

# On the Horizon



Winter/Spring 2020 Edition

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

## COVID-19

The Spring of 2020 has brought us many different things. Some were expected and welcome, like owlets in need of rescue; and some not so expected and not so welcome, like the cold windy weather, along with the COVID-19 virus.

This has proven to be a challenging time for many of us. Some have lost jobs, while others struggle to work from home while helping their children learn online. Some have lost their lives or loved ones.

So many of you have reached out with your kind and caring thoughts and generous donations. We want to say thank you for your support at this difficult time. Stay safe and stay well. Blessings from all of us at Horizon Wings.



THANK  
YOU



*Mary-Beth & Hatch*

STAY  
SAFE

# Re-nesting

On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, Horizon Wings received a text from the Foreman at Wickham Park, Kevin Gifford. Included in the text were pictures of 2 Great-horned owlets he had found on the ground. Both parents were seen nearby guarding their young. The nest was not far from where they were spotted. Kevin was asked to put the young in a safe area until we could arrive.

Upon arrival, the situation was assessed and it was quickly decided to re-nest these two young in the area. We used a make shift nest, as the original was falling apart. Along with us, was Tomas Koeck, a student from Sacred Heart University and photojournalist for Vision Project. Tomas had his camera ready to document the re-nesting.

With Kevin's help, we placed a ladder on a nearby tree. Mary-Beth climbed the ladder and secured a large wicker basket in its branches. Then, under the watchful eye of the parents, the owlets were placed in a secure carrier and brought up to their new nest. They settled in nicely, with the larger of the two deciding to sit on the branch at the edge of the nest.



*Photo by Tomas Koeck*



*Photo by Mary-Beth Kaeser*

Later that evening we received another call from Tomas. A third owlet had just been spotted in the old nest, some 90 feet up in an old pine tree! We then called Rocco Massaro, owner of Arborist Tree Care Services LLC, located in Tolland. Rocco gladly offered his help and met us at the park bright and early the next morning.

Without wasting any time, Rocco scaled the old pine and brought the owlet safely down. Once again, under the watchful eye of the mother owl, Mary-Beth climbed the ladder to place the third owlet with its siblings.

Tended by both parents, the three owlets thrived in their new nest. Park staff and Tomas Koeck also kept watch on these young owls to ensure their safety. By April 7<sup>th</sup>, all the owlets had successfully fledged, leaving the nest on their own. The parents were still seen in the area caring for them.



*Photo by Tomas Koeck*

We wish to thank Kevin, Tomas, and Rocco for all their help with the successful re-nesting of these owlets.

*Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser*

# Foster Parenting



*Photo by Mary-Beth Kaeser*

Re-nesting, or reuniting any young bird (or mammal), is what's best.

While, as humans, we can strive to do our best to not imprint a young animal and to teach it to be wild, nothing can truly compare to the benefits of being raised in the wild by its own parents.

In some cases, though, it does pay to have a surrogate on hand. And that is exactly what our Great-horned owl, "Oscar" is doing for two injured owlets.

Both young owls sustained wing injuries when falling, or being blown from their nests. While they are healing well, they still need some time to become stronger before being returned to their nest sites and parents.

We were asked by their veterinarians if the young could stay with Oscar while regaining their strength. Oscar will provide them with adult companionship, teaching them the ways of a Great-horned owl until such time that they can be reunited with their parents.

*Written by Mary-Beth Kaeser*

## Virtual Programming & Tours

As a result of the current restrictions of large gatherings during this pandemic, we are now offering new virtual programs and tours.



These programs are 30 minutes long including 3 of our ambassadors.

The tours are for small groups based on the current state regulations.

Please see our website for more details.

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



## 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
- Amazon ([https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3N5861N6S4TC1/ref=cm\\_go\\_nav\\_hz](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3N5861N6S4TC1/ref=cm_go_nav_hz))

*Please support your local merchants whenever possible!*

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