



2017 Year-in-review

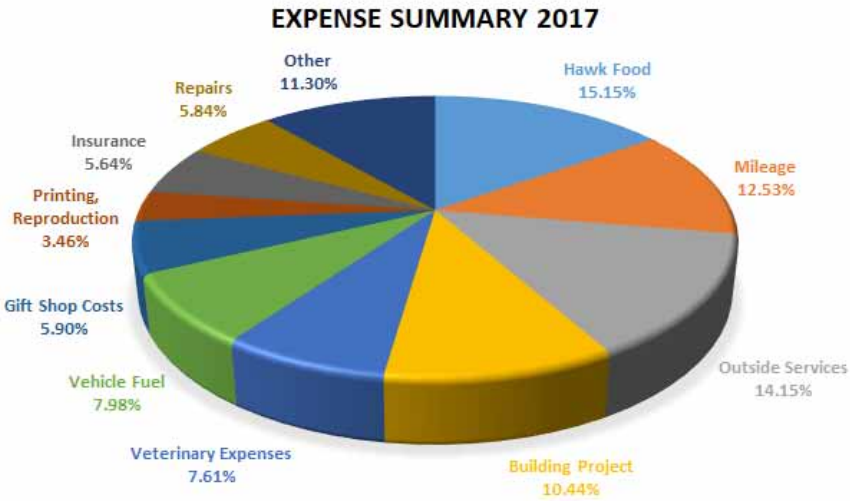
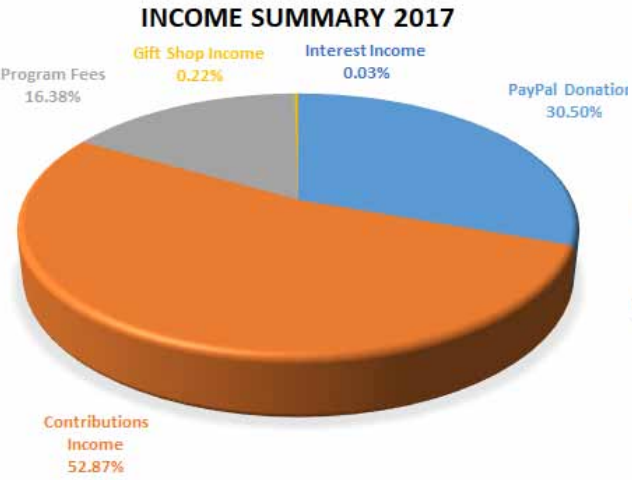
Thank you all for your interest and support of SOAR’s mission of rehabilitation, education, and research. Over 390 different individuals, families, or businesses donated items or money to SOAR in 2017! Plus add in the funds received for providing education programs with an ambassador and the funds from donor-advised charities like Thrivent Choice, AmazonSmile, GoodShop, and more! Many donors supported us monthly (43!), annually, or through our special campaigns like Decorah’s 3rd Hatchaversary Challenge for a new a blood lead analyzer, Rats for Raptors, Fill the Freezer, and #GivingTuesday. Other individuals and businesses supported an education ambassador. See below for a breakdown of SOAR income and expenses for calendar year 2017.

SOAR educators were at 67 events, presenting 143 programs to over 9,500 people! Our educational reach was expanded in 2017 through a Facebook Live Video event with snowy owl ambassador Borealis and Kay for #GivingTuesday talking about snowy owl natural history and the factors leading to so many snowy owls being spotted in Iowa! Kay and Borealis were also featured on a live segment for WHO-TV (see photo right). The Facebook video was viewed over 4,000 times and the TV segment had a reach of over 31,000!



SOAR Stewardship

Thank you to our 2017 friends, donors, and supporters! You all help us with the SOAR mission through your donations of talent, time, money, and requested items. Without your generosity, SOAR would not exist as it does now, nor could we provide care to over 365 birdie patients. SOAR uses these given resources wisely to support our mission. Here is a summary of our 2017 income and expenses. The “Hawk Food” expense means anything fed to patients and ambassadors. Vehicle Fuel is for the three SOAR vehicles, versus the Mileage expense where transporters and educators are paid some mileage.



