

Here are a few of our inspiring stories of the birds we were able to help this year.

Sharp-shinned Hawk “Rider”



On April 14, David discovered a small hawk on the ground in Takoma Park, MD. The hawk was unable to fly away when he approached, so he called Owl Moon for help. David was game, so we gave him instructions on how to safely capture and contain the hawk, and he drove it to Owl Moon.

Rider, an immature female Sharp-shinned Hawk, had a fractured left shoulder, likely the result of a window strike. “Sharpies” hunt smaller birds for food, and frequent yards with bird feeders. We wrapped the wing to allow the bones to heal. After four weeks of regular physical therapy to keep muscles from contracting, the bone healed. We began to fly Rider on a creance line to assess her flight and rebuild her strength. On June 4th, Rider was ready to return to the wild. She was released near her found site in Sligo Creek Park.

Barred Owl “Davie”



On May 17th, Lindsay was driving and discovered an owl lying on the roadside in Ijamsville, Maryland. She picked it up, called Owl Moon, and then drove the owl to us. On admission we found that the owl we called Davie, a Barred Owl, had suffered severe concussion and eye injuries. Davie was given pain and eye medications, and later brought to veterinary ophthalmologist Micki Armour for a thorough eye evaluation. Owl Moon can do basic eye exams, but eye specialists can provide a comprehensive exam of both the front and back of the eye. Owls primarily hunt by sound, but good vision is important for them to thrive and avoid obstacles in the wild.

Never assume that a vehicle-struck bird that can fly is fit to be released to the wild without first being thoroughly examined by a rehabber. Happily, Davie’s eyes checked out and she was released on June 27th, near where she was found.

Red Tailed Hawk “Wolf”



On May 30th, Peter saw an adult Red-Tailed Hawk attack his garden hose, perhaps mistaking it for a snake. Later, he saw the hawk near a stream with a large snake wrapped around him. Apparently, Wolf had attacked the snake and the snake turned the tables. Peter and a neighbor freed Wolf and called Owl Moon. Wolf had minor soft tissue injuries and was depressed, dehydrated, and thin. He was given fluids and pain meds and fed a healthy diet. Since a hawk would not normally mistake a garden hose for a snake, we asked veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. Micki Armour to examine his eyes. She found an old scar on his left eye and two small cataracts, which did not rule out

release, but did indicate old age. After reconditioning on a creance line, which builds flight muscles and stamina, Wolf was strong and healthy. On October 9th, Wolf was returned to the wild. We hope he avoids snakes!

We are publishing our calendar again this year, so if you'd like to read more of our stories, please donate at <https://owlmoon.org/how-to-help/> and request a calendar!