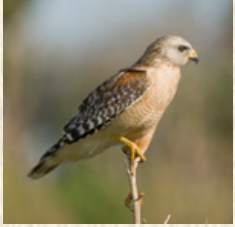


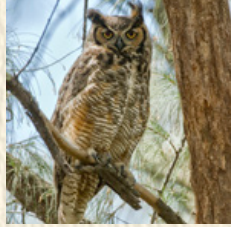
A Guide to Florida Raptors



Red-shouldered Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



Great Horned Owl



Barred Owl



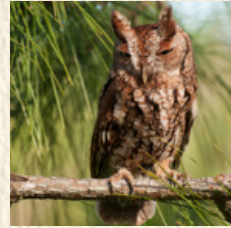
Cooper's Hawk



American Kestrel



Barn Owl



Eastern Screech Owl



Osprey



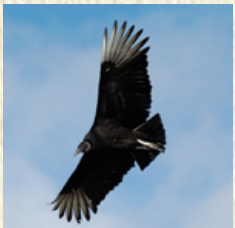
Bald Eagle



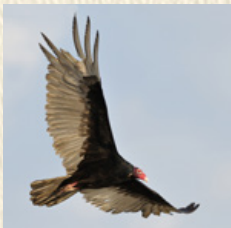
Merlin
(winter)



Peregrine Falcon
(winter)



Black Vulture



Turkey Vulture



Swallow-tailed Kite



Crested Caracara

How Can You Help?

Donate

Volunteer

Help us build The Raptor Center of Tampa Bay

Contact Us

Hillsborough County 813-205-1851

Pinellas County 727-798-2385

Polk County 863-797-7374

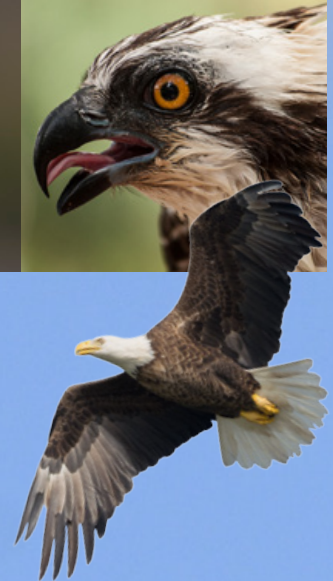
www.tampabayraptorrescue.org



Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue

Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue is a nonprofit [501(c)(3)] organization.

 Tampa Bay
Raptor Rescue



RESCUE · REHABILITATION · RELEASE

www.tampabayraptorrescue.org

Who are we?

Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue is a federally and state permitted facility for the rehabilitation of birds of prey. The organization is part of a large network of licensed wildlife rehabilitators that serve the public need for avian rescue in the Tampa Bay area and beyond.



Members of Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue are committed to best practices and only work with federally and state permitted rehabilitation centers that adhere to national best standards. We work with several local veterinary clinics as well as Busch Gardens Animal Care Center.

As a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we rely on public donations, corporate sponsorships and fundraising events to fulfill our mission.

While our main goal is the prompt rescue and rehabilitation of raptors, we help rescue and locate the proper care for a variety of species thanks to cooperation with other rehabilitation facilities in Central Florida. As part of our mission, we devote great time to educate the general public on the prevention of avian mortality, working in conjunction with utility companies and wildlife agencies to protect our birds of prey.



Some of our volunteers during a training session.

What we do?

Our volunteers are trained as first responders to wildlife emergencies involving birds. Once rescued, the birds are medically assessed for injuries, poisoning or sickness and are given the necessary medical treatment. Once stable and able to feed on their own, birds are transferred to outside enclosures where they can continue their recovery. As soon as the birds are in flying condition, they are returned to the wild in the area where they were found. This increases the chances for mating pairs to be reunited and young birds to follow their parents.



Orphaned baby birds are re-nested whenever possible because, as we all know, nobody can do a better job at raising a baby bird than its parents. For those that can't be relocated, we make our best effort to provide excellent care which sometimes includes the use of captive foster parents from other rehabilitation facilities.

What are some causes of bird injuries?

Most injuries and accidents suffered by birds are of anthropogenic origin - caused directly or indirectly by humans. Just like humans, birds in the wild are also exposed to naturally occurring diseases such as avian pox, avian encephalitis, West Nile Virus and aspergilliosis.

Below are some of the most common causes of injuries:

- Collision with vehicles
- Collision with power lines
- Fishing line entanglement
- Attacks by domestic animals (cats & dogs)
- Electrocution
- Collision with glass windows
- Pesticides (secondary poisoning)
- Illegal shooting
- Burns cause by methane burners (used at landfills)
- Territorial fights

How to tell if a bird needs help?

There are several factors that could affect a bird's ability to fly including: broken wing, electrocution, sickness, head or blunt trauma and poisoning. A bird with a broken wing usually can be approached fairly close or will try to fly away without success. Sick or poisoned birds do not respond much to your presence and/or show little mobility. Any type of entanglement is highly dangerous for birds; do not cut the fishing line if a bird is hooked. Reel the bird slowly and call us for help and instructions.



Not all baby birds need help, in fact fledgling (birds that have left the nest) songbirds are usually flightless for some time and are known as "branchers". In most cases, placing them on a nearby tree away from the ground is all they need to increase their survival by avoiding predation from cats or dogs. Many birds are ground nesters and their babies spend a lot of time walking on the ground before they can fly.

What to do if you see an injured or sick bird

Always exercise caution when rescuing wild birds to prevent further injury. Be aware of your surroundings before taking action; reduce any risk for you or the bird. Wear gloves whenever possible. Raptors have sharp beaks and powerful talons.

- Raptors: throw a large towel or blanket over the bird to reduce visual stimulation, then quickly grab the bird by tucking the wings against its body and transfer to a box with plenty of breathing holes.
- Baby Birds: place the birds in a small container lined with paper towels and cover with a small towel. Baby birds don't fall too far from their nest. Look around for the distressed parents and try to locate the nest.
- Do not attempt to give the bird food or water. Call **Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue** immediately. Keep it in a dark, warm environment (75-80°).