



OPEN DOOR  
BIRD  
SANCTUARY

# Feathered Focus

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Fall 2023

## How We Create Forever Homes

We're excited to introduce the latest member of our feathered family here at the Sanctuary. Jewel, a 1½ year old Red-tailed hawk, arrived in August. She's adjusted well to her new home here, and will be a wonderful asset to our educational programming!

Folks often ask about the process of a bird coming to Open Door to live in their new "forever" home. There are many steps involved before the bird arrives. They are all birds that have completed rehabilitation at a licensed rehab center. If it is not believed that the bird could successfully survive on their own in the wild, a veterinarian signs a "non-release" statement. Then the rehab center will then work hard to find an education facility like ODBS that has the ability to care for that bird. All of us that work in the care of raptors are a close knit group. We network frequently, sharing information when a bird needs a home, or a space becomes available to give a bird a home.

Once an education facility that will be the best fit for the bird is chosen, the paperwork begins! If a bird comes to us from a neighboring state, like Oslo (MN) or Jewel (IA), it needs a statement of good health from a vet, and an import permit to move it across state lines. We then fill out the necessary federal transfer paperwork and register the bird with the USFWS. Once that is complete, we head out to pick up the bird from the rehab center. For longer distance pickups, it can be a 2-day trip with an overnight stay before returning to ODBS. Fortunately, donors have contributed to our in-house "bird acquisition" fund. That fund helps with transportation and lodging to pick up a new bird. You can help us build that fund by sending a donation to ODBS, and earmarking it for "bird acquisition". With your help, we will continue to be able to give a new forever home to some amazing birds!



Rob with Jewel, a Red-tailed hawk and then newest raptor resident at Open Door. Photo: Larry Mohr

Rob Hults  
Executive Director

## It's Fall Festival Season!

There are so many great festivals in Door County and some of our favorites are in the fall where our Resident Raptors are really the stars. Who doesn't think of Pumpkin Patch or Jack O' Lantern Days without thinking of OWLS? Not us! Join us in celebrating the bountiful harvest, beautiful colors and all things Halloween at these upcoming festivals:

Pumpkin Patch Festival, Egg Harbor – ODBS 10-4 Saturday Oct 7 outside of Maxwells House

Sister Bay Fall Fest – ODBS 10-4 Saturday October 14 and 10-2 Sunday Oct 15 near visitor center

Jack O' Lantern Days, Fish Creek – ODBS 10-4 Saturday Oct 28 Founders Square

**Executive Director**  
Rob Hults

**Board Members:**  
Jillaine Seefeldt  
Rick Burton  
Rob Hults  
Ryenne Lee  
Beth Meyerand  
Bill Bauernfeind  
Geoff Guillaume

**Development**  
Jillaine Seefeldt

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Amy Hults  
volunteers@  
opendoorbirdsantuary.org

**Programs**  
programs@  
opendoorbirdsantuary.org

**Adopt-a-Raptor**  
Ryenne Lee  
ryenne.lee@  
opendoorbirdsantuary.org

**Social Media**  
Robin Alfano

**Website**  
Down Puppy Design  
Sturgeon Bay

**Newsletter**  
Jillaine Seefeldt  
Dave Jensen

# Hoot! Hoot! Hooray for Another Success!

By Jillaine Seefeldt, Board Chair

I often say, when you blink our eyes, the seasons change and lo and behold, fall is upon us! But what a summer the Sanctuary has had!!! I may be biased but I think the highlight of the summer is the Hoot-e-Nanny and HOOT! HOOT! HOORAY! For all of the people who made this year a gigantic success beyond our wildest imaginations and I am NOT exaggerating.

Drum Roll PLEASE: Our total funds raised before our sponsored expenses was over \$51,000!!!! Did you fall down? I most surely did when I figured that out. We are, hands down, the most blessed little bird sanctuary on the planet to have sponsors and donors and attendees and worker-birds (literally and figuratively) that care so much about the ODBS mission to help raise that amount of money.

AND you all know we put our dollars to work right at the

sanctuary. Before elaborating, I want to send a HUGE thank you to our event sponsors: Door County Confectionary/ Doman Family, Al Johnson's, Ecology, Dave's Tree Service, Macco's Floor Covering, Caplan Studios, The Landmark

Resort, Woodwalk Gallery, DJ Michael Raye, Dale and Julie Smith and Rick Burton. With their generosity, our event expenses are completely covered and allow all event tickets to be tax deductible. That is pretty darn exciting.

Please see our Hoot tab on our web page ([www.opendoorbirdsantuary.org](http://www.opendoorbirdsantuary.org)) for the list of donors who so generously provided items for our auction and new on site raffle. Most of the proceeds will go to operations which includes our raptor food for 12 MONTHS!!!! Starting Jan 1, there will be new signs at each of the mews acknowledging all of the folks who paddled us through the year and next season, you will see shiny new green, no maintenance benches in program area A, our largest spot. Thank you again to all those who donated, time, energy, product, money and anything else to our successful Hoot this year.



