



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER RETURNS REHABBED HAWK TO THE WILD

A beautiful Red-tailed Hawk, whose broken wing healed with the help of wildlife rehab staff at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, was returned to the wild this afternoon, released in the blustery winds at the edge of Lake Erie. The hawk was set free in the very same Lorain backyard where it was picked up with a broken wing in September. Michael Bolmeyer, the man who found the injured bird, was there to witness the successful conclusion of the Red-tail's rehabilitation. "They did a wonderful job," Bolmeyer said of the Center's rehab staff.

The hawk came to Lake Erie Nature & Science Center on September 17 with a fractured left wing. Staff wrapped the wing for 2 – 3 weeks and placed the hawk on pain medicine. Once the bones healed, the bird underwent 2 weeks of physical therapy and was then moved into a flight cage. On October 24, the hawk was transferred to Lake County Metroparks Penitentiary Glen wildlife rehab facility to do further flight conditioning.

Wildlife Rehab Specialist Amy LeMonds transported the bird from Lake County to Lorain for today's release. After LeMonds gently tossed the hawk up into the wind, it quickly soared into a nearby tree, with no signs of the previous injury. "Seeing the majesty of this hawk flying free is worth the hard work of rehab", said LeMonds. "This is moment we work for."

The Kenneth A. Scott Wildlife Rehabilitation Program takes in about 1,400 injured and ill wild animals each year, with the goal of rehabilitation and release back into the wild. The Center also fields thousands of phone calls, answering questions and educating the public how to coexist with wildlife. The Center urges the public to call for advice before interfering with any wild animal, for both human safety and for the protection of the wildlife. The phone number is 440-871-2900.

Bolmeyer says he was uncertain about what to do with the injured predatory bird he found in his backyard. Center Rehab staff told him exactly how to safely pick up the injured hawk and transport it to the Center. "They walked me through everything I needed to know right over the telephone."

The non-profit Center relies solely on donations to fund its rehab services, which are provided to the public at no charge.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's rehab staff has been certified to perform wildlife rehabilitation by the International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council, receives continuing education through this and other rehabilitation organizations, and has all of the appropriate state and federal permits required to perform wildlife rehabilitation.

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to nature & science education, including live animals, interactive exhibits and a world-class planetarium. The Center is located in the Cleveland Metroparks Huntington Reservation at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, log on to www.lensc.org.

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