, he lost nearly every single flight feather between the wound and the tip of his wing, necessitating a lengthy stay in our convalescent aviary. Once his feathers were fully regrown, however, we were able to move him to our large eagle flight aviary, giving him enough space to regain the strength that he would need for life in the wild.

On August 30, 2025, he was successfully released by the Oregon State Police wildlife officer in charge of his case.



# SUPPORT OUR MISSION

## MANY WAYS TO DONATE

**By Mail:** Use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation to: PO Box 5386 Eugene, OR 97405

**Online:**  
[cascadesraptorcenter.org/donate](http://cascadesraptorcenter.org/donate)

**Call:** 541-485-1320 (ext. 0)

**Venmo:** @CascadesRaptorCenter

**Stock Donation:** Donating stock can provide exceptional tax benefits; please consult your tax advisor

**IRA Contributions:** If you are 70 ½ or older you can donate up to \$100K from your required IRA distributions through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), and it will be excluded from your taxable income!

### Planned Giving:

Join the Louise Shimmel Society. By adding Cascades Raptor Center to your planned giving you can have a lasting impact long after your lifetime

**Fred Meyer:** Register your Fred Meyer Rewards Card and choose "Cascades Raptor Center" as your community partner

**BottleDrop:** You can donate directly from your BottleDrop account to support Cascades Raptor Center



Visit our Amazon Wish List



## YOUR PASSION IN ACTION

**A**t Cascades Raptor Center, we believe meaningful change starts with education, advocacy, and a shared commitment to protecting wildlife. We're continually inspired by our community's deep passion for Oregon's wild creatures and natural landscapes. It is only through your belief in our mission that we can continue safeguarding and preserving the wildlife native to this region. We can't do it without your support!



## *When you donate your support helps us to:*

- Provide world-class medical care to every patient who comes through our wildlife hospital doors
- Expand our educational programs to engage new and diverse audiences while highlighting the vital role of raptors in the ecosystem
- Inspire curiosity and conservation by making wildlife education accessible to everyone in our community

## Cascades Raptor Center Wish List

Want your year-end donation to fund a specific project? Here are a few projects we're currently fundraising for.

\$25,000	On-site accessibility railings
\$15,000	Improvements to our on-site educational spaces
\$10,000	Oxygen Concentration Chamber for wildlife hospital
\$5,000	Outdoor digital display for wildlife hospital
\$3,000	Outerwear and boots for our outdoor team members
\$1,500	Training and ambassador equipment (gloves, scales, enrichment items, etc.)
\$1,000	Repairs to Rescue/Transport Vehicles





# Cascades Raptor Center Gift Guide

*This holiday season, give a gift that gives back! Visit the Cascades Raptor Center in person, or go online to [cascadesraptorcenter.org/shop](https://cascadesraptorcenter.org/shop) to gift an experience, symbolic adoption or membership, or any of our featured gifts.*

## HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP: \$100\*

- Free admission for 1 year for a household
- 4 bonus gift passes
- Cascades Raptor Center Member decal
- 10% gift shop discount
- Subscription to our annual magazine and newsletter

*Members save an  
10% off on all gift  
shop purchases!*

*Purchasing  
your adoption in-person?  
Add a matching stuffed  
animal to complete  
the gift!*

## GOLD RAPTOR ADOPTION: \$200\*

*(Our most popular holiday gift)*

- A Household membership (with full benefits)
- Recipient's name displayed on adopted bird's aviary and website
- Personal history of adopted bird
- Cascades Raptor Center Member decal

*\*Other membership and adoption levels available*

***Looking for a gift of a lifetime?  
Gift an experience they'll never forget!***

### Personal Tours

**\$300** (\$250 member price)

- Learn directly from staff about each of our resident raptors and their unique personalities and backgrounds
- Meet a resident bird outside their enclosure with a trainer
- Get a closer look at the Raptor Center's work and the team that makes it possible
- For groups up to four

