

# Soarin' Hawk Educational Birds Histories

Updated 2021

## OWLS

### Eastern Screech Owls

#### **Houdini** - Gray Phases Eastern Screech Owl

Eastern Screech Owls are unique among raptors in that they come in two different colors or phases as they are called. Houdini is a grey phase.

In 2009, Houdini came to Soarin' Hawk from Barbie Lake in Warsaw, Indiana. As with all of our education birds, he is non-releasable. He probably ran into something (a window, etc.) or something ran into him (like a car) since he came into Soarin' Hawk with head and eye trauma. He recovered with the exception of being blind in one eye. Since they hunt live prey, they need both eyes for good depth perception to be able to be released.

Houdini is very relaxed during education programs, and often even seems bored!

In 2019, Houdini started developing a cataract in his good eye. He had surgery to repair the eye and he can see much better now!

#### **Puck**, Gray Phase Eastern Screech Owl

Puck came to Soarin' Hawk on 3/19/2019 from LaOtto, IN. Puck was found on the side of the road after getting hit by a car. He had a fractured right radius and ulna and blood in his eye. After examining him further, he was found to have poor vision in both eyes. He was added to our education permits on 6/6/2019.

Puck spent a few months at a volunteer's house, getting trained to the glove, and prior to becoming a permanent resident at the pens.

He is an extremely gentle, sweet bird and is an excellent educational bird, despite not having much experience with presentations.

This is what our volunteer has to say about him: "He is a very sweet bird, very easy to train but has a mischievous attitude. I picked the name Puck, after the clever mischievous wood sprite in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Puck is our sweetest screech owl. He has a very mellow personality and is often the first bird that volunteers train on for presentations.

#### **Frankie**: Gray Phase Eastern Screech Owl

Frankie came to Soarin' Hawk on 11/21/2018. He was found in a cavity of a tree when someone, contracted by Duke Energy, cut the tree down and he fell twenty-five feet to the ground. This resulted in a fracture of his left metacarpus (similar to a bone in our

hand). The bone could not be repaired, leaving him unable to fly. He was added to our education permits on 6/6/2019.

Prior to becoming a permanent resident at the pens, he spent months at a volunteer's home, getting trained to the glove. He's named Frankie because he is a very vocal screech owl and was named after Frank Sinatra.

Frankie is feisty, and bites and attacks the glove when offered to perch.

### **Short-eared Owls**

Short-eared owls are on Indiana's endangered list which means their prospect "for survival or recruitment within the state are in immediate jeopardy and are in danger of disappearing from" Indiana. We are fortunate to have two Short-eared Owls as education birds so we can tell people the importance of raptors and protecting their environment.

#### **Sherman:**

Sherman came from our friend wildlife rehabber Ken Groves and is one of our original three education birds. Sherman had an encounter with an airplane and did not fare well. Short-eared Owls hunt in open fields and plains, so it is no surprise that they like to hunt in the well groomed areas around the planes' runways. Fortunately for Sherman she didn't die in the encounter, but she did lose part of the end of one wing. She was added to our education permit in 2008.

In 2019, we found out through a DNA test, that Sherman is a female! There is not much size difference between the sexes of Short-eared owls, so it was difficult to tell. Sherman has a slightly nervous personality, but does well once she is on the glove for presentations. Short-eared Owls are named for small tufts of feathers on the top of their head that they stick straight up when they are relaxed. So watch for the ear tufts to see how relaxed she is or isn't!

#### **Skylar:**

Skylar came to Soarin' Hawk in 2017. She had a collision with a vehicle and fractured the ulna and radius of her left wing. Her wing droop was so severe that the wing was amputated.

### **Barred Owls**

#### **Peabody:**

Peabody has very dark, soulful eyes, as do all Barred Owls. Sometimes it seems he can read your thoughts as he looks at you!