Andy Seefeldt and Dan Andrae serve refreshments. Photo: Larry Mohr



Sierra with Forest and guests. Photo: Larry Mohr

**One month or more of raptor food:** John and Jennifer Daubner, Carl and Sandy Zapffe, John Nelson, Harley and Pat Bopray, Roy and Betsy Gill, Tony and Judy Licata

**A portion of a month of Raptor food:** Marv and Sharon Strawn, Iris and Jim Freidlieb, Scott McEvoy, Bill and Donna Shewchuck, Stephani Lord, Mike and Laura Caplan, Barb and Jeff Ottum, Larry and Janet Mohr, Kaylee Leitz, Tammy Last, Andy and Jillaine Seefeldt

**1 or more new benches:** Barb and Jeff Ottum, Roy and Betsy Gill, Todd and Stefanie Burke, Arlene Johnson + Chris Weidenbacher, Kathy and Geoff Guillaume, John and Jennifer Daubner, Nancy and Dave Borghesi, Steve and Kandy Otto, Joan and Bruce Pikas



The new maintenance-free benches for the program area.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Larry Mohr

Larry recently retired from a 36-year career as a technology, supply chain and analytics executive and still does some part-time data and analytics consulting. His passion for photography started when he was 11 years old and has never faded. Prior to working in technology, he worked as a photojournalist for the Daily Journal in Kankakee for 9 years, starting when he was just 15.

Larry has been taking pictures of the Open Door Bird Sanctuary events, birds and staff. He enjoys taking pictures of door county landscapes and wildlife (you can follow him on instagram at @larmohr). When he's not taking pictures or consulting, Larry loves to spend time enjoying the nature of Door County at his home and on the trail with his wife and black lab. We're so lucky to have Larry out there doing regular documentation of some of our many events that help in our newsletters, e-blasts and ads. Thanks Larry, We're happy to have you on board!

## Bringing Open Door to Summer Travelers

By Valerie Mann, Raptor Educator

At the beginning of the year, we reached out to the local resorts and campgrounds with a new way they could partner with us to provide a memorable experience with their guests. The eight program topics offered are short, 30-minute informal talks with two of our birds. For the resort portion of the program, while it was geared towards those staying at the resort, we saw people not staying at the resort come as well. We had great turnouts when we presented at Peninsula State Park and our partnership with them was so well received that they are working on regular year-round programming with us! We also had a trial run at The Landmark and they, too, would like to have us back next year with a stronger presence.

Simultaneously, we launched our Spring and Summer Kids camps, providing activities that are fun and engaging and still teach lots of cool things too. Posters and flyers were created to place around town, have at Meet and Greet events, as well as sending information to teachers who were able to help us spread word about our new summer day camp to their students. It was wonderful seeing the kids who came for multiple weeks of our summer camp programming create a sense of place for themselves while at the sanctuary. Some of the best moments during camp were requests to have their snack in the same wooded area each time and one camper who imagined a land feature was from Bigfoot!



B and Percy educate guests at Penn Park. Photo: Larry Mohr

## Keeping Things Up & Running & Looking Good!

Once again, we have busy-ness going on at Open Door revolving around grants received and projects we are able to implement. Early in the year, we began being concerned about the longevity of our van – meaning it could make it a year or it could NOT.

About the same time, we were notified by our ardent support Joan Cramm that the 100+ Women's organization had picked us for a presentation for the third time. Three times the charm they say, AND thanks to a lot of work on Joan and Rob's part, a dynamic presentation and lots of ladies rooting for ODBS, we won the top award of \$14,000 in late July and that is the big seed for our new van purchase, hopefully early in 2024.

A couple of Meet n Greets with Al Johnson's and WI Cheese Masters will add a bit more to the fund. We are targeting \$25,000 and will be working on other grant options. Anyone wishing to contribute, please contact Jillaine.

Another project in the works is an Entrance Refurbish (pictured above, right) with a contemporary new sign with lighting as well as some rework of our driveway and parking lot. Special thanks go out to the Raibrook Foundation, Steve and Kandy Otto, Joe and Terri Littel and Rick Burton along with a final boost from ODBS. All of that looks to be accomplished before the snow flies.



# Open Door Bird Sanctuary

Located at:  
4114 County Road I  
Jacksonport, WI

Phone: 920-493-BIRD

E-mail:

rob.hults@opendoorbirdsanctuary.org

**Stay up to date with Open Door  
events and volunteer opportunities**



[facebook.com/opendoorbirdsanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/opendoorbirdsanctuary)



**Website:** [www.opendoorbirdsanctuary.org](http://www.opendoorbirdsanctuary.org)

## Our Mission:

Avian awareness ...  
inspiring people to co-exist  
with the natural world that  
surrounds them.

## Special Requests / Wish List

Open Door Bird Sanctuary is in need of the following:

- Non-Wood Step Ladders in 4-Foot, 6-Foot and 10-Foot Sizes
- Fleet Farm: Tuff Stuff 3-Gallon Round Rubber Water Bowls
- Tractor Supply: Farm Innovators Round, Heated 6-Quart Bowl
- 12 x 12 Pop-Up Tent

These items can be brought to any Open Day or dropped off at Open Door.

**Change of Service Requested**

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

4114 County Road I

Open Door Bird Sanctuary