

## Spring Time

Spring is here and you might find an injured or orphaned raptor. What would you do? Here are some questions you first have to answer:

1. Can you tell if the bird is injured?
2. Is the bird in any danger?
3. Do you see the parents?
4. Do you see a nest?
5. Has the nest been destroyed?

If the bird is injured or you don't see the parents and you feel it is orphaned, proceed with caution. They do not know you're there to help. Birds of prey have very sharp talons (claws) and a sharp strong beak.

**DO NOT** give water or food! Since you don't know what's wrong this could harm the bird.

You will first want to prepare a box or something to contain the bird. Make sure the box has a lid and punch holes in it so it has ventilation. You can use a towel, a sheet or even a pair of leather gloves if you have them. Try to approach the bird from its backside. Cover the bird and hold its wings close to its body and place it in the box. Try to remove the towel or the sheet from the head so the birds can breathe. Close the top of the box so the bird and you can relax. Good job!

Call your nearest Florida Fish and Wildlife Service for information; the number is 888-404-3922. If you are in Central Florida and you can transport the bird to our facility, please call us at 407-461-1056.

If you see the parents and the nest has not been damaged, carefully pick the bird up and place it back into the nest. They're pretty clumsy at this age and might have simply fallen out of the nest.

**TRUE:** Young raptors have a better survival rate when raised by their parents.  
**FALSE:** The parents will abandon the chick if touched by humans.

## What can you do

Some birds of prey, such as owls and kestrels, like to live in tree cavities. It can be a hole in a tree made by a woodpecker or just the knot in an old dead tree. Many people cut down old dead trees (snags) because they don't look good or a site is cleared for building. Snags can be home to a wide variety of flora and fauna.

With the loss of habitat these cavities get harder and harder to find. There is a way you can help solve the nest site shortage. By installing a nest box on your property, this will provide a home for these birds. Not only does it benefit the birds but think of the enjoyment you will get watching.

Nest boxes are available online and there are guidelines if you want to build one. Thank you in advance for helping.



P.O. Box 296  
 Apopka, FL 32704



If you would like to support our conservation efforts by receiving our newsletter online, please visit our website and sign up <https://www.arc4raptors.org/newsletters.html>



Group photo after Spring Affaire



Jeep in flight with a GoPro



Red-phase and grey-phase Eastern Screech-Owls



Volunteer Iesi holding a mother Bald Eagle



Gully's egg for this year

## Volunteer Corner

Meet Devin Milstid. Devin started volunteering at ARC in 2007 at the age of 15. Starting as a homeschool student, he was able to come 3 days a week for 3 years. When he graduated high school, he left us to serve in the United States Air Force. Devin came back to ARC at the end of 2014 and has quickly regained the skills he had previously learned. At the beginning of this year, Devin and fellow volunteer Mary created our new website. He has also been working with fellow volunteer Bill to maintain and upgrade our facility.

“After being gone for 4 years, I’m proud to be back at a place I’ve called home for a long time. ARC and the staff had a tremendous impact on me when I was growing up. To come back and see the growth of the facility brings me joy.” - Devin

When asked if anything has changed since he’s been gone, he said “When I first worked on Wednesdays and Saturdays, there was myself, Carol, and maybe 1-2 other volunteers. Now we average 5-8 volunteers and continue to grow!”

When asked what type of bird he would be, he said “A Red-tailed Hawk. As much as I like to get to work, I also like to watch from a distance and see where I can make a difference.”



## 100 Years of Protecting our Birds

In the late 1800s milliners (hat makers) were designing fashionable hats which were all the rage. Unfortunately, they were using bird feathers and some were even using whole birds on top of these hats.

Wires and springs were used to attach the birds so that the head and wings could move. For 40 cents a bird, hunters would go out and kill the adult birds skinning them, leaving the babies in their nest to be attacked or starve to death. Five million birds were being killed every year including 95% of Florida's shorebirds. The Snowy Egrets, among others almost became extinct... just for fashion. In 1914 the passenger pigeon did become extinct, just for its tail feathers.

On August 16, 1916 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was signed. This treaty brought awareness and understanding of the importance of bird conservation and the need to protect and manage the bird populations and their habitats.



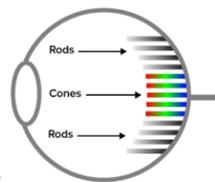
## Did You Know.....



