

KNOX MARTIN

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

MID-SOUTH RAPTOR CENTER

Knox Martin has been involved with birds since he was in grammar school. At one time he raised and sold finches and had well over 200 pair representing some 25 species of African and Australian birds. He also was able to purchase a rare Mealey Amazon parrot that he still has over 40 years later.

Knox became involved with birds of prey when he joined the staff of the Memphis Zoo & Aquarium in 1987. The Raptor Rehabilitation Program at the zoo was at that time almost 10 years old, and Knox began volunteering with the care of the injured and orphaned birds. Within a few years he was Coordinator of the program, and for the next 15 years he saw the program grow to one of the largest rehabilitation programs in the Mid-South, with over 200 birds seen each year. He also was responsible for presenting educational programs around the tri-state area for schools, churches, civic organizations, and conservation groups.

When the zoo ended the rehabilitation program Knox found it necessary to look for other avenues, and as a result, the Mid-South Raptor Center was born. First in partnership with his friend David Hannon, DVM and the Exotic Animal Rescue League, and later on his own, Martin and his group of dedicated volunteers have built a new center on the grounds of Agricenter International. While it is still a “work in progress”, the center is well on its way to being one of the finest rehab centers in the area.

Knox is a member of several national and international conservation and rehabilitation groups including:

- National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (past member of the Board of Directors).
- International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.
- Tennessee Wildlife Educators & Rehabilitators Association.
- Tennessee Ornithological Society (past state officer)
- National Audubon Society
- American Association of Zookeepers
- Sierra Club
- American Birding Association