In Remembrance

Thank you to those individuals and groups that donated in honor of or in memory of someone dear to them during 2017. If any remembrance was missed, please advise admin@soarraptors.org.

In memory of...
 Pat Blaker
 Bob Anderson
 Michael Kelly

In honor of...
 Ambassador Decorah (many honored)
 Deb Deets
 Sheila Rogers
 Mary Jo Osterholm

Tracking Gifts

In July 2017, the SOAR donor data was migrated to a cloud-based donor management system, Little Green Light Donor Management. 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.



Intern

As time allowed, Kay's daughter Savanna (left) helped out with rescue, transport, rehabilitation, and programming. Savanna has now graduated from Buena Vista University in May 2018. Savanna will no longer be an 'intern' but is going to try her hand at much of what it takes to run SOAR. Please welcome Savanna to the team!

Telemetry News

An adult bald eagle was admitted to SOAR on 9 July 2017 from Lost Island Lake in Palo Alto County, Iowa, with a telemetry unit and band. SOAR learned this eagle was originally banded and fitted for a telemetry unit in Oklahoma (also after a stint in rehabilitation) and is part of an Oklahoma Study. The researchers include many of the same researchers as those working on the Midwest Telemetry Study, including the Illinois-Iowa Field Office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). For this eagle's rehab stay, the telemetry unit was removed and turned off.

"Oklahoma's" telemetry unit and harness were put back on for release on 27 September 2017. The telemetry unit started sending data the next day. She went from central Iowa down through the Ozarks, to the Oklahoma-Texas border by the end of 2017, and then a huge shift northwards where in mid-April this eagle was on Benton Slough in the Mississippi River near Des Moines County, Iowa. From there she headed to northern Minnesota, and by early July 2018 was in Southern Manitoba.

The data points gathered from the bald eagles' telemetry units that are part of the Midwest Telemetry Study - which does include this Oklahoma eagle - will help researchers understand bald eagles full migrational movement, local wintering movements, and how flight is influenced by the landscape and the human-built structures like buildings and wind turbines. The increasing bald eagle population is coinciding with an increasing human population that requires more infrastructure

and energy demands and USFWS is seeing increasing conflicts. The data can help identify potential impacts. The value to the public is that researchers can help the energy industry identify heavily used corridors and identify any needed setbacks of that infrastructure to avoid conflict with moving bald eagles.



Published! Lead Poisoning in Bald Eagles Admitted to Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities in Iowa, 2004-2014

This research paper was published online December 2017 in the Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management! Thanks go to many people... Jodeane Cancilla (at the Macbride Raptor Project then, now at The RARE Group), Terese Evans, Dr Cherney, and volunteers with Black Hawk Wildlife Rehabilitation Project, Dr Zaffarano and staff at the Wildlife Care Clinic, plus SOAR volunteers for rescuing, transporting, collecting data, treating, and all that goes in to helping sick and injured eagles! Thanks also to Dr Z, Taylor Yaw, and Adam Martin-Schwarze for help with statistics and organization. Here is the URL to download this paper... we know you all want to!

<https://doi.org/10.3996/122015-JFWM-124>

SOAR Student Data

The Iowa Core Science Standards (adopted by the Iowa Board of Education in August 2015) emphasize the use of real data with students. SOAR has real Iowa data from the bald eagles admitted for rehabilitation. With encouragement from Area Education Agency science consultants, SOAR has made available bald eagle data collected by SOAR from January 2015 forward for use by environmental educators and classroom teachers. Kay Neumann and Linette Bernard presented at the Iowa Science Teachers Section Meeting in October 2017 highlighting the data available and demonstrated ways to use data to engage students in current and local (Iowa) environmental issues. Please visit the website if interested, <http://soarraptors.org/student-data/>.

Grant Awarded

Avangrid Renewables and the Avangrid Foundation awarded funds to SOAR for hawk building roof maintenance and for one flight pen extension! As weather and the contractor's schedule allow, this project will be completed in 2018. Learn more here: <http://soarraptors.org/2018/04/avangrid-foundation-supports-soar/>.

