



## 2016 by the numbers

In 2016, we admitted 385 sick, injured, or orphaned birds, reached over 10,000 people through 133 programs at 69 events, and completed data collection on 43 bald eagles admitted. Whew!

Thank you all for your interest and support of SOAR's mission of rehabilitation, education, and research! 272 different individuals, families, or businesses donated items or money to SOAR in 2016!

When you share a story about a patient, point someone to soarraptors.org or our Facebook page, make a donation, or call about an injured bird, you are helping!

## Rehabilitation Highlights

Our admit numbers keep going up and thankfully so does your generous support. Admits have more than doubled from 2012 to 2016. Check out the table, right, to see how much patient numbers have grown. Part of the increase in 2015 and 2016 can be attributed to Cassie, Kay's apprentice rehabilitator, who quickly became the water bird "go to" person. Cassie is not helping as much in 2017 as she has a brand new daughter this year that needs her attention! We're roughly 20 admits behind last year without Cassie... so we will still see over 350 admits this year (my guess, but let's see how the latter half of the year shakes out).

## Unique Admits

During 2016 we had a few unique admits including a lost loon, a northern harrier, a few barn owls (both Iowa endangered species), and an underweight western grebe.

## Eagles

SOAR admitted 43 eagles in 2016. Forty-two eagles were tested for lead, including the seven dead on arrival. About half of the eagles tested were lead poisoned. Eight eagles with only back ground levels of lead were released. Anthon and Euclid were the only two eagles with elevated lead levels to be released. Those two are our eagle success stories for 2016! Please hunt and fish lead-free!

## Rescuers and transporters

Thanks goes out to Deb, Cassie, Tyler, Megan, Shelly, Jenni, Victor, Matt W, Marla, Ron H, Matt H, Wendy, Horn, our Conservation Officers, natural resource agency and county conservation staff, plus the concerned citizens that make initial contact. My apologies if we left out someone! Plus, we could not do this without our donors!

## SOAR programming

Invite SOAR for an educational experience featuring our non-releaseable 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. Email Terrie ([educate@soarraptors.org](mailto:educate@soarraptors.org)) to discuss dates, content, suggested donation, mileage fee, and ambassador availability. Public events are posted on the website [events page](#).

25494 320th St, Dedham, IA 51440 ♦ <http://soarraptors.org>

Admits by group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Buteos	39	49	28	50	67
Accipiters	18	17	24	26	29
Owls	48	72	89	122	128
Vultures	3	2	9	14	9
Harriers	0	0	1	1	1
Kites	1	1	0	0	1
Eagles	23	26	27	22	43
Falcons	23	24	23	22	27
Osprey	1	1	0	2	2
<i>Raptor total</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>201</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>307</i>
Ducks / geese / swan	2	3	8	71	30
Other Water Birds	3	3	8	12	8
Songbirds	4	7	3	13	11
Others	1	3	4	10	29
<i>Non-raptor total</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>78</i>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>385</b>
Released	48%	56%	60%	58%	45%
Survived (released, transferred)	55%	61%	64%	63%	47%
Mortality (DOA, died, euthanized)	45%	39%	35%	36%	48%
Unresolved	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%

## News and notes

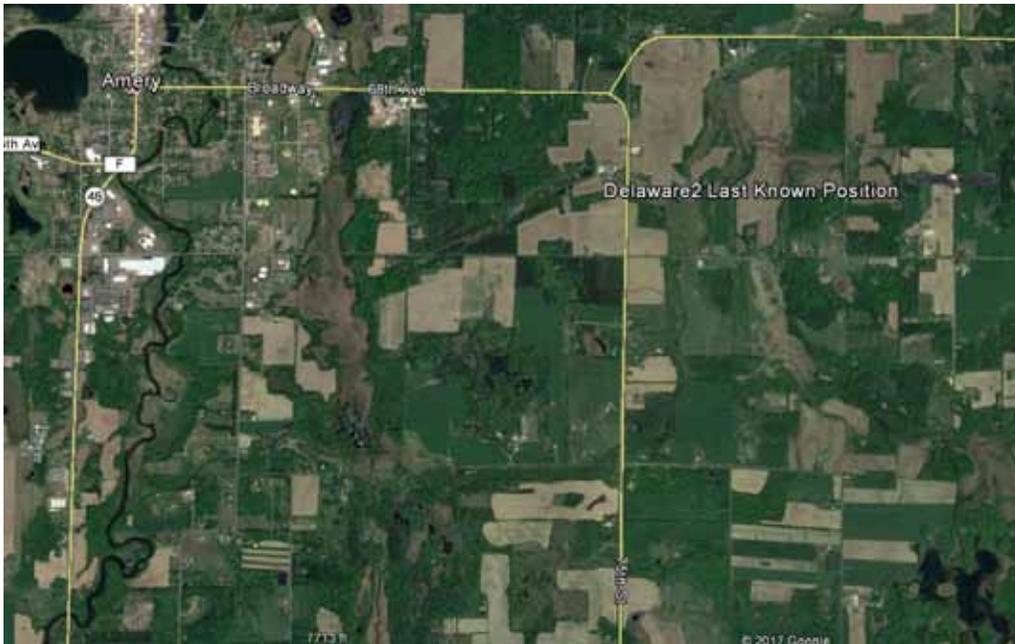


— Researchers check the telemetry unit fit on Highlandville.

### Telemetry and Eagles

Two bald eagles ready for release were fit with current technology telemetry units on 28 February 2017 in a partnership between SOAR, US Fish & Wildlife Service Moline Field Office, the US Geological Survey, and West Virginia University. These eagles are now part of a USFWS / WVU eagle tracking study that began in 2014.

