



2015 off to a big start!

Rehabilitation highlights

Folks often ask if the current year of wild bird rehab is typical. Hhmmm, the only constant from year to the next is that we receive federally protected migratory birds that have been injured in some way or young of the year that have been displaced from the nest or separated from the adults that need our care. Each year we see broken bones, starvation, impact injuries, and orphans, plus patients that are impacted by West Nile Virus or other infections, in addition to birds impacted by lead poisoning from ingesting lead ammunition or fishing tackle. The difference is in the number of patients. The spring of 2015 has been unusual for great horned owl hatchlings -- we've admitted almost twice the number this year compared to 2014 -- and we still might get in some fledglings that were found injured after likely a less-than-ideal first flight. All admits through the end of April 2015 are more than 25 patients greater than last year. Your donations to help purchase high quality food for our intensive care and rehabilitating patients is greatly appreciated.

A special shout-out and thank you to others that help SOAR's efforts to rehabilitate injured birds. These special people include SOAR rescuers and transporters, other wildlife rehabilitators in the state; county conservation board and Iowa DNR staff for helping the injured birds get to SOAR; and especially to our veterinarians, Dr. Struve and Dr. Riordan at Manning Veterinary Associates, and Dr. Dirks from Dickinson Small Animal Clinic. If you have a chance, please thank these folks for their support of SOAR!



Deb rescued this great horned owl hatchling on April 6 in West Des Moines.

First sighting of osprey hacked at Whiterock Conservancy

A 2011 banded osprey relocated from northern Minnesota to the Whiterock Conservancy osprey hack



Seeing where the crimp on the band is confirms the order of the letters on the band. This is definitely YU.

tower as part of Iowa's osprey reintroduction project was spotted and photographed in Sioux City, Iowa in April 2015. This female sports the Iowa osprey project purple band YU on her left leg and a silver USFWS band on her right.

The "big deal" in sighting one of the osprey that fledged from the Whiterock tower, is this is the FIRST documented sighting of any of the osprey from that tower. YU was spotted with a male and the hope is that they are nest building in the Woodbury County area, possibly even where they were photographed! It took a couple days of photographing for SOAR volunteer Tyler Flammang to get enough evidence that this was indeed YU. The first days' photos showed us the letter Y and the letter U but could not tell the order. The next time Tyler photographed this osprey, one photo showed the crimp where the band is riveted together. The alpha identification is on both sides of the band and that crimp tells us what order.

In 2006, Saving Our Avian Resources - SOAR and Whiterock Conservancy partnered to move a hack tower from eastern Iowa to near Coon Rapids and establish nesting osprey along the Middle Raccoon River. Many, many folk sponsored the reintroduction project. In total, 27 young osprey were hacked in the Whiterock tower from 2006 to 2011. Additionally, six other osprey received from other rehabilitators were hacked from that tower. Two young were also hacked at this tower in 2013. Visit <http://www.soarraptors.org/osprey.html> to learn about SOAR's involvement with osprey reintroduction in Iowa.



This is likely a male osprey and was seen flying with YU.

Grant received!

SOAR was notified on April 24 that we received a \$1,500 grant from the Guthrie County Community Foundation for facility upgrades for Cassie's rehabilitation building! Upgrades include swapping the garage door for a solid wall, adding interior walls, insulation, heating, and wall covering that can be scrubbed! Cassie is a wildlife rehabilitation apprentice under Kay. With SOAR seeing an increasing number of patients each year, the main facility is often "busting at the seams" and having Cassie's facility will allow for much needed intensive care space for sick, injured, and orphaned patients.

SOAR still needs to raise about \$1000 to cover the materials for this project. We are requesting donations of gift certificates from Home Depot. While we should shop more local, our money will go further as Home Depot offers a discount to members of the military. Cassie's husband, who will be doing a bulk of this work, is a member of the Iowa Army National Guard! Please visit our [Amazon Wish List](#) for a link!

News and notes

Interns and young volunteers

Interns Trevor and Emily recently graduated from high school and both have plans to attend Des Moines

Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny Campus in the Fall 2015. Trevor is thinking wildlife biology and Emily says she'll be looking at "something related to the environment." Ally just finished her first year at DMACC in agribusiness. Emma and Savanna have been volunteering. Emma just finished her second year at Iowa State and is considering a major in education. Savanna just finished her first year at Buena Vista in environmental science.

Board Members

James Dinsmore recently resigned from the Board of Directors, thanks for your years of service. Rosemary Partridge and Kathy Hodges have agreed to fill vacancies on the board.

SOAR programming

School field trips and programs are the name of the game for our programming efforts from mid-March through May! All together Kay, Terrie, and Linette visited with 11 different school groups (would have been 12, but one was canceled due to rainy weather). Plus we had a couple public events, Scout groups, and public library programs.



Kay with snowy owl, Moonface, and Thora in the background talking are at Capital View Elementary on January 16 this year.

