



M I D - S O U T H
R A P T O R
C E N T E R

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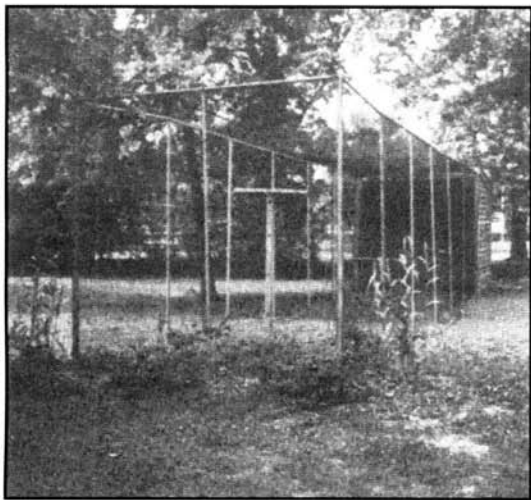
Facilities (Nest-Away-From-Nest)

The Mid-South Raptor Center serves the raptor rehabilitation needs of West Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas, and Northern Mississippi, as well as parts of Alabama and Kentucky. Over 20 cages devoted to rehabilitation are located in several areas throughout the facility.

The smallest of these cages is 3'x3' and holds raptors the size of smaller owls and accipiters.

Next in size are the 8'x10' cages, which hold intermediate-size raptors like small hawks, kites, or kestrels.

The largest of the cages are 12'x24' and 12'x100' flight cages for eagles and other large raptors that are in need of extended periods of exercise.



The Mid-South Raptor Center is located on the grounds of Agricenter International, the world's largest urban farm and research test facility, in the center of Memphis. Agricenter International has been a generous supporter of the raptor center since it was founded, and its' staff, Board of Directors, and Agricenter Commission continue to give valuable support on a regular basis. It is safe to say that without their efforts on our behalf there would be no raptor center today.

Medical Facilities

The medical facilities at the center are among the best and most-up-to-date in the Mid-South. Wildlife veterinarian David Hannon and his staff are available to treat emergency cases 7 days a week.

If necessary, birds can be sent to the veterinary school at Mississippi State University for special care or treatment. They are then returned to Memphis for rehabilitation and release.

Birds are treated for a wide variety of problems, including broken bones; accidents involving cars, utility wires, or posts; contamination from oil spills; random poisoning; gunshots; and any other of a number of medical problems that may arise.



Another major aspect of the Raptor Center is the foster care given to orphaned and abandoned raptor chicks.

Each spring sees many helpless babies coming to the center for care. Many of these chicks are only hours old and need constant care for several weeks. Starting in early January and running until June, some 40 to 50 chicks will pass through the program.

As soon as the chicks are able to eat on their own, they are taught to kill live food. When they are able to do this, they are taken to the country and released. For future monitoring, a special United States Fish & Wildlife Service band is attached to each bird's leg.



One of the most important functions of the Raptor Center lies in the field of education. Each year, from 75 to over 100 programs---which deal not only with rehabilitation but also with raptors in general---are given for Mid-South schools, churches, synagogues, civic organizations, and scout troops.

Local and regional newspapers and periodicals, as well as television stations, feature stories about the program.

Annually, over 10,000 people have the opportunity to not only see live birds at close range, but also to learn about raptors and their place and function in the ecosystem.



Mid-South Raptor Network

The Mid-South Raptor Center is really only one part of a much larger network of private individuals, bird organizations, and local, state and federal agencies that work together to protect and aid raptors. The program works closely in all aspects of raptor management with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Mississippi Game & Fish Commission, Tennessee Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.



Locally, the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Memphis Chapter of the National Audubon Society, the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, and Lichterman Nature Center offer much-needed help. Many concerned individuals offer volunteer help ranging from cage cleaning and mouse feeding to repairs and the pickup or release of injured or recovered raptors. Many dedicated Raptor Center volunteers give valuable assistance to the program.



The Mid-South Raptor Center was established to serve the needs of raptors (birds of prey) in Memphis and the Mid-South area.

In the past 20 years over 3,000 sick and injured birds as well as many orphans have been helped by center founder Knox Martin. All species of raptors in the area have been seen, including the following well-known and not-so-well-known species:

- Red-tailed Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Great horned Owl
- Screech Owl
- Barred Owl
- Barn Owl
- American Kestrel
- Mississippi Kite

- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Saw-whet Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Bald Eagle
- Golden Eagle

Rare falcons and other migratory birds that pass through this area have also visited the Mid-South Raptor Center.



Non-Releasable Birds of Prey

Not all birds that come to the program are able to be released. Rare birds are placed in captive breeding programs as far away as Canada. More common birds are placed in educational programs at other rehabilitation sites and state parks around the country. Memphis birds have found homes in New Hampshire, Maine, Minnesota, and all area state parks. Lichterman Nature Center and the Memphis Pink Palace Museum also have Memphis birds in their educational programs.



Time is Most Important!

Bring to the Raptor Center as soon as possible any sick or injured raptor that you might find. If you are unable to transport the bird yourself, call the center for pickup by a qualified center volunteer. You may also call the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency 1.800.372.3928 for the name of your local TWRA agent or game warden to assist you in transporting the bird to the Raptor Center.