### Ultimate Raptor Experience

**\$500** (\$450 member price)

- Enjoy an in-depth look at our daily animal care and training processes
- Meet at least 2 resident birds outside their enclosure with a trainer
- Finish with an exclusive raptor encounter!
- For groups up to four

## Admission Update

To continue providing the highest standard of care for birds of prey and to keep improving your visitor experience, Cascades Raptor Center will be updating admission prices beginning in 2026. New rates will be: Adults \$16, Seniors/Students \$14, and Children (ages 4-12) \$10. Beginning in January, Free Admission to Children 3 and under. Admission includes access to encounters and our exciting summer flight show! To make visiting more affordable for families, we're introducing new discount days and special rates (coming soon).

Your support helps us care for our birds and inspires future generations of wildlife stewards—thank you for helping us soar.

**Planning a visit to the center next year?** Consider purchasing a membership to receive unlimited visits for you and your family. Plans start at \$75, and pay for themselves in 2-3 trips! Go to [www.cascadesraptorcenter.com/membership](https://www.cascadesraptorcenter.com/membership) to learn more.



## NEW AMBASSADORS

**N**eil, the Harris's Hawk, also known as a Bay-winged Hawk, was hatched in 2019 in a falconry breeding program and acquired as a nestling by a permitted falconer in the Portland, Oregon area. For a number of years, he worked professionally in abatement – a form of non-lethal pest control in which a trained bird of prey is employed to deter the presence of pest species. Neil would travel to locations like airports, vineyards, and even downtown Portland to be flown at the site repeatedly, discouraging species like crows from gathering there.

In 2025, Neil's falconer retired from working with birds and Neil joined the team at Cascades Raptor Center. His striking plumage and outgoing personality make him one of the more memorable ambassadors at the center. Neil believes in our mission of getting visitors up close and personal with birds of prey and his advanced flying skills have made him an invaluable member of our free flight team, often choosing to fly directly between visitors, rather than over their heads.



*Neil, the Harris's Hawk*

**H**atched in Buffalo, New York, in a conservation breeding program on June 12th, Echo the Snowy Owl began her journey to Cascades Raptor Center with a four-day cross-country road trip. When she finally arrived, she immediately won us over with her humongous, feathered feet and goofy attitude. As we do with all new babies who join our ambassador team, Echo was quickly introduced to everything: visitors, crates, gloves, and our flight arena. She spent many supervised hours exploring and playing, pouncing on pinecones, getting sprinkle showers on hot days, and bug watching.

Echo has grown into a powerful flyer, has excellent recall into her crate, and isn't fazed by large crowds. And while she is still figuring out her brakes (flying down is hard!), we are excited to start bringing her out soon and training her to be a part of our Flight Show for the 2026 Season.



*Echo, the Snowy Owl*

**A**tlas, the Northern Hawk Owl, was hatched in a conservation breeding program in Spokane, Washington on June 23rd. Though she still had that silly curiosity shared by all baby raptors, she figured things out quickly and had mastered the basics like jumping to a hand, hopping to a scale, and voluntarily getting into her crate within her first week. Trainers were kept on their toes when baby Atlas discovered a love of heights--despite the fact she hadn't yet learned how to fly down. With her unique and very recognizable call, Atlas has quickly become a visitor favorite. You can frequently find her hunting leaves in her aviary, which she then shreds into hundreds of tiny pieces.

This owl has lots of skills, and our training team is looking forward to the challenge of training her to be a part of our 2026 Flight Show Season.