Peabody was picked up by Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control in 2010 and brought to Soarin' Hawk. We could not even begin to rescue so many injured birds without the help

of a vast number of people and agencies, including Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. Most likely, Peabody was hit by a car since he came in with a head tilt and blood inside his eye. He eventually recovered completely except for his eyesight. He is not blind, but his vision is poor; he would not survive in the wild since he needs keen eyesight (and good hearing) to hunt prey.

Peabody is a great education bird and is typically relaxed during the presentations. He shares his pen with Indy, who is also a barred owl.

### **Indy:**

Indy came to Soarin' Hawk in 2016. She was hit by a car on I-69 in Dekalb County and was found by the Indiana Department of Transportation. This is how she got her name. She had lesions inside her left eye that indicated that she may have been blind in that eye for awhile. Her right eye does have some response to light. Indy is much bigger than our other Barred Owl, Peabody, so we are certain that she is a female.

### **Barn Owl**

#### **Monet**

Monet came to us in 2019 from a breeder in Maryland, who breeds birds for purchase. The breeder gave Monet to Soarin' Hawk to help us educate the public about the importance of Barn Owls, and owls in general.

Monet was born in Sept 2019. We got him quite young, so he was raised in a volunteer's house until he is was old enough to live in our pens. Being hand-raised, Monet is very sweet and will sit on anyone's glove.

### **Great Horned Owl**

#### **Athena**

Athena came to SHRR in 2020 as an orphan. She had a DNA test, so we know that she is a female. She came to us with uneven pupils, and old healed fracture of the left humerus and ulna, and poor extension of the left wing.

Athena was hand-raised in a volunteer's home, so she is very well-behaved and will sit on anyone's glove and can be hand-fed.

### **Eurasian Eagle Owl**

#### **Chewie**

Eurasian Eagle Owls are one of the largest owls in the world.

Chewie was gifted to Soarin' Hawk by an anonymous donor. He was purchased from a breeder in Maryland. This bird was brought to Soarin' Hawk when he was two months

old, and was living at a volunteer's home until he was old enough to come out to the pens.

Chewie has removable jesses that need to be taken out and put back in each time he is handled. He will sit on the glove and let you do this.

Because this bird was hand-raised, he is very well-behaved and will sit on anyone's glove and can be hand-fed. He is quite large – larger and heavier than a Great-Horned owl! And you can't miss those orange eyes!

## **American Kestrel**

The American Kestrel is the smallest and most common falcon in North America. American Kestrels are also known as sparrow hawks. Kestrels will eat small birds as well as insects. Kestrels are a common raptor in Indiana. You can often find them perched on wires looking for their next meal! In some parts of the country, kestrel populations are on the decline. You can put up nest boxes to help the kestrels out!

Kestrels are unique among raptors in that there is sexual dimorphism: by looking at them you can tell the difference between the males and females. Kestrels are also some of the most colorful raptors. The tails of the males have one black stripe on the end; the females have black stripes all the way up their tail. Males also have a slate-blue head and wings and a rusty-red back and tail. Females are rusty-red on their wings, back and tail.

### **Homer - Male American Kestrel**

Homer was found in Churubusco in 2011. We will never know what caused his wing injury that left him unable to fly. He is a vocal bird but well behaved once he is on your glove.

### **Tawney - Female American Kestrel**

Tawney came to us in 2016. She was probably hit by a car. When she came to us, her right eye was matted shut. When her eye was cleaned, it revealed extensive damage to the eye. She also had possible brain swelling. She made a miraculous recovery.

### **Georgie – Female American Kestrel**

The sweet girl came to us in 2020 because she was orphaned. Georgie has vision problems, a head tilt, and was probably imprinted on humans when we got her. She will make a great educational bird because she perched on our glove from the day we got her in the pens and her personality is very calm. She was given her name by the family who rescued her!

