

ANIMAL AMBASSADOR

Meet Kettle, a Broad-winged Hawk

(Buteo platypterus)

The wild animals that are permanent residents at the Wildlife Center are animal ambassadors helping to share educational messages.

Because of safety and/or survival concerns, they cannot be released back into the wild. Under our state and federal permits, they remain here for the rest of their natural lives. We hope their stories and their histories will inspire protection and respect for all animals.

Every animal species spends the winter months differently; some migrate, some hibernate, and some stay awake all winter long. When broad-winged hawks migrate, they travel all the way to Central and South America, an average of 4,350 miles one way!

Broad-winged hawks migrate in large flocks, and most leave the hardwood forests of the Northeastern United States within a few weeks in mid-September. They use sun warmed updrafts of air to save energy and gain altitude, often soaring out of sight. This circling and soaring is said to be like bubbles of air rising in a heated teakettle and these “kettles” of hawks in migration can range from a few individuals to thousands.

Our broad-winged hawk animal ambassador, Kettle, does not make this long journey. She is part of our permanent resident animal “staff.” She came to the Wildlife Center as a patient in August 1996. Kettle was found near Ashtabula County Airport on the side of the road, apparently hit by a car. She suffered an injury to her left wing. The fracture did not heal correctly, and it became necessary to partially amputate her wing to reduce her pain. Since broad-winged hawks are not adapted to cold Ohio winters, we provide her with a heat lamp during the cooler months.

Kettle is a very important part of the Wildlife Center. She helps us teach about migration and birds of prey. She is part of our outreach programming, and travels to schools and other locations. In the wild you can find broad-winged hawks in our forested parks such as Chapin Forest Reservation, Girdled Road Reservation or Penitentiary Glen Reservation. At the Wildlife Center you can find Kettle in the yard; stop in for a visit!



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Monarch Migration

In Ohio, monarchs usually begin their migration to Mexico during the last week of August. If there is no hard frost, the last monarchs fly south by early November. After hibernating in the forested mountains of Mexico, they fly north in early spring, laying eggs along the way. Then, they typically die of old age without making it further than Texas. Some of their offspring may fly as far as Ohio, but we most often see third generation monarchs in late May. We can all help monarchs and other butterflies by keeping pesticide-free gardens and planting milkweed and other nectar producing plants, especially varieties that bloom continuously May through October.

