

# On the Horizon



## Horizon Wings Newsletter – Fall 2011

[www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org)

Welcome to Horizon Wings' quarterly 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 Eyes Have It

On October 22, four pairs of owl eyes peered out of the cool, crisp Autumn night to greet the over 175 participants of Horizon Wings' first annual "Owl Prowl". The grounds of Horizon Wings had been transformed into a magical forest, with cobwebs, scarecrows, and lighted jack-o-lanterns intricately carved with original owl designs. The stars of the evening were our very own resident owls: Herkimer, the Eastern Screech Owl; Emrys, the Barred Owl, Oscar, the Great Horned Owl and Silo, the Barn Owl. Childrens' eyes were wide with wonder, peering out from under their various owl-themed knitted caps as they reached each strategically located owl station. For many children, as well as some adults, this was a first encounter with live owls.

In small groups, those attending the festivities had the opportunity to follow lighted paths to four different clearings in which four species of owls awaited on the gloves of their handlers. In this intimate setting, they heard about the characteristics and behavior of each particular species, and about each owl's inspiring story of survival. One of the highlights of the evening came with an unexpected visit from a wild Barred Owl who flew down and landed in a tree next to Emrys and his handler. Adults and children alike delighted in being silent witnesses to this vocal interchange between the two owls.



Many children and adults visited the educational booth, where they could discover more about the mysterious lives of owls through educational materials, recordings, live demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Then they went to the refreshment area to enjoy hot cider and hot cocoa along with all types of homemade baked goods, including specially decorated owl cookies. At the end of the evening, many lucky raffle winners were called to claim their prizes. People went home with a variety of unique owl-related items, including owl jewelry, books, stuffed animals, nest box, potholders and tea towels, and many more. One of the prizes was a beautiful owl mask, designed and hand-painted by our resident artist and volunteer, Brenda Lyons.

Funds raised from this event will be used towards the future installation of electricity and water to the aviaries. This would allow us to accommodate the needs of those birds such as the Barn Owl, the American Kestrels, and the Barred Owl with one wing, who require additional heat during the winter months. Providing electricity out to the aviaries will eliminate having to move them to on-site shelters in the winter. And sensor lighting will allow for additional safety when returning birds to their aviaries after returning from educational programs in the dark.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Owl Prowl such a success. We enjoyed meeting so many people who are new to the Horizon Wings family, and look forward to seeing you at future events.

*Written by Patricia Cebrelli*

### Thank You!

Horizon Wings would like to thank :

The Last Green Valley for awarding Horizon Wings their 2011 Friend of the Valley Award.

Bolton Veterinary Hospital, and Tufts Wildlife Clinic for their compassion, and care of the raptors who come through our doors.

Paul Watson for his accounting services, Vern Ellis for his printing services and Paulien Rorick for our website

And thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to donate towards the care of our birds.

## Just in Time for the Holidays – Horizon Wings 2012 Donations, Calendars and Adoptions!

Monetary donations are a wonderful gift to give this season to our many birds who need your help. Funds will be used for medical supplies and aviary-building materials, as well as going towards our goal of bringing water and electricity to the aviaries. Contact us at [horizonwings@gmail.com](mailto:horizonwings@gmail.com) to find out how you can help. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your donations are tax-deductible.

In addition with a donation of \$25.00 or more you will receive a 2012 Horizon Wings calendar featuring the birds of Horizon Wings.



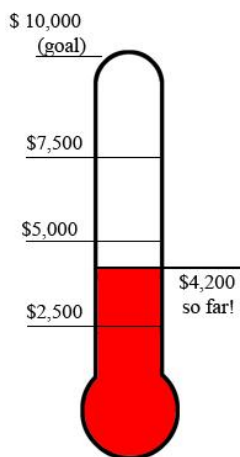
### Wishlist:

- Pre-fabricated shed (8 X 10 feet)
- Lumber
- Cordless power tools
- Vinyl coated wire
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Postage stamps
- Paper towels
- Astro-turf
- Pea stone

### Adopt a Bird

Looking for the perfect gift for friends or family? Why not adopt a raptor? You can sponsor one of our magnificent birds (or our mascot "Beamer") to help subsidize the cost of their daily care. This includes medical cost, aviary repair and construction, and feeding.