## **Broad-winged Hawk**

### **Hawkeye**

Hawkeye came to Soarin' Hawk along with many other displaced babies in June of 2012. A huge storm, called a derecho, hit northern Indiana knocking down large number of trees and power lines. As a result of this storm, Soarin' Hawk picked up a record number of immature raptors that were not ready to be on their own. Hawkeye came to us from Aboite Animal Hospital in Fort Wayne. She was almost completely down covered when she arrived. At first we thought she was a Coopers Hawk, by far the most common medium hawk that we take in. As she grew she was correctly identified as a Broad-winged Hawk. And, unfortunately, as she grew it also became evident that her left eye stopped developing. The left eye is smaller than the right and she is blind in her left eye. She was added to our education permit in the fall of 2012. Her calm personality

is a welcome addition to our live education birds. Most times we do not know if a bird is a male or female. However in the case of Hawkeye, we found out after she was named, that she is in fact a female as she has laid eggs in her mew.

Broad-winged Hawks are listed as a “species of concern” in Indiana. This means “Any animal species requiring monitoring because of known/suspected limited abundance or distribution or because of a recent change in legal status or required habitat.” Soarin’ Hawk does not typically receive even one Broad-winged Hawk a year. We are very fortunate to have a Broad-winged Hawk for an education bird.

### **Cooper’s Hawk**

#### **Jett**

This bird came to us in 2020 with questionable peripheral vision, and was lethargic. We don’t know what caused his condition. We suspect that someone had this bird for a while because he acts imprinted on humans.

We are very excited to have this bird for an educational bird because Cooper’s hawks are very high strung and excitable, and would not be likely to sit on a glove. This bird flew to us in his mew from the first day we got him. He now flies to our glove and can be fed by hand. He sits very well on the glove.

### **Harris Hawk**

#### **Sheyenne**

Sheyenne came to us in late fall 2017 and was added to our permits in 2018. She was originally a falconer’s bird. During one of her training sessions, she landed on an electric pole and got electrocuted. The electricity went through her feet and came out through her wings. This left her with severe burns on the bottom of her feet, which took a year to heal. Her wings had to be amputated from the wrist.

Her species is found in the desert southwest and hunt and live together in family units much like wolves do. We are fortunate to have a non-native species like her in our educational line up. Sheyenne is an entertaining bird because she enjoys conversing with her handlers.

### **Red Tailed Hawk**

#### **Ruby**

Ruby is the sweetest, most easy going of our education birds. She loves to be out in the public and is even known to relax and preen (rearrange and oil her feathers) while at a program.

What caused her original injuries, we will never know. She came from another wildlife rehabber, Ken Groves, in Warren, Indiana. She had a crop injury that required several surgeries and it quickly became apparent that she had very poor vision. Ken thought

she would make a great education bird for someone, so he patiently hand fed her as she recovered. She is non-releasable due to her persistent poor vision. You may notice her moving her head around differently from the other education birds as she tries to focus on everything!

Ruby is one of the few that we know her age. Red-tailed hawks don't get their red tail until they are three years old and Ruby came to us with the characteristic brown juvenile tail. So her estimated date of birth is the spring of 2006. Ruby also is rare in that she has a couple of white tail feathers instead of the typical red. Ruby is one of our three original education birds and was added to our permits in 2008. We do believe Ruby is a female due to her large size: female raptors are larger than males.

## **Orion**

Orion came to us in August 2015 from Markle, Indiana. She had been sitting on a window sill and screaming to the people inside the house. Suspecting that something was amiss with the bird, they called Soarin' Hawk. Upon her capture, we discovered that she was very thin and that her left eye was not developed and, therefore, was blind in that eye. It was obvious that the blindness was affecting her ability to successfully hunt for prey. We knew that after she regained some weight she would be non-releasable.

Initially, Orion was called "Peeps". She was very friendly and was "peeping" all the time at her handlers. She was relaxed around humans and did not retreat when we entered her pen as a normal, wild bird would do. She also enjoyed playing with a hose in her pen. These traits lead us to speculate that she might possibly have imprinted on humans.

Because she was still able to fly well, it was decided to train her to do free-flight demonstrations at our events. It was also decided that she needed a more formal name. We had a naming contest and the public voted to name her "Orion" at our 2016 Expo. We are certain she is a female as she laid an egg in 2019 and was added to the Ed permit in 2016.

