

8-30-88

macbride  
nature  
recreation area



**RAPTOR REHABILITATION CENTER**

The University of Iowa  
Division of Recreational Services

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA  
East 12th & Grand  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

Raptor species are a fascinating and diverse group of birds. They are proud, wild, and beautiful, sharing a predatory way of life that has at times brought them into conflict with humans. For most of this century, hawks and owls have been persecuted in Iowa—shot, trapped, and poisoned—often blamed for the deaths of pets and livestock. Although raptor species earned federal protection in 1972, it is through increasing public awareness of their importance to the delicate balances of nature that the most meaningful progress has been made.

With increased appreciation for raptors, Iowans have become more concerned with the fate of hawks and owls that they find injured in fields, forests, and along roadways. There are few individuals, however, with the knowledge, time, and resources needed to successfully return these birds to the wild.

The University of Iowa Raptor Rehabilitation Center is dedicated to meeting this need. Open since March of 1985, the center has taken in a wide variety of raptors for treatment, including great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, barred owls, screech owls, American kestrels, broad-winged hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, saw-whet owls, turkey vultures, osprey, and bald eagles.



Saw-whet Owl

### **caring is the key**

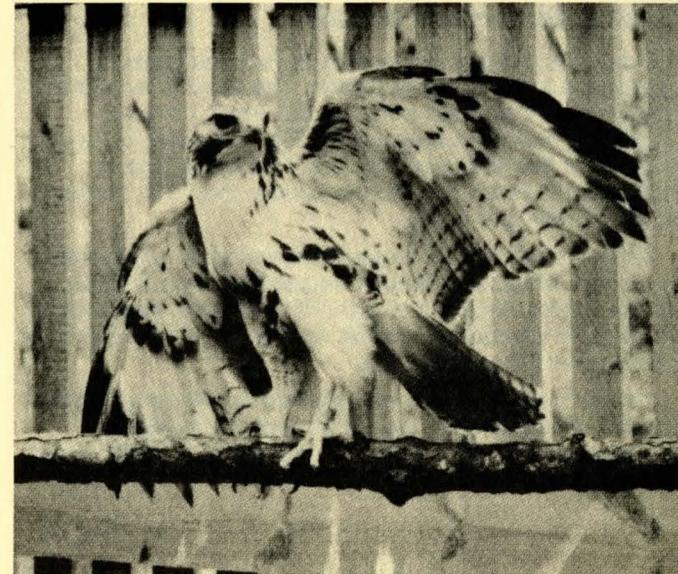
In the spirit of Aldo Leopold, Iowans are becoming increasingly conscious of the need to live in harmony with the land, giving and taking in a reciprocal relationship. Wildlife rehabilitation is one of the many ways we have of giving—of caring. Each successful treatment, rehabilitation, and release of a hawk or owl is a symbol of human ingenuity for the benefit of things natural and wild. As our staff gains experience and knowledge and as our facilities and methods improve, the success stories become more frequent.

There are important decisions to make with each step of the treatment and rehabilitation process. Often, the patient's condition is critical, and the care during the first two days means the difference between life and death. When a bird is stable enough to make a trip to the veterinarian, X-rays are taken and injuries are diagnosed. Often surgery is performed immediately. In some cases a good bandaging job is enough to stabilize a fractured wing or leg. In others, there is no hope for future flight and the bird is mercifully euthanized. While waiting for bones to heal, the birds are kept quiet in specially designed intensive care cages for one to three months. They are then transferred to outdoor flight pens where they can exercise and regain muscle tone and cardiovascular fitness. During this phase, a regimen of physical therapy is often necessary to rejuvenate damaged muscle tissue or stiff joints. When the time for release finally comes, the waiting and hard work are wonderfully rewarded.

### **big hearts and helping hands**

At the heart of our operation is the dedication of able volunteers and the work of quality veterinarians. UI veterinarians Paul Cooper and Daniel Downing helped set the Raptor Center on a firm foundation by providing professional advice and care during the center's infant stages. Currently, Dr. Greg Zimmerman of Iowa City provides diagnostic and treatment services as a personal donation to the Raptor Center.

The list of committed volunteers continues to grow. Coming from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, they have in common the desire to give of themselves. The volunteer staff is involved in every phase of the rehabilitation process from helping with initial first aid to exercising a bird prior to release. They represent a precious resource, without which the work of the Raptor Center could not continue.



Red-tailed Hawk

### **living by other voices**

As the early twentieth-century naturalist Henry Beston once wrote, "The animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear." It is in a spirit of awe and respect for these wild creatures that our education program is conducted. The emotional impact of seeing a majestic hawk or owl up close is not soon forgotten by children or adults. Together with a heightened awareness and understanding, this impact is the goal of conservation education. While our rehabilitation efforts help individual raptors, our education program aids raptors as a group and wildlife in general. By reaching out to the public with educational presentations we are making people more aware of the needs of raptors and of their value to us.

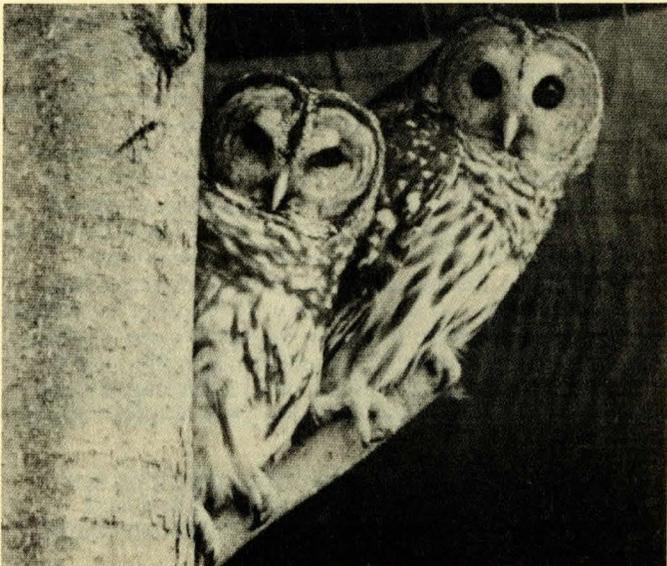
The birds featured in our education programs are hawks and owls that are permanently injured and unable to return to the wild. They are birds that would otherwise be destroyed.

## visiting the raptor center

Macbride Nature Recreation Area is the base of operations for the Raptor Center. The area is leased by The University of Iowa from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and administered by The University of Iowa Division of Recreational Services. Macbride Nature Recreation Area is located on county road F28 between North Liberty and Solon.

Visitors to the Raptor Center are welcome during the hours that Macbride Nature Recreation Area is open. Please secure dogs out of sight of the cages, keep voices low, stay in designated areas, and keep hands and other objects away from the birds.

Further information about the Raptor Center program can be obtained from the Division of Recreational Services, E216 Field House, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Phone 319/335-9293.



Barred Owls

## we need your help

The University of Iowa sponsors the Raptor Rehabilitation Center but the major support comes from donations and labor contributed by dedicated volunteers. A fund has been set up at The University of Iowa Foundation to expand the work at the Raptor Rehabilitation Center. Tax-deductible donations are gratefully received.

Our newsletter, *Raptor Review*, is printed three times annually and sent to our family of contributors and supporters. Please join us in our effort to provide quality care for raptors and to reach out to the public with educational programs.

I would like to help the Raptor Center to continue its important rehabilitation and education work.

Enclosed is my contribution of

\$5     \$10     \$15     \$25     \$50

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach this form and send with a check made payable to The University of Iowa Foundation Fund, c/o Mark Jennings, Alumni Center, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.



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