



The Bird Rescue Center
of Sonoma County

Last of the little babies in the rehab hospital



A little video of some of our [last babies coming into our rehab hospital for the 2017](#) baby season. Here's some zoomed in footage of resting time between feedings of a woodpecker and robin. Ignore the poop and the bad 'hair', that's for our staff and volunteers to tend to!



The Resident Raptor Program

Our mission is to:

- Give our raptors the highest level of attention and care
- Continuously monitor and report upon the health of our raptors
- Maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the raptor housing
- Present the birds publicly for education and appreciation.

The Raptor Handling, Husbandry, and Education Program

This program will teach you to safely handle and care for our 17 resident raptors and one raven. You

will also learn about the natural history and anatomy of birds in general, and our resident raptors in particular, in order to confidently present the birds in schools and other public education events.

We will begin with the basics of the equipment and understanding the fundamental theory for handling a bird on your fist. The training itself involves both practical hands-on exercises and written and oral preparation; to make you comfortable with our raptors and to give you background information to impart at educational events. You will learn the specific protocol for transporting our birds to events, and, eventually, you will learn to hold the birds safely for health checks and other physical requirements. You will also learn to properly clean and maintain the 'mews' (the home aviaries for our raptors) – a basic requirement for the health and safety of the birds.

It takes a commitment of time and energy to succeed in our Raptor Handling Program, and it should not be undertaken lightly. The training program starts with four three-hour training sessions after which you will be tested (both written and physical demonstration) to determine your suitability for continuing training. Following that there will be weekly three-hour training sessions for an additional month (through January), after which you should be confidently able to handle 'independently' our most cooperative 'Group A' birds. Your training will then continue with other handlers as you are introduced to progressively more advanced birds – eventually being qualified to handle all but the most difficult or impaired birds by May or June.

Becoming a member of our program requires a commitment to handle birds for a minimum of two hours each week, as well as taking on other assignments such as sorting raptor food or feeding the birds – all of which adds up to a minimum of about four to five hour a week. In addition to these responsibilities, you are expected to participate in our public education program, which includes events both at The Bird Rescue Center and at schools and other locations within the county.

You are joining a team which has an ongoing investment in the success of our resident raptor education program and, ultimately, in the continuing success of the Bird Rescue Center.



Different ways to support us

You can support The Bird Rescue Center through:

- **Amazon Smile**
- **Olivers**
- **Escrip program**
 1. *Luckys*
 2. *Fircrest (Sebastopol)*
 3. *Glen Ellen Market*
 4. *Molsberry Market*
 5. *Petaluma Market*
 6. *Sonoma Market*



[Donate Here](#)



Upcoming events

Open House



[September 2nd, 2017 - 10am to 1pm](#)
[October 7th, 2017 - 10am to 1pm](#)



A promotional poster for the 'Festival of Feathers!'. On the right side, there is a close-up photograph of an owl's face, showing its large yellow eyes and brown and white feathers. On the left side, there is an orange vertical banner with white text that reads: '18 RESIDENT RAPTORS UP-CLOSE', 'enjoy APPETIZERS & REFRESHMENTS', 'fun EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES & GAMES', and 'RAFFLE prizes!'. The main text in the center reads: 'Join the fun at the 5th Annual Festival of Feathers!', 'Saturday Sept 23 11am - 3pm', and '3430 Chanate Road in Santa Rosa it's free!'.

[Festival of Feathers September 23rd, 2017](#)



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