

NOCTURNAL RAPTORS



Eastern Screech-Owl
Megascops asio

“Peanut”

Peanut's age is unknown, but he is estimated to have hatched around 2002. He (presumably a male) is a rehabilitation bird from Auburn University's Southeastern Raptor Rehab Center. He was shot with a BB gun leading to the surgical removal of his left eye. Peanut is very much a wild bird, but has made excellent strides toward being content in captivity. He is non-releasable because of his injury. Screech owls have two color phases, grey and red. Peanut is a gray phase Screech-Owl.



Eastern Screech-Owl
Megascops asio

“Uno”

Uno's age is unknown, but is estimated to have hatched around 2002. He (presumably a male) was acquired by Ruffner Mountain Nature Center as an injured wild bird, most likely from a car collision. He cannot be released and was transferred to the Alabama 4-H Center in 2009. Uno is the red phase Screech-Owl.



Great Horned Owl
Bubo virginianus

“Catalina”

Catalina, originally from California, hatched in the Spring of 2008. She is an illegally imprinted bird that was brought to the Ojai Nature Center in California when her “caretakers” realized that she would not return to the wild. In Fall of 2008, Catalina was brought to the 4-H Center and is training to be part of the “flighted” bird program. Great horned owls get their name from their large tufts of feathers, “ear tufts”, on their head.



Great Horned Owl
Bubo virginianus

“Sunny”

Sunny’s age is also unknown, but she is estimated to have hatched around 2000. She is a wild bird that was brought to Oak Mountain Wildlife Center for treatment after being hit by a car. She has had a partial right wing amputation and cannot fly, making her non-releasable back into the wild. Sunny’s story is all too common among raptor species and highlights the importance of not throwing food onto roadways that will draw rodents in and lead to injuries higher up the food chain.



Eurasian Eagle Owl
Bubo bubo

“Risky”

Risky, named after “Risky’s” restaurant in Ft. Worth, Texas, hatched at the Wild Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis, Missouri in 2005. She was reared in captivity for use in education programs at the Kelley Bartlett Conservancy in Pike Road, AL from just a few days old and joined the 4-H Center in 2008. Eurasian Eagle Owls are native to Northern Europe and Asia and are the largest owls in the world. They will consume prey as large as they are, including a young deer if the opportunity arises.



Hybrid Eagle Owl
Bubo africanus x Bubo cinerascens

“Mendel”

Mendel hatched on May 5th, 2008 at the Center for Birds of Prey in Charleston, SC and has been at the Center since the end of June, 2008. He is the first of our new “flighted” bird collection and is successful with flights up to 50 feet when at his flight weight. Mendel was hand reared in captivity and is imprinted for use in education programs. He is a hybrid owl crossed between a Vermiculated Eagle Owl (dad) and an African Spotted Eagle Owl (mom).

DIURNAL RAPTORS



Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis

“Sequoia”

Sequoia hatched in Spring of 2008. He is an illegally imprinted bird, brought to the Ojai Nature Center in Los Angeles, CA for care when he would not return to the wild. In the Fall of 2008 he joined the Alabama 4-H Center where he is trained to free fly for education programs. Red-tailed Hawks are a common species, found on every continent of the planet except Antarctica. They are generalists and will feed on just about any form of meat they can catch with their powerful feet.



Hybrid Lanner/Saker Falcon
Falco biarmicus x Falco cherrug

“Whisper”

Whisper hatched in the Spring of 2004 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was sent to the Kelley Bartlett Conservancy (Pike Road, AL) at just a few days old and was donated to the Alabama 4-H Center in the Fall of 2008. Whisper is a hybrid falcon bred in captivity for education programs and falconry. She is fully flighted and used in our education programs both on and off site. Falcons are the fastest animals on the planet. Peregrine falcons, native to the United States, have been clocked at speeds greater than 200 mph.



Black Vulture
Coragypus atratus

“Vanderbilt”

Vanderbilt hatched in 2004 in Columbus, GA. She came to the 4-H Center from Oxbow Meadows in late 2008. She is an imprinted bird that is non-releasable. Currently, she is in training for educational programs. Resident Black Vultures can be seen soaring all over the Southeastern United State and quite a few call the AL 4-H Center home.