



Join us for the 9th annual October Owl Festival at Eagle Creek Park, October 26th and 27th. This large fundraiser event is fun for the whole family, with crafts, games, hikes, wildlife programs, and more, all FREE with park admission!

All funds raised go to the Ornithology Center to help care for our Raptor Ambassadors. Donate now or bid in our silent auction: <https://www.32auctions.com/owlfest2024>

Festival Hours at the Ornithology Center: Saturday October 26, 10am-5pm | Sunday October 27, 1pm-5pm.

See map on the last page for parking and other information.

ADDRESSES:

Ornithology Center 6515 Delong Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46278 | (317)327-2473

Beach Shelter 7602 Eagle Beach Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46254

PARK ADMISSION:

\$6/vehicle if you live in Marion County

\$7/vehicle if you live out of county

KEY:

*Bilingual (Spanish & English) interpretation

**American Sign Language interpretation (ASL)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25th

Ornithology Center open 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (festival NOT happening on Friday)

2:00-2:30 pm

Falcon Friday

Location: Ornithology Center

Witness Freyja, the Peregrine Falcon ambassador, eat her favorite food - chicken! Learn about her and the peregrine conservation success story from her trainer and park volunteer, Donna McCarty.

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Spooky Hayrides

Location: Beach Shelter

Enjoy a 40-minute trip around the beautiful fields, forest, and roadways of the park on a wagon ride, but be prepared for a scare! Spots on the spooky hayride are sold individually, \$15 for ages 3+. Hot chocolate, cider, and s'mores kits will be available for an additional purchase at the Beach concession stand from 5:30pm-8:00pm. Reserve your seats on our spooky hayrides by visiting indyparks.org before registration closes at 5:00pm on 10/24. Please call 317-327-7110 to see if spots are available after 10/24.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26th

Ornithology Center open 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Activities, Crafts, & Tables at the Ornithology Center

Owl pellet dissections, crafts, games, quidditch, scavenger hunts, concessions, vendor tables, silent auction display, and more will be set up at the Ornithology Center during festival open hours (moved indoors if raining). Visit our raptor ambassadors in their enclosures, learn about owls, try the migration obstacle course, and explore our exhibits. Come in costume and get a free piece of candy or small prize!

10:00 – 10:30 am

Owl Origami

Location: Ornithology Center

Join Naturalist Frank for an owl-themed, guided origami craft in the nature classroom.

10:30 – 11:00 am

Owl Trainer Chat

Location: Ornithology Center

Have you ever wondered how the Ornithology Center trains their Raptor Ambassadors? Learn about animal behavior and contemporary training methods from OC Manager Jenna McElroy and see our two owl ambassadors in their new enclosures.

11:00 – 3:00 pm

S'mores & Campfire

Location: Ornithology Center

Enjoy cooking a perfectly toasted (or perfectly burnt) s'more from 11am-3pm. S'mores supplies will be available for purchase at the concession stand during this time and roasting sticks will be available around a campfire.

11:00 – 11:30 am

Owl Campfire Stories

Location: Ornithology Center

Join Naturalist Zach for some not-so-spooky campfire stories, all about Owls! Enjoy a warm s'more, available for purchase at the concession stand!

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Fall Family Bird Hike

Location: Ornithology Center

Join Eagle Creek Park birders and naturalists for a beautiful stroll around Lilly Lake. Trail: 1 mile, easy, but difficult in some spots for strollers.

1:00 – 1:30 pm

Whooo Knows Owl Calls?

Location: Ornithology Center

Ask anyone what sound an owl makes, and you're likely to hear them hoot back at you! But here's something you might not know—owls not only hoot, but also can also screech, bark, growl, scream, hiss, clack, and shriek! Join Naturalist Donna on the deck to discover a fascinating array of owl vocalizations. And hey, if you have a great owl call up your gizzard, there will be a chance to share!