*Atlas, the Northern Hawk Owl*



# Why Conservation Bred?



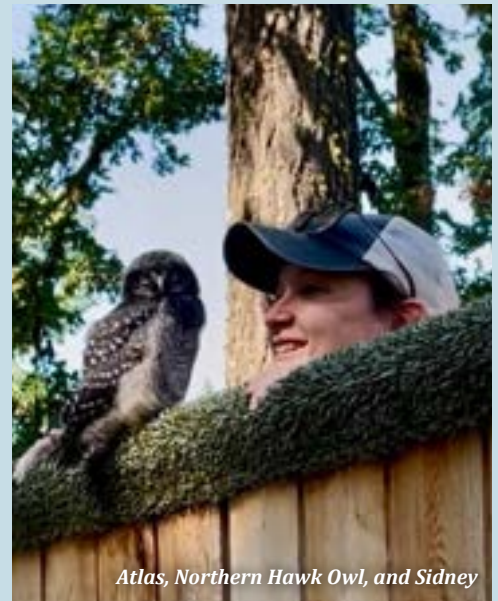
*Laura and Echo*

One of the frequent questions from visitors to Cascades Raptor Center is “Where did this bird come from?” As Cascades continues to evolve our practices of training and welfare to higher standards, we have moved toward acquiring birds who come from conservation breeding programs, meaning their whole life has been in human care. When birds are hatched in human care, training begins on day one. They’re sensitively introduced to the things they’ll encounter as ambassadors, such as sharing close quarters with humans, seeing strollers, umbrellas, and the assorted sights and

sounds of our busy nature center. This builds comfortable, confident, and healthy individuals who don’t hesitate to meet visitors at Cascades in up-close personal encounters.

Birds with that level of comfort are often the most confident. Alternatively, birds who have healed from injuries experience changes in how their bodies function over time, which often leads to decreased ability to navigate spaces, increased stress, and even pain. These factors impact a bird’s confidence and quality of life. We strive for the highest quality of life for our ambassadors, which means acquiring birds that are physically healthy and raised by professionals from a young age.

Some of the first feathered faces you’ll meet on your next visit will be ambassadors hatched in human care. Whether it’s Max the Peregrine Falcon out on a trainer’s glove, or Hans the Eurasian Eagle Owl flying mere inches over your head in our seasonal flight shows, you’ll have a little more understanding of how these amazing ambassadors can do this work with such skill and confidence.



*Atlas, Northern Hawk Owl, and Sidney*

## Trainer Update

This year, we gave a heartfelt goodbye to Ambassador Curator Sidney Campbell as she moved on to the next step in her career. Sidney’s contributions to the training team and Center’s programming was immense; we wish her the very best.



*Hans, Resident Eurasian Eagle Owl in flight*

Want to see these new ambassadors in action? Join us for our 2026 Flight Show Season! Shows run twice daily Wednesday-Sunday, from Memorial Day to Labor Day.





## FLIGHTS OF FANCY



# WINGS, WINE, AND WONDER

*Valentino, Resident Great Horned Owl*

**W**hat do you get when you combine five birds of prey, four expert trainers, 175 excited guests, a picturesque winery, 35 years of history, and a whole lot of delicious cheese?

Our second annual Flights of Fancy fundraiser.

There is no handbook for hosting a gala where live raptors mingle with guests, so it took plenty of planning to create a night that was both safe and unforgettable for everyone involved.

The first step was assembling our cast.

With our full troupe of ambassador birds to choose from, our trainers set out to select just the right group for the occasion. After careful discussion, they chose Valentino,

Taka, and Hoku, who are wonderful at greeting guests on the glove, along with Guillermo and Neil, two experienced flyers who never fail to captivate a crowd.

Next step: rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!

In the weeks leading up to the event, our trainers held on-site and off-site practice sessions to help the birds feel confident and comfortable. Even the car ride to the winery took dedicated practice to make sure it went smoothly. For our flying birds, the venue was an entirely new place to navigate. Neil, who has spent years flying around downtown Portland, took it in stride, while Guillermo, performing off-site for the first time, quickly mastered the new setting.

While the trainers and birds rehearsed, our development team worked behind the scenes to prepare the venue,

coordinate with donors and business partners, organize activities, and arrange catering.