Owls see mostly in black and white. There are two major kinds of receptors in their eyes.

They are called rods and cones. Just like the owl's eyes, humans also have these same receptors.

The cones let us see color and the rods black and white. The rods are also more sensitive to light.



Owls have more rod receptors than humans do so they lose their color vision. Their eyes are large so they can pick up more light rays. Just these two things can make their night vision exceptional. In dim light, an owl can see up to 100 times better than humans.

## Boy Scouts

Recently we had two Eagle Scout Service Projects here at The Avian Reconditioning Center. The Eagle Scout Service Project demonstrates leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of the scout's community.

Cameron Auclair's project was building an educational eagle display. Cameron along with Troop number 78 did a great job. We will now be able to display 3 eagles at a time.



Mike Saunders' Eagle Scout project was water management. Trenches were dug and pipes were laid to make water accessible to every mew. This is such a great help and makes taking care of the birds on a daily basis so much easier.



We appreciate the scouts and the time and effort they put into their projects.

## Staying Connected

Here are some great web sites to follow ARC. They provide up-to-date information on our birds, event information and behind the-scenes photographs.

[www.arc4raptors.org](http://www.arc4raptors.org)  
[www.facebook.com/arc4raptors](https://www.facebook.com/arc4raptors)  
[instagram.com/arc4raptors](https://www.instagram.com/arc4raptors)

When you do your online shopping at Amazon, you can also help ARC by clicking on our link [arc4raptors.org/amazon](https://www.arc4raptors.org/amazon) and following the prompts. Through our partnership with Amazon.com, ARC will receive a 6% donation on all purchases made by shoppers using this link.

Sponsor the care of your favorite resident bird through ARC's Adopt-a-Bird sponsorship program at [www.arc4raptors.org/adopt-a-bird.html](https://www.arc4raptors.org/adopt-a-bird.html)

The Nest Box Resource Store is open on Saturday from 10am – 4pm offering a large selection of raptor-themed items, books, cards, T-shirts, jewelry and toys. All proceeds go directly to ARC.

As ARC continues to grow, we need your help! We are looking for volunteers on Saturdays between 9:30am - 4:00pm. and on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:30am - 1:00pm. We require a minimum of 3 hours each visit. No animal experience is necessary, only a desire to learn and assist. You must be 14 years or older. Spread your wings and join the ARC family today! Call 407-461-1056 today to learn how a few hours of your time can make a big difference.



## Upcoming Events

ARC is open to the public Saturdays from 10am to 4pm (weather permitting). Summer hours begin in June and July when we close at 1pm. We are closed to the public during the month of August, however there is always someone on call to accept injured raptors. If you are bringing an injured bird, please call ahead. Keep our summer hours in mind when you plan to visit.

**Go Fly a Kite / International Migratory Bird Day - May 14, 2016**  
 10am-3pm. Come out to ARC and learn about laws protecting our migratory birds. Also celebrate the return of the Swallow Tailed Kite. Feel free to bring your own kite and fly it (we always have plenty of wind ☺)

**American Eagle Day - June 18<sup>th</sup> 10am – 1pm**  
 Put on your red, white, and blue and come celebrate. This day is extra special. It recognizes our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Take your picture with one of our eagles and consider sponsoring Ike, Windy or Stormy through the adopt-a-bird program. Lite refreshments - cold lemonade and watermelon will be available.

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Owl Fest - November 12, 2016**  
 Mark your calendars! We are always looking for non-profit organizations and eco-conscious vendors who are interested in participating in our annual event. For more information, please email [arc4raptors@gmail.com](mailto:arc4raptors@gmail.com).



*The Avian Reconditioning Center is a specialized raptor rehabilitation facility where large outdoor enclosures and the use of falconry techniques provide a more natural environment for physical conditioning and weather proofing of orphaned and recuperating raptors.*

*State and Federal Wildlife Permits; 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation*

**Patron Reply Form** – Please consider becoming a “Patron of the ARC.” All monies donated are used entirely for the birds’ welfare.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Wings of Copper  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Wings of Bronze  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Wings of Silver  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 Wings of Gold  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00+ Wings of Platinum

The Avian Reconditioning Center is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Donors may deduct all contributions as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll free 800-435-7352. State Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendations by the state.