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Forbidden Forest Hike

Location: Ornithology Center

Calling all witches and wizards of all ages! Dress up in your favorite costume or Hogwarts house colors and join your Hogwarts professors on a stroll through the Forbidden Forest in search for fantastic beasts and magical creatures. Trail: 0.5-1 mile, easy, fairly accessible. **If you cannot join at this time, a magical, self-guided Forbidden Forest scavenger hunt will be set up during festival hours Saturday and Sunday, so come in your costume and explore on your own!*

2:30 – 3:00 pm** **Raptor Feeding Time - *Alimentación de Rapaces **Location: Ornithology Center**
Watch one of the naturalists feed the birds of prey in their enclosures at the Ornithology Center. They eat quickly so don't be late!
Observe a uno de los naturalistas alimentar a las aves rapaces en sus recintos en el Centro de Ornitología. ¡Comen rápido así que no llegues tarde!

***3:00 – 4:00 pm** **Folclore y Cultura del Búho - Owls in Folklore & Culture** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Español: Únase a los naturalistas bilingües Isabel y Miranda en una caminata guiada sobre los búhos en el folclore y la cultura. Este programa bilingüe es para toda la familia y es gratuito. Un Evento Bilingüe Patrocinado por la Fundación del Parque Eagle Creek.
English: Join bilingual naturalists, Isabel & Miranda, for a guided walk about Owls in Folklore & Culture. This bilingual program is for the whole family and is free. This event is sponsored by the Eagle Creek Park Foundation.

4:00 – 5:00 pm **Big Trees & Owl Habitat Hike** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Eagle Creek Park is home to trees that were living before colonizers arrived in the 1800s! During this hike, you will explore a forest containing champion-size trees of several species and their connected family groves. This forest ecosystem near the Ornithology Center has experienced less disturbance historically than other areas in the park, preserving important habitat for owls. Led by Eagle Creek Park Volunteer Marty Risch. Trail: 1 mile, easy, fairly accessible.

4:00 – 5:00 pm **Mark Booth (Take Flight!) Live Owl Program** **Location: Beach Shelter**
At the Beach Shelter this year! One of our most popular Owl Fest programs! Local falconer and wildlife educator, Mark Booth, will teach you all about the amazing nocturnal adaptations of owls, with a little help from his live owl coworkers. Rain location: Earth Discovery Center Exhibit Hall, indoor location limited to first 70 participants.

5:00 – 5:20 pm **Owls vs. Vultures** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Owls and vultures have so many unique adaptations! Meet our vulture and owl ambassadors in their aviaries and learn about what makes them so different. We will also have skulls and feathers for you to compare!

5:15 – 6:15 pm **Dr. Lina Rifai Saw-whet Owl Research Talk** **Location: Beach Shelter**
Join Dr. Lina Rifai at the Beach Shelter for a discussion about her experience studying our smallest migratory owl species in Indiana, the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Dr. Lina Rifai is the Associate Professor of Vertebrate Biology at IU Kokomo and has been conducting research on Northern Saw-whet Owls around the state for several years. Come learn about her research and what makes Eagle Creek Park such an important migratory habitat for these owls.

6:00 – 8:00 pm **Spooky Hayrides** **Location: Beach Shelter**
Enjoy a 40-minute trip around the beautiful fields, forest, and roadways of the park on a wagon ride, but be prepared for a scare! Spots on the spooky hayride are sold individually, \$15 for ages 3+. Hot chocolate, cider, and s'mores kits will be available for an additional purchase at the Beach concession stand from 5:30pm-8:00pm. Reserve your seats on our spooky hayrides by visiting indyparks.org before registration closes at 5:00pm on 10/24. Please call 317-327-7110 to see if spots are available after 10/24.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27th

Ornithology Center open 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

9:00 – 11:00 am **Amos Butler Audubon Society Morning Bird Hike** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Join a group of new and experienced birders for a brisk morning bird walk! Meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am, led by ABAS, rain or shine. Trail: various, depending on the group size and preference.