On September 26, the 35th anniversary of CRC's incorporation, all that preparation came together.

The event took place at Sweet Cheeks Winery, whose beautiful setting made the perfect backdrop for the evening. Guests heard heartfelt stories from our founder, Louise Shimmel, along with updates from Executive Director Julie Collins. They chatted with our rehabilitation staff about the record-breaking year in the Wildlife Hospital, bid on auction items including exclusive raptor experiences and



*Founder, Louise Shimmel addresses the audience*



*Attendee experiencing Guillermo the Aplomado Falcon in action.*

getaways, tried their luck in the wine pull, and purchased ornaments from the giving tree. All of this unfolded while guests enjoyed Sweet Cheeks wine and an incredible grazing board prepared by Jincy's Cheese.

The evening opened with an impressive flight demonstration by Guillermo and Neil, showcasing the results of weeks of rehearsal. Throughout the night, our trainers brought ambassador birds out to meet guests, and charm the crowd, adding a sense of wonder to the event.

By the end of the evening, we raised more than \$70,000 in support of wildlife and Oregon's native raptors.

This celebration would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, business partners, and community donors.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the night a success. If you want to be part of the fun next year, save the date: the next Flights of Fancy will take place on September 11, 2026.



*Trainers Carrie, Taylor, Alex, & Laura with Ambassadors - Valentino, Taka, and Hoku*



*Neil, Harris's Hawk, flying to the glove*





# CREATIVE WILDLIFE CONNECT

**C**ascades Raptor Center's Youth Raptor Art Challenge encourages students in grades K - 12 to explore Oregon's native birds of prey through artistic expression. The program helps deepen knowledge of local raptors and their ecosystems, supports the importance of wildlife conservation, and fosters connections through stewardship and creativity.

In 2025, over 600 youth submitted artwork highlighting the American Kestrel and Barn Owl species. Many pieces were submitted from participating Oregon classrooms who received free raptor resources and in-school visits. With the jurying help from the University of Oregon's Students of Eugene Bird Society group, a selection of 330 raptor portraits went on display at the Center, and an additional exhibition showcased artwork at Springfield City Hall in May. We are honored to celebrate the creativity of the community with students, teachers, and families, and showcase artwork to Cascades Raptor Center visitors.



Artist: Ashley



A young artist draws an American Kestrel



Student jurors from the University of Oregon review submissions

**Attention classroom  
teachers and  
community group leaders:**

We want to connect with you! Learn more about free raptor resources for your classroom or community program. for more information visit our webpage or reach out to Melissa at [melissa@cascadesraptorcenter.org](mailto:melissa@cascadesraptorcenter.org)



## Participate in the 2026 Youth Raptor Art Challenge!

**2026 Featured Raptor Species:**  
Great Horned Owl and  
Red-Tailed Hawk

**Submissions due: March 30, 2026**



## Raptors of the Pacific Northwest

### *A Community Art Exhibit*

Cascades Raptor Center is proud to announce its second Raptors of the Pacific Northwest art challenge and exhibition, a raptor-themed community project to inspire creativity, curiosity, and conservation. The adult challenge and exhibition, open to Oregon residents (18 and older), highlights local artists and raises awareness of crucial native raptor species.

The juried exhibition will go on display at Emerald Art Center in February 2026 with an opening reception and art walk held on February 13th. Cascades Raptor Center is honored to celebrate the collective creativity of the community, made through the unique perspectives of each artist. We hope the exhibition promotes critical wildlife conversations and inspires connections to nature.



*Artist: Bekah Zeimetz*

## Call for Artists:

The 2026 art challenge for adult artists (ages 18+) is now open! Applications for the juried exhibition are free and we welcome submissions from a wide variety

of mediums. Submission guidelines and exhibition information can be found on CRC's website. Submissions are accepted digitally and must be received by Dec. 21, 2025.