## **Freckles**

This bird came to us in 2020 after being hit by a car. She had a ruptured crop, lacerated right carpus, fractured right major metacarpal bone, and limited vision in her right eye.

Because of her demeanor on the glove, we thought she would make a good educational bird. She is a little difficult to get on the glove initially, but she is calm once she gets on the glove.

She came to us with all brown tail feathers and as she has her first molt with us, we see she is getting in some red tail feathers. So we know that she was born in 2019.

## **Bald Eagle**

### **Jefferson**

Jefferson is one of the few education birds that we know his age and a little bit of his history before he came to Soarin' Hawk. Jefferson had a band on his leg when he came to Soarin' Hawk as an education bird. He hatched in the spring of 2011 and was banded on 5/26/2011 at a site east of Flint, Michigan on the shore of Lake Erie.

Jefferson was found in downtown Wabash, Indiana on December 26, 2011. He was apparently shocked by an electric wire and fell to the ground. The shock caused a large area of skin on his left wing to die and also caused a subluxation of his left elbow. Only a month after he was found, radiographs revealed early arthritis in the elbow. He is non-releasable due to the elbow injury and was added to our education permit in the late summer of 2012. He will always be on Cosequin, a glucosamine supplement, for his elbow.

Eagles are difficult to train for education birds. They adapt to new things slowly, so their training takes years. Bald eagles' heads and tails do not turn white until they are five years old. It has been fun to watch Jefferson mature as he slowly got his adult plumage, including his white head and tail. Jefferson loves to eat fish, especially when we can offer him live fish in the pool in his flight pen!

## **Turkey Vulture**

### **Ehr**

Ehr came to us in 2020 with poor extension of a wing due to an old healed wrist injury. We do not know how he got injured.

### **Poe**

Poe came to us in 2020 with an amputated wing. We don't know how he lost part of his wing in the wild but he did.

Both Ehr and Poe take a lot of patience to train with. They are strictly PRT birds so you never bump or grab their jesses to step them up. They will step up with the command "step up".



## **FACTS:**

### **Gray Morph Eastern Screech Owl - Houdini**

Came in as rehab bird to SHRR in 2009  
From Barbie Lake, Warsaw  
Had unknown cause of head/eye trauma  
Injury: blind in one eye  
Added to ed permit June 2009; age unknown

### **Gray Morph Eastern Screech Owl - Puck**

Came to Soarin' Hawk 3/9/19 Blood in left eye  
Broken right wing  
Collision with a vehicle Added to the permits 6/2019

### **Gray Morph Eastern Screech Owl - Frankie**

Came to Soarin' Hawk 11/21/18  
Broken left wing from falling out of a tree that was cut down. Tried to surgically fix wing and was not successful  
Added to the permits 6/2019

### **Short-eared Owl: Sherman**

Obtained from Ken Groves, a wildlife rehabber in Warren, IN  
Had an encounter with an airplane  
Injury: lost part of his wing due to the accident  
Added to ed permit 2008; age unknown  
An endangered species in Indiana  
DNA tested in 2019 – Sherman is a female

### **Short-eared Owl: Skylar**

Came to Soarin' Hawk in 2017  
Collision with a vehicle  
Fractures ulna and radius of her left wing  
Left wing amputated because of severe droop  
DNA tested in 2019 – Skylar is a female

### **Barn Owl: Monet**

Born Sept 2019 and hand raised in volunteer's home until ready for the pens  
Given to SHRR from Falconer in MD so we could talk about the importance of Barn Owls and using alternatives to rat/mouse poison since it also harms owls.

### **Barred Owl: Peabody**

Came in as rehab bird to SHRR in 2010  
From Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control  
Had a head tilt, blood inside his eye and was thin; he suffered some type of head injury  
He is non-releasable due to poor vision  
Added to ed permit 2010; age unknown

### **Barred Owl: Indy**

Came to Soarin' Hawk in 2016

Hit by a car

Had old lesions in left eye, so is blind in that eye

Indiana Department of Transportation found her on I-69, that is how she got her name.

