

# On the Horizon

Horizon Wings Newsletter – Summer 2018  
www.horizonwings.org



Welcome to Horizon Wings' semi-annual newsletter – On the Horizon. We would like to keep you informed of happenings, events, and news going on at Horizon Wings.

Our mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild, in order to maintain their population and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

## “The Release”

On the evening of April 5, Mary-Beth received a call from Anthony, of Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital, inquiring if we had room for a Bald Eagle that had been struck by a car. Arrangements were made to pick up the eagle the next morning. Upon arrival we were shown into the area where our newest rehabilitation patient awaited us. Despite her injuries, she was feisty and not happy to be in a cage. After being briefed by the Veterinarians in charge (Dr. Azureen Erdman and Dr. Theresa Cianciolo), the eagle was transferred to our carrier and ready for the ride back to Horizon Wings, where she would spend the next 10 days being treated for her injuries. She had been x-rayed upon arrival and was lucky that nothing had been broken, although she had sustained an eye injury, concussion, and road rash to one foot that would need to be treated daily. Blood was also drawn to check her lead levels as, unfortunately, it is not uncommon to find elevated levels in eagles that have been struck by cars. (See next article for more information on lead poisoning in eagles). She again was a lucky bird as her lead levels were normal.



Upon arrival at Horizon Wings, we began her daily regime of medicating her injured eye and foot, as well as adding



medication twice daily to her food. As she was a great eater, this made it easier for us to medicate her with antibiotics to prevent infection to the foot, and a pain reliever anti-inflammatory to help heal her eye and head injury. She spent a week in our "Rehab shed" in a cage big enough for her to move freely in, but small enough to keep her from injuring herself further. On April 12th she had her re-



check with Dr. Z and it was found her injuries had healed enough for release! It was at that point where she was transferred to our newest 20x40 aviary which gave her plenty of room to exercise and stretch her wings.

The release date was scheduled for April 15th in Berlin, not far from where she was found. On the morning of the 15th, people gathered, including the gentleman who stopped traffic on Route 9 to protect this bird from further injury, along with the team of veterinarians, technicians, and the volunteers of Horizon Wings to witness the release. After a short countdown, the door to the carrier was opened and without hesitation this magnificent eagle took flight. Horizon Wings wishes to thank the caring and professional staff of Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital, as well as Dr. Ann Bourke of NEBird Clinic for their assistance in caring for this eagle.

*Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser*

# Welcome to our newest Educational Ambassadors

Wow -- this Spring certainly brought many changes to Horizon Wings. We couldn't be happier to announce that we have 3 new educational ambassadors that are ready to impress audiences around the state.



Our first new bird is Asha, who is a young female Barred Owl. We have been missing a big piece in our owl educational team when we lost both of our two Barred Owls last year. Things just haven't been the same. Because these birds are very common to come into rehab, we have been waiting patiently for a new one to find us. That happened in February 2018, when Mary-Beth got a call from Danielson, CT for a Barred Owl laying in the road after being hit by a car. Asha was in bad shape, bleeding heavily from her eye. Horizon Wings is lucky to have the help of avian vet, Dr. Ann Bourke, just up the street and she has us set up with an oxygen tent. Asha was immediately put in oxygen and she gained strength over the next few days. As a result of the impact with the car, Asha lost one of her eyes and does not make a good candidate for release. She was a fighter and is now trained and doing educational programs.

The next new bird is Adara, a juvenile Cooper's Hawk from Utah. This is a new species in education for us at Horizon Wings. Typically, these birds are very high strung and do not make good educational ambassadors. The owner of Second Chance Wildlife in Utah has over 30 years of experience and thought Adara definitely deserved a second chance. She was struck by a vehicle, resulting in an injured wing (humerus) and does not fly well enough for release. We were able to tell Adara's age by her juvenile plumage and the color of her eyes. Her name means "catches birds" in Welsh and "fiery woman" in Hebrew. Since her arrival in February, she has been a dream to work with. Having a healthy appetite has made her training move along pretty quickly and she has just begun going out on programs. She's a great asset for us and will be a star in our new "Mistaken Identity" program, where we will compare a Cooper's Hawk to a Peregrine Falcon. We are so excited to begin teaching everyone about Cooper's Hawks.



The last new arrival at Horizon Wings is Tyton, a young Barn Owl from Utah. Many of you will remember our beautiful female Barn Owl, Silo, who passed several years ago. She left a hole in our hearts when she left us. Barn owls are endangered in CT and we never get them into rehabilitation. After many years without one, we decided it was the right time to actively pursue getting one. We found Tyton in Utah, from Wildlife Rescue of Northern Utah. He was presumably struck by a car and suffered an injury to his shoulder (coracoid), which leaves him unable to fly well enough for release. He will also be featured in our new program "Mistaken Identity", where we will compare him to Asha, the Barred Owl.



We look forward to many years with all three of these beautiful birds at Horizon Wings. Watch for them at future programs. We are so excited to share them with everyone and feel honored to have them be part of our educational team.

*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

## 2018 Projects

It is another busy year here at Horizon Wings. We were lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the N.W.R.A. in order to refurbish our oldest aviary built in 2004. We also have an Eagle Scout making plans to build an aviary for one of our new ambassadors, "Adara", a Coopers Hawk.

These, along with the ongoing upkeep of the grounds and aviaries, will keep everyone busy! Stay tuned for further developments!

# Earth Day Fair 2018

More than 300 people joined us for our annual Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April, 27th. The weather was bright and warm, and the atmosphere bustled with curiosity and delight. Families and individuals alike toured the grounds and aviaries while enjoying refreshments and listening to the live folk music of Bruce John. Children dissected owl pellets, had their faces painted, and made seed “bombs” to toss in their gardens. Atka, the Bald Eagle, and Chrysos and Sky, the Golden Eagles, wowed the crowd!



There was something for everyone in our expanded roster of programs, demonstrations and activities. New this year was Animal Show on the Go with their reptiles. Myles, one of our



volunteers, offered an exciting falconry demonstration. Gerri Griswold was there with her porcupine and bat, and Annie and Mike Bourke brought their Soay sheep. In a special program, guests had the opportunity to meet our newest educational ambassadors: Tyton, the Barn Owl; Asha, the Barred Owl; and Adara, the Cooper’s Hawk. The “A Case of Mistaken Identity” program featured raptors commonly mistaken for each other and tips on how to tell the difference.

All proceeds from the Earth Day Fair go directly to the care of our non-releasable birds, as well as to the care of the many birds we rehabilitate. Our deepest gratitude to everyone who came out to support us. We enjoyed seeing old friends and to meeting many who were joining us for the first time. We would also like to thank all those who so generously shared their animals, expertise, and artistry to help make this event such a success. And, of course, thanks go out to all our volunteers for their time and dedication.

*Written by Patricia Cebrelli*

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## Wish List

- Lumber (Plywood, 2x4s, 2x6s)
- Roofing material
- Hardware (deck screws, rafter hangers, hinges, hasps)
- Pea stone for aviary flooring
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, Simple Green)
- Office supplies (Postage stamps, paper, envelopes, card stock)
- Gift cards for building supplies
- Hardware cloth
- Disposable vinyl cleaning gloves

***Please support your local merchants whenever possible!***

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education  
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Fill out and mail this form to be added to our mailing list, for information, and our end-of-the-year letter, featuring a photo of a raptor. You can also help Horizon Wings by including a donation.

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