## 35TH ANNIVERSARY

# Growing Passion to Purpose



Laurin Huse and young Lethe

*"The non-human world has been in existence for millions of years, and each [species] has an intricate role that they have to play. They have a right to their existence, whether it's a mosquito or an eagle."*

*-Louise Shimmel*

In 1990, Louise Shimmel founded what is today the Cascades Raptor Center. As an offshoot of what was Willamette Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation of Eugene, she envisioned a facility that could focus on the specialized medical needs of these avian predators while also emphasizing the value of educating members of our community on what they can do to conserve these important members of our ecosystem. Louise believed that making connections between humans and raptors could create a safer environment for all who inhabit it. Housed first in a duplex in South Eugene, medical equipment was simple, and patient recovery aviaries were built of recycled materials. Several years later, the property on Fox Hollow Rd became the home of

the center with the goal of a modern raptor hospital and a facility that could accommodate thousands of visitors each year. It may have taken longer than our founder

anticipated, bringing us to today with modern facilities and equipment, paid professional staff members in all aspects of our work, and leading the industry in both wildlife rehabilitation and avian care and training. Our mission has not strayed in all those years; in all aspects of our work, we strive to make those important connections between wildlife and humans.



Until March of 2020, the Cascades ICU, exam, and surgical space were one room.





*In the early years, the front room of our resident care building served multiple purposes.*



*Year after year, our team has redesigned our aviaries for safety and durability. Here's a throwback to one of our early days.*

# Look How Far We've Come!

	1990	2025
NAME	Father Sky Rehabilitation Center	Cascades Raptor Center
GUESTS TO THE SITE	0	Over 33,000 annually
AMBASSADOR BIRDS	8	30 (+2 foster parents)
REHAB PATIENTS	121	Over 1,000
PAID STAFF	0	16
NUMBER OF SPECIES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	18	107
OUTDOOR REHABILITATION AVIARIES	0	18
LOCATION	Manzanita St, Eugene (in a Duplex!)	Fox Hollow Rd, Eugene
HOSPITAL	Donated, recycled equipment, no specialized ICU or treatment room	Modern digital radiograph machine, oxygen therapy, dedicated kitchen, spacious treatment room,
RESIDENT CARE	Donated refrigerator and food preparation area equipment	Modern zoological kitchen and processes that meet USDA guidelines and licensing requirements



# OUR SINCERE THANKS

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a crucial role in our success as an organization; we are deeply thankful for every community member who volunteers with us! Throughout 2025, we received assistance in so many ways: weekly shifts in the visitor center, rehabilitation and resident care, bird rescues, baby bird re-nesting and monitoring, facility support, property cleanup, hospital transport, construction, board service, and so much more. Additionally, we'd like to give a special thanks to the volunteers who go above and beyond during their time with us: joining us for team events and volunteer appreciation nights, supporting us across different teams when needed, helping with our events or communications, and more! Thanks for the role you play in the Cascades family!

## DONORS

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we're filled with gratitude for the incredible community that has supported us along the way. For more than three decades, your generosity and belief in our mission have helped us grow, adapt, and continue serving both our community and the wildlife that depend on us. You've shared your passion, your time, and your trust, and we couldn't have reached this point without you. Thank you for standing beside us and helping us continue to soar into the future.

## MEDICAL PARTNERS

We truly could not provide the level of care that is at the heart of our wildlife rehabilitation work and special care to our residents without the skilled and dedicated veterinarians and other medical professionals who so generously contribute their time and services.

**Dr. Matt Fricke, McKenzie Animal Hospital**  
**Dr. Cameron Jones, Amazon Park Animal Clinic**  
**Dr. Vickie Joseph, Clinical Avian Pathology**  
**Dr. Sarah Maxwell, Oregon Veterinary Referral Assoc.**  
**Dr. Devin Newman, Bush Animal Hospital**  
**Dr. Madeline Rae, Amazon Veterinary Diagnostics**  
**Dr. Max Rinaldi, Emergency Veterinary Hospital**

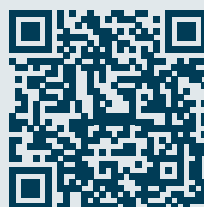
## ARBORISTS

In 2025, these individuals and companies helped us to maintain our forested property, recover after the ice storm, and assist us with the re-nesting of young raptors.

