



## Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia

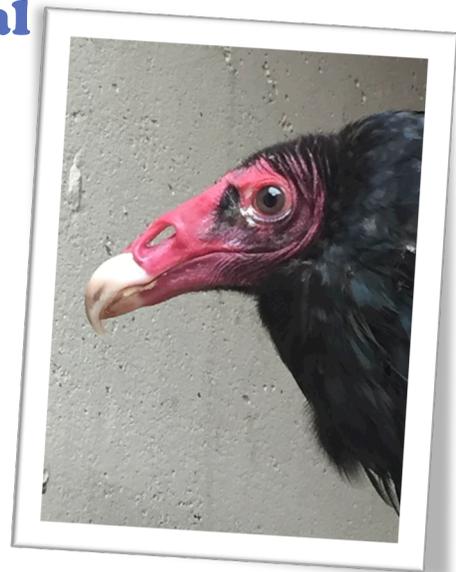
# Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2016

### ACCA to Celebrate International Vulture Awareness Day!

On Labor Day—Monday, September 5, 2016—the ACCA will celebrate one of our favorite holidays, International Vulture Awareness Day, and you're invited to participate! Come to pavilion #2 at Cooper's Rock State Forest at 12pm for educational materials and presentations about the importance of vultures in ecosystems worldwide. Everyone is welcome at this free event. Check our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/ACCAWV](http://www.facebook.com/ACCAWV), for updates!



### Good-bye to Our Dear Luna

We are heartbroken to announce the passing our sweet barn owl, Luna. She was our first education bird, and lived the majority of her four-and-a-half-year life with us at the ACCA. Luna fell more than 30 feet from her nest on the Hardy County courthouse onto a sidewalk. She suffered a fractured pelvis, femur, radius, and ulna, and had bruising and ruptured air sacs. Through intensive rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, an orthopedic "shoe," and acupuncture, Luna survived to be an ambassador for barn owls everywhere. She was charming, charismatic, and definitely had a sense humor. Kids loved her, and she will live on through their good works. Laboratory testing of her tissue suggests that she died of an acute seizure event; causes of seizures are often unknown, and may include epilepsy, a previous brain injury, or a congenital brain defect. Luna will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Pictures follow on the next page.

### Our Mission:

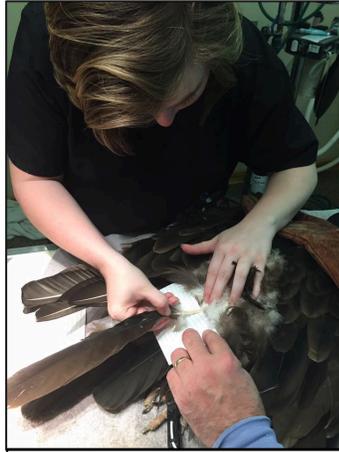
To conserve wild birds through scientific research; education and public outreach; and rescue and rehabilitation

## Reflections of a Summer Intern

Hi! My name is Julia Fregonara, and I'm a senior at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. I was this year's American Kestrel Nest Box Program Intern AND the Avian Husbandry Intern! My duties as the Avian Husbandry intern included assisting Dr. Fallon in any exams and helping him give medical treatment to hurt or sick birds. I exercised birds that needed to regain their strength before being released, and picked up birds that

needed our help from all over the state. I also kept an eye on the general wellbeing of the birds in our care, and helped keep the ACCA clean, organized, and functional. I attended a few outreach programs as well! My duties as the American Kestrel Nest Box Intern included designing handouts and pamphlets, updating our nest box database with new information, giving boxes to new locations, and checking boxes for people who were unable to check their own. I got to travel all over the region and meet some incredible people!

Working for the ACCA has been a life-changing experience. For once, I'm excited to get up and go to work! I love seeing birds grow stronger and healthier under our care, and nothing beats the feeling of seeing a bird you cared for soar away into the sky. I've met so many kind and generous people while working here; it feels like one big feathery family! I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone at the ACCA, especially Katie and Jesse, for this incredible opportunity to work with such beautiful and exciting animals. I'll be sad to leave at the end of the summer, but I know this won't be the end for me!



Julia helps imp a turkey vulture's tail feathers

## Luna the Barn Owl



*We will miss you every day.*



## Special Thanks...

- To the **Paulson Family Foundation** for support through a grant. It is much appreciated. Thank you!
- To one of the ACCA's awesome (and athletic!) volunteers, **Anne Foreman**, pictured to the left, who ran a 5k to raise money for the ACCA. The birds thank you, Anne!
- To WVU's chapter of the **Society for Conservation Biology**, who raised funds for the ACCA at their Art Auction, held in April in Percival Hall on campus. Many of our volunteers are also members and officers of this wonderful organization. THANK YOU for your support!

# Volunteers Making a Difference

We are proud of all of our volunteers and interns, and we appreciate the hard work each and every one of you does to conserve the region's wild birds. Here are just a few of us...



## 3 Ways to Help

### Kroger Rewards Card:

Enroll in Kroger's Community Rewards program, and donate to the ACCA by simply shopping for groceries and swiping your rewards card. Visit [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) and create an account. Enter your rewards card number, and designate Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia. Our organization number is 93720. And that's it! Kroger will periodically send us a donation.

### Amazon Smile:

If you shop on Amazon, visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and designate Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia as the charity you'd like to support through your purchases.

### Amazon Wish List:

Search for our Wish List on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), and you can purchase items for us and have them shipped to us directly. This makes sending "gifts" for the birds easy! Make sure you include your name and address in the gift message box so we can thank you for your gift.

*Thanks in advance for your support!*

### ACCA Annual Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your membership application and your \$20 or more donation check made out to ACCA to:**

286 Fairchance Road, Morgantown, WV 26508

### Help Us Help the Birds

Running an avian conservation center is expensive! Costs include medicine, bird food, and more. We will accept monetary donations in any amount, and donating \$20 or more will make you an ACCA member for one year. Members will receive our quarterly newsletter and periodic email updates. We will also accept donations of gift cards and supplies--check out our Wish List on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

### Volunteer and Spread the Word:

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with the ACCA, email [admin@accavv.org](mailto:admin@accavv.org). Also, please spread the word about us! Pass on our contact information, suggest our Facebook page to your friends, and follow us on Twitter. And of course, if you find an injured bird, call (304) 906-5438.

## Four American Kestrels RELEASED

We recently released four young male American Kestrels at Ridge Way Farm in Cheat Lake, WV. The kestrels were all admitted as fledglings or nestlings and were raised together as brothers. They were released between a five-acre organic vegetable farm and a six-acre horse pasture bordered by forest. It seems like excellent kestrel habitat, and we hung several nestboxes in the hopes that these or other kestrels set up territories around the farm. We will have to wait until next spring to find out! Special thanks to our summer interns, Julia Fregonara and Areil Harris, for taking excellent care of the kestrels.



*Right: Interns Areil Harris (left), Julia Fregonara, and Dr. Jesse Fallon prepare to release two of the American kestrel fledglings at Ridge Way Farm.*

### **Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, Inc.**

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