The researchers are looking at migration and movement patterns, specifically how and when these eagles use upland areas away from the river, of both Midwest eagles and eagles wintering along the Mississippi River. Both eagles were admitted to SOAR in 2016 with trauma injuries - a juvenile male (now turning 5) from Highlandville in Winneshiek County and an adult female from Delaware County. These new GPS-enabled units utilize cell tower networks to download customized and detailed data on each eagle's movement.



— Delaware 2 was northeast of St Paul, Minnesota, in Wisconsin on 20 June 2017!

The map here is from the location data on 20 June 2017 for the adult female, Delaware 2, and copied from a Google Earth image. Look for the eagle avatar in each picture for their last known location on that date. That same day, Highlandville was in Houston County, MN (the far southeast corner). From time to time, we'll share maps and info on the website and / or Facebook.

### Eagles and Lead Data

Please be patient folks, the 11 years of eagles and lead data has been written for publication in the *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*. The paper has been conditionally accepted and is still going through the peer review process.

### Osprey Celebration

On 20 May 2017 a diverse gathering of volunteers, community members, non-profit agency staff, utility company staff, and state and local conservation agencies came together to celebrate the establishment of nesting osprey in Iowa. Read more about the gathering [here](#).

The osprey release effort began in 1997 at Macbride Nature Recreation Area from efforts led by then Macbride Raptor Project Director, Jodeane Cancilla (now leading The RARE Group). SOAR joined the effort in 2006 with release sites at Whiterock Conservancy and Swan Lake State Park.

Iowa has celebrated its 20 years of Osprey work with 23 wild nests!



## Interns

As time allows, Kay's daughter Savanna helps out. Savanna will be starting her senior year at Buena Vista University.

## Tracking Gifts

Currently, Linette is working to migrate 2017 donor data to a donor management system using a 30-day free trial of Little Green Light Donor Management. If all goes well, we will purchase. The software allows for tracking of all donations, integrating with PayPal reports, importing data from a spreadsheet, and can be set up to send thank you and year-end tax letters. Whew!

What does this mean for you? Single donations will still receive a thank you note, but your cumulative donations throughout the year will be tallied for a tax letter. Our monthly donors should see little change.

Concerned about your data being "in the cloud?" SOAR has never kept financial details beyond the date and amount. We only have the contact info you have provided. [Read more from Little Green Light.](#)

## In Remembrance

Thank you to those individuals and groups that donated in honor of or in memory of someone dear to them. If any remembrance was missed, please advise [admin@soarraptors.org](mailto:admin@soarraptors.org).

### In memory of...

Ron Burland  
Michael Kelly

### In honor of...

Decorah (many honored)  
Sheila Rogers  
Becky Meyer

## Planned Giving

Have you considered including SOAR in your will or other planned giving? Please contact Linette at [admin@soarraptors.org](mailto:admin@soarraptors.org) and she can help your accountant, lawyer, or financial planner with the needed information.



## SOAR Stewardship

SOAR 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. Here is a summary of our 2016 income and expenses. The "Hawk" Food expense means anything fed to patients and ambassadors.

## Other ways to support!

- ❖ Visit and purchase from 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 - we need 10 new reviews by the end of September to be again rated as a "Great Nonprofit!"
- ❖ Become a [monthly donor](#)

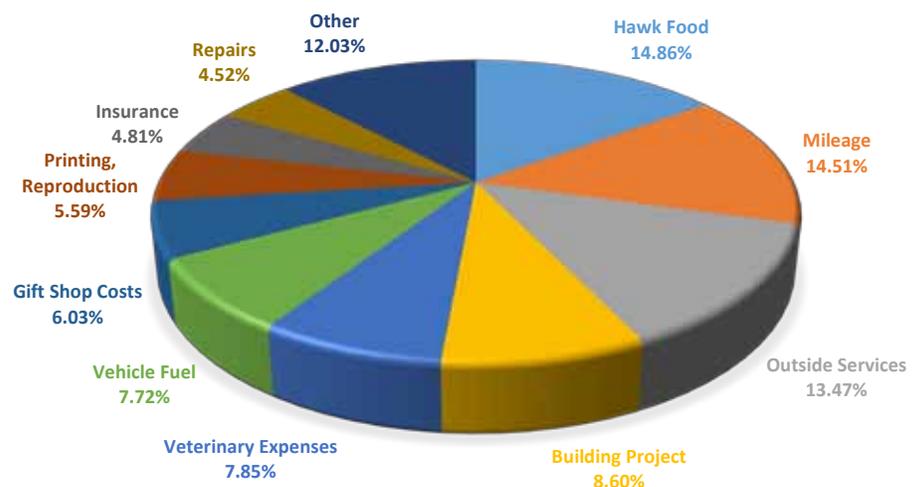


- ❖ Check with your employer or investment manager about matching gift programs or donor-advised funds.

## INCOME SUMMARY 2016



## EXPENSE SUMMARY 2016



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

**Save the date!**

Please put Sunday, 27 August 2017 on your calendar for our annual release party. The location will be the Iowa Arboretum. Watch the website and Facebook for more details!

**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 27, 2017  
Fall Release Celebration!

**SOAR**  
saving our avian resources  
[soarraptors.org](http://soarraptors.org)

Iowa Arboretum  
1875 Peach Ave • Madrid, Iowa  
12:00-3:00 p.m.  
Raptor Releases • Music by The Irregulars  
Education Ambassadors

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