In return you will receive an 8x10 photograph of your bird along with an adoption certificate and their biography. Visit [www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org) for more information.



Water and Electricity Goal

## New and Improved



enabled us to accomplish a great deal this summer.

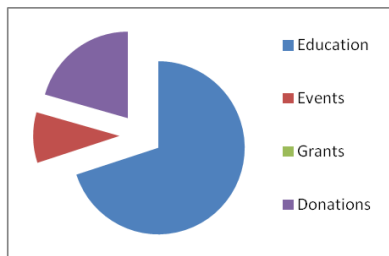
This has been Horizon Wings' busiest summer for expansions and improvements, made possible in great part by the wonderful people who attend our events and support our mission with raptors. Private donations, both great and small, and money raised from our Earth Day Fair,

Following the whirlwind construction of our new eagle aviary in April (see our Summer newsletter), we knew it was time to tackle the smaller, yet much-needed improvement projects on our to-do list. The first task was to build a new aviary to house our Eastern Screech Owl, Herkimer. Herk's old aviary would become Spirit's new home, and by mid- August we had completed a new 6'x10' aviary for the Screech Owl, and the switch was made. Both seem very pleased with their new accommodations.

Next on the list was the complete refurbishment of the double aviary housing our American Kestrels. Volunteers Jeanne Wadsworth and Sandy Vinton spent their Labor Day weekend helping strip, repaint, and replace aging plywood and wire to make this aviary look better than new.

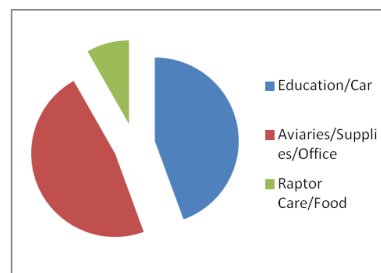
The following weekend brought no rest to our intrepid crew, as *(continued next page)*

## Horizon Wings 2011 Fiscal Report



### Income:

Education: \$21,203  
 Events: \$2,874  
 Grants: \$0  
 Donations: \$6,233  
 Corporation Donation: \$0  
Total Income: \$30,310



### Expenses:

Education/Car: \$12,356  
 Aviaries/Supplies/Office: \$13,168  
 Raptor Care/Food: \$2,293  
Total Expenses: \$27,817



## Welcome, Corbin!

One day in May, Mary-Beth and Jeanne went on a wildlife rescue call for an injured crow. When they got there they chased an adult crow through someone's backyard and woods. Unfortunately, its injuries were too severe for it to survive. On the way back from the call they were feeling pretty bad, and Mary-Beth mentioned that it would be so much fun to get in a young crow so Horizon Wings could have a new educational bird. *(continued next page)*

Later that evening, while they were going to release a Great horned owl in Manchester they received a call from a woman about an injured young crow. She just happened to live about 1 mile from where

they were releasing the owl and agreed to meet them. When she got there they saw a tiny little black crow with a crushed shoulder, injured leg and talon marks on its chest. The woman was in her house and heard the crows screaming at something. When she went outside she saw the adult crows chasing a hawk away but it had a baby crow in its talons. They were able to scare the hawk into dropping the baby and the woman went to rescue it.

After arriving at Horizon Wings we weren't sure if the little crow was going to make it the first few days. He was in intensive care for several days and each day he fought to get better and showed improvement. He needed to have his wing wrapped and the talon wounds treated. When we got him he was only about 3 ½ - 4 weeks of age. This was still a very young age and still in the timeframe when the crow could imprint on a human, which means that it will imprint on whoever is raising him. Mary-Beth and Jeanne took turns raising him. He was fed, cleaned, re-banded, and most importantly talked to him several times a day. He would recognize their voices and start calling to them when he was hungry. Finally the wing was healed enough to permanently remove the bandage. The little crow started coming outside with them and hopping around.