Rehabilitation Highlights 2017

In 2017, 378 sick, injured, and dead on arrival birds were admitted to SOAR. Our admit numbers keep going up and thankfully so does your generous support. When the hawk building was designed and built, SOAR admitted roughly 100 wild birds per year. Now admits are more than triple that! The table shows the admit data from the last five years, by group.

Unique Admits

November 2017 through early 2018 saw many snowy owls visiting Iowa. Seven snowy owls were admitted in November and December (and one transferred from The RARE Group in January 2018.) Two snowy owls were released at nearby Dunbar Slough and the three still with us were not ready for release when the temps were still cold enough.

Bald Eagles

SOAR admitted 49 eagles in 2017. Because SOAR is continuing to collect data on all eagle admits, many dead on arrival (DOA) eagles were admitted (13). Seven eagles admitted alive, died within hours. SOAR provided intensive care and rehabilitation to 29 eagles. Nine of the 2017 eagle admits were released and four eagles are still conditioning in the flight pen. Forty-seven of the eagles were lead-tested. Seventeen of the bald eagles had elevated lead levels. Of those 17, there were 6 DOA, 8 that died (three within a few hours), one was euthanized, one pending, and one released. An eagle admitted from The RARE Group with HI blood lead levels, was in the SOAR flight pen for a couple months for strength training, was released after recovering from lead poisoning. Please hunt and fish lead-free!

Rescuers and transporters

Our thanks goes out to Wendy, Megan, Deb, Matt H, Ron H, Lora, Theresa, Alex, Marla, Christina, Shelly, Kelly, Dan, Katie, Cassie, Matt W, our state and federal conservation officers, police officers and county deputies, natural resource agency and county conservation staff, local human societies and city animal rescue staff, plus the concerned citizens that make initial contact. Our apologies if we left out someone! Plus, we could not do this without our donors and our cooperating veterinarians and their clinics!

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 \(http://soarraptors.org/education/\)](http://soarraptors.org/education/) to learn more. Email SOAR at educate@soarraptors.org to discuss dates, content, program and mileage fee, and ambassador availability. Public events are posted on the website [events page \(http://soarraptors.org/events/\)](http://soarraptors.org/events/).

Admits by group	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Buteos	49	28	50	67	81
Accipiters	17	24	26	29	34
Owls	72	89	122	128	129
Vultures	2	9	14	9	10
Harriers	0	1	1	1	0
Kites	1	0	0	1	0
Eagles	26	27	22	43	49
Falcons	24	23	22	27	36
Osprey	1	0	2	2	1
Raptor total	192	201	259	307	340
Ducks / geese / swan	3	8	71	30	22
Other Water Birds	3	8	12	8	7
Songbirds	7	3	13	11	5
Others	3	4	10	29	4
Non-raptor total	16	23	106	78	38
Grand total	208	224	365	385	378
Released	56%	60%	58%	49%	40%
Survived (released, transferred)	61%	64%	63%	49%	41%
Mortality (DOA, died, euthanized)	39%	35%	36%	51%	51%
Unresolved	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%

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

Save the Date!
August 26, 2018
Annual Release Party

McFarland Park
56461 180th St. Ames, IA 50010
1:00-4:00pm
Join us for:

Releases Education Birds
Children's Activities Speakers

Live Music from The Fabulous Irregulars



SOAR
saving our avian resources
soarraptors.org



Thanks for your support!



Linette Bernard,
Communications Director

Support SOAR!

- ❖ Check with your employer or investment manager about matching gift programs or donor-advised funds.
- ❖ Mark SOAR as your **Amazon Smile** charity
- ❖ Visit and purchase from our **Amazon Wish List**
- ❖ 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!"
- ❖ Shop the **SOAR Store**
- ❖ Become a **monthly donor**
- ❖ Include SOAR in your planned giving
- ❖ Invite SOAR for educational experience to your Iowa group event

If you received multiple copies or would prefer to receive via email, please email Linette at admin@soarraptors.org and tell her your preferred and / or correct address.