**Nate Lundgren, Green Tree Arborists**  
**Becca Snowdale, Green Tree Arborists**  
**Kyle King, Kyle King Tree Service**  
**Jahred King, Treehorn Ranch LLC**  
**Malcolm Anderson, Peak Tree Care**  
**Jeff Chandler, Chandler's Tree Service LLC**  
**Niles Brinton, Eugene Arborists**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025 BUSINESS SPONSORS

These businesses play an integral role in our success!



**Stay connected  
to all that's  
happening  
at Cascades  
Raptor Center**

Join our newsletter list to learn about upcoming events, seasonal flight shows, success stories from the hospital, and so much more! Scan the QR code, or go to: [cascadesraptorcenter.org/enewsletter](https://cascadesraptorcenter.org/enewsletter) to sign up!

## BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

**Thank you to our generous community members and businesses that donated goods and services to support us in 2025.**

A Helfrich Outfitter, Bradley Vineyards, Capitello Wines, Central Lutheran Church, Chapala's Mexican Restaurant, Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance, Danks Tree Creations, Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery, Eugene Timbers Echo Squadron, Emerald Broadband, Fred Meyer, Iris Vineyards, Jesse Pline Photography, Jincy's Cheese, Keeley Kirkendall Photography, Lively Cutting Boards, Levi Strauss & Co, Moon Maiden Tattoo, Nike, Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, Only Yolking, Oregon Soar, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Pets on Broadway, Portland General Electric, Raptor Ridge Winery, Roseburg Forest Products, Rotary Club of Eugene, Sarver Winery, Sweet Cheeks Winery, The Giving Block, UPS, United Way of Lane County, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, Wild Birds Unlimited of Eugene, Wild Birds Unlimited of Corvallis, Wild Birds Unlimited of Salem, Willamette Valley Vineyards, and many more!



*Max, Resident Peregrine Falcon*

We're constantly testing new events and community activities, and are grateful for each and every one of our participants this past year.

Thank you for supporting our events!

### ***Want to join in on the fun?***

Follow us on social media and join our email list to receive announcements about the exciting events we have planned for 2026!



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

- Ahrens Family Foundation
- Allagash Family Fund
- Clark/Lewis Family Foundation
- Giuliani Family Foundation
- Kinsman Foundation
- KFC Foundation
- MLNKoons Blessings Fund
- Pledgling Foundation
- Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund
- Sophidion Foundation
- Vincent J Coates Foundation
- Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund
- Wildlife Support Charitable Trust
- Woodard Family Foundation
- ... and many more!

## Join Our Volunteer Team!

Cascades Raptor Center is always looking for new volunteers to join the Cascades family. Volunteers are vital to the continued success of the Center, and volunteering is an easy, fun way to give back and get involved with the community!

Volunteers support every part of the Center, from cleaning aviaries and assisting in the hospital to helping with landscaping and facilities maintenance, running the gift shop, transporting wildlife, and more. Transport volunteers are in especially high demand.

Visit: [cascadesraptorcenter.org/volunteering](https://cascadesraptorcenter.org/volunteering) to learn more!



*Lethe, Resident Turkey Vulture*





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**CASCADES RAPTOR CENTER IS  
DOING OUR PART BY GOING GREEN**

The printing of this magazine was done with soy-based inks and partially recycled papers.

Thanks for your support as we work to minimize our environmental impact!

# SOAR WITH US!

To learn about ways  
to support us, visit  
[cascadesraptorcenter.org/  
donate](https://cascadesraptorcenter.org/donate), or contact us at  
541-485-1320