Mary-Beth named the little crow, Corbin. It means little black bird - very fitting. It seemed like fate that Corbin had come to us.

As Corbin got bigger, he needed to be put into an outside aviary. Anklets were also put on him so that he could be trained to sit on a glove for educational programs. During his training, he received a lot of love and peanuts. He was taught how to transfer on the glove from one handler to another. He was also trained to go into a travel carrier. Corbin made his debut on Channel 12's Pet Talk. He was a pro!



Corbin gets a lot of attention from the volunteers' everyday to keep him socially active. He has several toys in his aviary and loves to cache his treats everywhere. He is always sitting on his perch waiting for us to bring him peanuts and to have a quick conversation with him. Corbin is now available to do educational programs and teach everyone about crows' intelligence and family social structure. They are very amazing birds! Horizon Wings is very lucky and extremely happy to have this little black bird.

*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

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## Spirit – Our Newest Arrival

Spirit, a young male American Kestrel, came from Bradley International airport. In the Fall of 2010 he was found caught in a hangar door by his wing. It is believed that he was chasing his prey, possibly a large insect into the hangar and he was caught in the door as it was closing. A portion of his wing was actually amputated by the door. He was taken to another wildlife rehabilitator who appropriately named him for his "spirited" nature.



Kisra, our female American kestrel has been doing educational programs for the past 12 years. We have been talking about giving her a break by semi-retiring her from the off-site programs, but we had one problem: we didn't have another kestrel for education. Because these birds are on the threatened list in Connecticut, we thought it was extremely important for Horizon Wings to have a kestrel for education. That all changed in June 2011 when Spirit arrived at Horizon Wings.

When Spirit came to us in June of 2011 he needed to learn to get used to anklets which we put on him so we could work with him on sitting on a glove. He was a little nervous at first but quickly learned. We worked with him through the summer and by early fall he was ready for his big debut. Spirit debuted at the Norwich Agway. We currently bring both Kisra and Spirit to programs so we can show everyone both the size and color differences between the male and female kestrels. Spirit is very curious and will sit calmly on the glove bobbing his head for the audience. What a great educational bird he is making; we are very thankful to have him at Horizon Wings.

*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*

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(Continued from page 2) there was another large project afoot. Horizon Wings had been approached by Jonathon Osman, from Boy Scout troop 57 in East Hartford, CT to oversee an Eagle Scout project. We gave him the task of adding an 8'x8' addition to one of our existing aviaries to become the new home for Chico, our Broad-winged Hawk. Under the guidance of Horizon Wings staff Alan and Sandy, and with the help of some of his fellow scouts, Jonathon endured the rain and muddy conditions to give Chico a much improved environment in which to live. We hope the project was a learning experience for all.

In addition to these three on-site projects, Alan, our aviary designer and builder, along with the tireless help of his "apprentices" Jeanne and Sandy, built two new aviaries at the homes of two of our volunteers, who are wildlife rehabilitators in the process of applying for their federal licenses. These 8'x10' enclosures were completed for Jeanne Wadsworth and Patricia Cebrelli to help with the large influx of rehab birds that come to us for help in Spring and Summer.

As the holidays approach, we at Horizon Wings are mindful of how fortunate we are to have such a loyal, caring, and committed support base. With your help, we look forward to facing the challenges and opportunities of the new year. We would like to thank you in advance for your continued support.

*Written by Alan Nordell*

Would you like to help Horizon Wings? Fill this form out and mail back with a donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our email mailing list? Yes  No

Mail to:

Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education  
P.O. Box 238  
Ashford, CT 06278

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*Newsletter Editor: Patricia Cebrelli*

*Newsletter Designer: Brenda Lyons*

**Did you know? Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education is on Facebook! Visit us for current news, photos, and information on upcoming programs.**

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