To schedule a program

Is your classroom, youth group, service club, or community organization looking for an inspiring and educational program? Invite SOAR educators for a unique educational experience featuring our non-releaseable birds of prey as education ambassadors. All SOAR programs stress our mission of raptor rehabilitation, education, and research and are adapted to your specific needs as best we can. Visit the website [education page](#) to learn more about our education programs or email Terrie (educate@soarraptors.org) to discuss dates, content, suggested donation, and education ambassador availability.

Public events

Visit the SOAR website [event page](#) for public program locations, details, times, and more.

Donations

With the half-way mark on the calendar coming up, we have already been blessed with support for SOAR's mission, for Jenni, Terrie, and Tyler to attend continuing education workshops, host programs for area schools, and to support specific education birds.

Special thanks for the Jeep donated for Cassie's rescue and rehab travel!

In memory of...

Jerry Cross (Toolesboro Tom), Decorah eagle chat moderator
D12
All the Decorah Eagles
Barb Byron
Aleta Anderson
Karen Lizakowski

In honor of...

The Decorah Eagles
Decorah / D20
David and Ann Lynch
Mary Jo Osterholm
Kris Bossard
Heather Svehla

If any remembrance was missed, please advise admin@soarraptors.org.

Ways to support...

SOAR relies on and greatly appreciates the donations of talent, time, money, and requested items from you, our supporters. Without your generosity, SOAR would not exist as it does now. SOAR uses these given resources wisely to support our mission.



Thanks!

As "unglamorous" as it is... vehicles, their insurance, license, and maintenance, plus fuel are a HUGE expense for SOAR. (This is not taking into account that vehicles need replacing from time-to-time!) Vehicles are needed to rescue patients, drive patients to a veterinarian, drive to programs, drive rehabilitated patients to a release site, and drive to pick up supplies. Did I mention that the Highlander just got new tires? To help offset some of this expense, SOAR has implemented a mileage policy requesting an additional

donation for program locations beyond 80 miles from SOAR. When able, Kay likes to give fuel cards to SOAR rescue and transport volunteers.



The Highlander has 197,000 miles!

You can purchase gas cards for this purpose from our [Amazon Wish List](#).

One incredibly helpful way to support SOAR is through a recurring monthly donation. Most monthly donations come via PayPal, but some have set up a 'bill pay' through their bank that sends a check monthly around a certain date. Every \$5, \$10, \$25, or whatever amount is appropriate for you is important to pay our recurring food, utilities, and maintenance expenses.



Also,

- ❖ Visit our [Amazon Wish List](#)
- ❖ Mark SOAR as your [Amazon Smile](#) charity
- ❖ Shop the [SOAR Store](#)
- ❖ Write a review for SOAR on the [Great Nonprofits](#) website
- ❖ Check with your employer or investment manager about matching gift programs or donor-advised funds.

In the works...

Volunteer projects

We're working on a list of volunteer projects that support SOAR (and even other rehabilitation groups) and can be done at your location! Watch for links on the "How you can help" page.

Decorah's new digs

Plans are underway to renovate one of the 10'x20' flight pens in the hawk building for permanent quarters to accommodate Decorah's abilities and needs! The particular flight pen is the original space where SOAR's first education eagles, Spirit and Liberty, were housed! Renovation will include insulating the walls, adding a different door, putting in a new skylight panel in the roof, and adding an electric outlet just in case auxiliary heat is ever needed. The biggest change (and challenge) will be to extend the flight pen a few feet to provide a secure and open-air weathering area for the warmer weather months, but with insulated doors to close this area off in the winter. This extension will allow Decorah, Spirit, and Liberty to see each other. When will this happen? First, this year's new crop of great horned owl young need to be released, and a new mew needs built for the most recent occupants of that flight room -- education long-eared owls. This new mew for the long-eared owls is already under construction and will look like the one built last summer. We'll be using the generous donations from Decorah's first anniversary of hatching to build this new outdoor mew!

SOAR - Saving Our Avian Resources
25494 320th St
Dedham, IA 51440

Save the date!

Please put Sunday, August 30, 2:00-5:00 p.m. on your calendar for our annual release party. The location will be the Dale Valley Vineyard, same place as last year. Watch the website and Facebook for more details!

Capital improvements

Here is a photo of the newest mew (raptor enclosure) built last summer / fall. This flight cage



has two separate rooms and is perfect for our kestrel and screech owl patients after their time in ICU.

The education snowy owl took residence in one of the rooms through the winter -- he's not going to mind the cold and snow! As able (read that as flight pens are empty), building maintenance will continue on the 10'x20' flight pens in the hawk building.

Thanks for your support!

Please share this newsletter with others and tell them about our website. Please "like" our Facebook page.

Linette Bernard, Communications Director

Save the Date!

August 30, 2015
Fall Release Celebration!
Dale Valley Vineyard
3097 285th St
Stuart, Iowa
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Raptor releases
Meet education ambassadors
Music by The Irregulars

SOAR
saving our avian resources
www.soarraptors.org

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