10:00 – 11:30 am **Fall Migrant Hike** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Join Naturalist Aidan for a guided birding hike! This bird hike, geared towards bird-watchers of all skill levels, will focus on identifying birds by sight, sound, habitat and behavior. Binoculars available for those who do not bring their own. Trail: 1.5 miles, easy terrain, mostly flat, slow pace.

- 12:00 – 1:00 pm** **Mark Booth (Take Flight!) Live Owl Program** **Location: Beach Shelter**
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- 1:00 – 5:00 pm** **Activities, Crafts, & Tables at the Ornithology Center**
Owl pellet dissections, crafts, games, quidditch, scavenger hunts, concessions, vendor tables, the silent auction display, and more will be set up at the Ornithology Center during festival open hours (moved indoors if raining). Visit the raptor ambassadors in their new enclosures, learn about owls, try the migration obstacle course, and explore our exhibits. Come in costume and get a free piece of candy or small prize! Sunday we will also have a Swifty friendship bracelet-making station!
- 1:00 – 6:00 pm** **Campfire, S'mores, and Friendship Bracelets!** **Location: Ornithology Center**
S'mores supplies will be available for purchase at the concession stand during this time and roasting sticks will be available around a campfire. To celebrate owls and Taylor Swift, we will also have a bracelet-making station nearby!
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm** **Wild Birds Unlimited: Owl Box Nest Cameras** **Location: Ornithology Center Classroom**
Join Jim Carpenter, Founder and CEO of Wild Birds Unlimited, for a presentation about "The Story Behind the WBU Owl Box." For the past several years, Jim has had an owl box in his backyard. According to Jim, "I first placed the Wild Birds Unlimited Barred Owl Box in my wooded backyard in 1998 with the first nesting 8 years later. I have had nesting owls almost every year since then, but have no idea if it is the same pair." Classroom presentation, limited to first 40 attendees.
- 2:30 – 3:00 pm** **Meet a Raptor** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Meet Freyja, the Peregrine Falcon ambassador! Learn about Freyja and the peregrine conservation success story from her trainer and park volunteer, Donna McCarty.
- 2:45 – 3:30 pm** **Amazing Owl Adaptations** **Location: Ornithology Center Classroom**
Join Laura Graham, Eagle Creek Park volunteer naturalist, for an engaging presentation all about the fascinating adaptations of owls. Come along to learn more about owl physiology and discover what makes these remarkable nocturnal animals so unique! This classroom style presentation is geared towards ages 12+ and space is limited to the first 40 attendees.
- 3:30 - 4:00 pm** **Owl Feeding Time** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Watch one of the naturalists feed the owls and other Raptor Ambassadors in their enclosures at the Ornithology Center. They eat quickly so don't be late!
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm** **NATURE | Raptors: A Fistful of Daggers** **Location: Ornithology Center Classroom**
Join WFYI in the classroom for a showing of Raptors: A Fistful of Daggers. See the extreme ways in which raptors conquer the toughest habitats on Earth. From snowy owls in the high Arctic to honey buzzards raiding hornet nests in Taiwan, raptors can hunt prey in any climate. **Free but registration required.** (Link to register coming soon on wfyi.org/events)
- 5:00 – 5:20 pm** **Not So Scary Scavengers** **Location: Ornithology Center**
Scavengers, such as vultures, get a bad rap, but they're really nature's immune system! You might also be surprised to learn that Bald Eagles, while known for their amazing fishing ability, also regularly scavenge for food. Come meet Matilda the Turkey Vulture and Carson the Bald Eagle and learn about how scavengers, such as vultures and eagles, are important for healthy ecosystems!
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm** **Night Hike (Taylor's Version)** **Location: Ornithology Center**
WHOOO'S afraid of little old me!? YOU SHOULD BE excited to join us for this night hike at Eagle Creek Park! Enjoy the sunset with fellow Swifties while we hike along the reservoir to our favorite Taylor Swift songs.