**Great Horned Owl: Athena**

Added to permit in 2020

Came to SHRR in 2020 as an orphan with a sibling who we released.

Has an old healed fracture of the left humerus and ulna, and poor extension of the left wing.

Raised at volunteer's home and moved to the pens when she was 6 months old.

**Eurasian Eagle Owl: Chewie**

Added to permit in 2020

Gifted to Soarin' Hawk by an anonymous donor.

Came from falconer/breeder in Maryland.

Raised at a volunteer's home. Moved to pens in Oct. 2020 when he was almost 6 months old.

**American Kestrel: Homer**

Obtained Churubusco

Injury wing

Added to ed permit 2011

**American Kestrel: Tawney**

Probably hit by a car

Eye matted, cleaned, severely damaged

Added to permit in 2014

**American Kestrel: Georgie**

Added to permit in 2020

Has vision problems, a head tilt, and was probably imprinted on humans

**Broad-winged Hawk: Hawkeye**

Came in as rehab bird (baby) to SHRR 7-3-2012

From Aboite Animal Hospital, Fort Wayne

Immature with lots of down feathers; (violent storm end of June, 2012 caused a lot of immature hawks to be blown out of their nests);

As she matured, one eye failed to develop; one is slightly smaller than her other eye and she is also blind in the smaller eye

Added to ed permit fall, 2012

Species of concern in Indiana

**Cooper's Hawk: Jett**

Came to SHRR in 2020 with questionable peripheral vision

Possibly imprinted on humans.

**Harris Hawk: Sheyenne**

Came to Soarin' Hawk in 2017

Originally a falconer's bird

During a training session, landed on an electrical pole  
Severely burned the bottoms of her feet.  
Ends of her wings were damaged, so they were amputated at the wrist.

**Red-tailed Hawk: Ruby**

Obtained from Ken Groves, a wildlife rehabber in Warren, IN  
Injury: most like suffered an unknown trauma which caused sight problems and  
a crop infection (which required several surgeries);  
Estimated hatch year: 2006  
Added to ed permit 2008

**Red-Tailed Hawk: Orion**

Found in Markle, Indiana  
Was very thin and blind in left eye  
Trained as a free-flighted bird for our events  
Added to Ed permit in 2016

**Red-Tailed Hawk: Freckles**

Added to permit in 2020  
Born in 2019  
Had a torn crop, lacerated right carpus, fractured right major metacarpal bone and  
limited vision in her right eye.

**Red-Shouldered Hawk: Ginger**

Came from another rehabber in 2015  
Broken wing, healed but left her flightless  
Laid her first egg for us in 2016

**Turkey Vulture: Ehr**

Came into Soarin' Hawk summer of 2019 with right wing issues.  
Spent the winter at a rehabber's facility and was not able to fly.  
Added to SH's educational permits in 2020.

**Turkey Vulture: Poe**

Came to us in 2020 missing half of his wing.  
Is a good companion for Ehr since TUVUs are social birds.

**Bald Eagle: Jefferson**

Came in as rehab bird to SHRR 12-26-2012  
Found in downtown Wabash  
He was hatched spring of 2011. He was banded 5/26/2011  
Shocked by electricity, causing him to have an area of skin that died on his left ptygium  
and caused a subluxation of his left elbow.  
The subluxation has caused early arthritis in his left elbow, making him non-  
releasable.  
Added to ed permit late summer 2012

STATE ENDANGERED: Any animal species whose prospects for survival or recruitment within the state are in immediate jeopardy and are in danger of disappearing from the state. This includes all species classified as endangered by the federal government that occur in Indiana.

Endangered raptors in Indiana:

Osprey

Northern Harrier

Barn Owl

Short-eared Owl

SPECIAL CONCERN: Any animal species requiring monitoring because of known/suspected limited abundance or distribution or because of a recent change in legal status or required habitat.

Raptor species of special concern:

Mississippi Kite

Bald Eagle

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk