

# EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

Caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

FLIGHTS OF FANCY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006

## Happy New Year!

We ended 2005 on a positive note by passing the inspection for our state permits. The Wildlife & Parks officer who performed the inspection was very impressed with our facilities, including our new rehab/vet room and flight pen. The new regulations were very specific about what a rehabilitation facility should have, and we are proud to have made the grade. Of course we couldn't have done it without our volunteers who put in their time and manpower, as well as all of our donors, who helped make it a reality. Hats off to you!

## A Look Ahead

We have lots of exciting things planned for 2006. Our first big project is the completion of another set of bird pens on the west side (back) of the flight pen. These pens will house birds while they are being rehabilitated, keeping them out of public viewing. We'll probably sponsor several big "volunteer work days" as the weather gets warmer to get them finished.

There are also plans for the building of a large fire pit, which will allow us to have some nighttime programs in the summer featuring Native American storytelling, some old-fashioned marshmallow roasting, and owl calling.

You can also expect to see some new features added to our website, including an interactive photo album and maybe some bird trivia questions for the kids. All-in-all, we expect 2006 to be a terrific year.

## 2006 Board of Directors

Eagle Valley's Board of Directors will have its annual meeting toward the end of January. Former President Kent Thomas has resigned, so the meeting will first install new members and officers. The current board members are:

Rachel Bournival, *Interim President*

Debbie Anderson, *Interim Vice President*

Susan Lockwood, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Ken Lockwood  
Daniel Ludwig  
Dr. Alan Maccarone  
Joseph Anderson  
Dr. Davey Harkins  
Abby Wisdom  
Merry Brewer

Please email Ken at [raptorcare@aol.com](mailto:raptorcare@aol.com) if you are interested in serving as a board or committee member. We love to involve new people and new ideas!

## 2005 Statistics

On-Site Programs: 22  
Attendees: 573

Off-Site Programs: 45  
Attendees: 4,616

Birds Received: 103

Birds Released: 46

Birds Transferred to Other Centers: 9



## Other Highlights:

- Completed nature trail to beaver dams
- Featured at Gander Mountain Grand Opening
- Featured at Warren Theaters
- Received new tables for tours/private parties

## Eagle Valley Featured in Garden Plain *Times-Sentinel*

The December 8, 2005 edition of the Garden Plain's *Times-Sentinel* included an article about an out-of-the-ordinary raptor rescue. On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we received a very unusual call from a City of Wichita employee. What appeared to be a Peregrine falcon had been spotted at the water treatment facility near 55<sup>th</sup> St. & South Hydraulic.

"I asked them to describe it to me," Ken told the newspaper, "because I had my doubts it was a Peregrine. He then told me that it had leather straps on its legs. Well, this got my attention because it told me it belonged to a falconer and they were probably worried sick."

The plant employees attempted to catch the bird, but despite its obvious weakness, it continued to elude them. Ken and Susan headed out and contacted volunteer Rachel en route, who lives in town and could get there much faster.

By the time they arrived, Rachel had already managed to catch the bird and had it secured in a transport box. "I snuck up on it," Rachel said, "and when I got close enough I just grabbed its jesses and held on tight. He eventually stopped trying to fly away and sat on my hand."

The wayward raptor did indeed belong to a local falconer who works at McConnell Air Force Base; she uses the birds to keep the runways free of wild birds. The Peregrine/Gyrfalcon hybrid had gotten loose four days earlier and the falconer was thrilled to have her bird back.

"You could see the relief on her face," Ken said. Everyone was pleased at the outcome, including the bird, who is back to enjoying the comforts of home.

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### Adopt-a-Bird Program Gets First Adoption

Talon, our Golden Eagle, earned the distinction as being the first of our birds adopted under our new Adopt-a-Bird Program.

When the employees at the US Post Office Main Branch learned that their long-time coworker and bird lover, Mary Herrold, was retiring after 30+ years with the post office, they decided to give her a very special gift: they set up a collection and adopted Talon for her.

As part of the surprise, Ken and volunteer Rachel arrived at the Administration Office the morning of the Goodbye Party with Talon and two smaller birds (Miles the barn owl and Turnpike the kestrel). After presenting Mary with the certificate of adoption and a framed portrait of Talon, Ken asked her if she would like to see some golden eagle feathers...he just neglected to mention they were still attached to the bird.

Mary (along with many of the party attendees) was moved to tears by the surprise. In addition to the certificate and photo, she also received some free tour passes, so she can come visit Talon at the center whenever she pleases.



## Corporate Sponsorship and Adopt-a-Bird Opportunities

This year we will really be promoting our sponsorship and adoption programs. Because so many public agencies are experiencing budget restrictions, we have seen a sharp decline in the number of scheduled programs and field trips. We are offering several different opportunities for corporations or individuals to sponsor a live-bird program for a classroom or library of your choice.

### **In-School Program: \$150 per program**

This program focuses on teaching the students about raptors and their role in the environment. Up to six live birds are used during the program, giving the children the opportunity to see them up close and in person. We also often do a free-flight demonstration with Miles, our barn owl. Science teachers have the opportunity to request free owl pellets for the students to dissect. For grades 1-6. 30-60 minutes in length.

### **Library Reading Program: \$75 per program**

This program is best suited for very young children, up to kindergarten age, and can be done at a preschool or daycare center as well as a library. The focus is less on formal education; we read one or two stories which feature birds of prey, and then introduce the birds to the children. 15-30 minutes in length.

### **Eagle Visit: \$250**

Currently, only our golden eagle, Talon, is able to make off-site appearances. Due to the time and effort involved in transporting such a large bird we do not include her in our regular programs. However, she is a magnificent eagle and seeing her in person is a powerful experience. Talon suffered irreparable damage to her right wing after being shot; her story is a compelling reminder to students and adults alike to be respectful to our environment and other living creatures.

**What You'll Receive:** All sponsors will receive a signed Certificate of Sponsorship and an 8x10 color photograph taken during the sponsored program. We'll also highlight your program in our monthly newsletter and on our website. And don't forget that Eagle Valley Raptor Center is a 501c(3) non-profit entity: your sponsorship is completely tax deductible, and we will provide you with a receipt for your records.

#### **I'd like to help!**

- I am interested in sponsoring a school field trip
- I am interested in sponsoring a library reading program
- I am interested in volunteering at Eagle Valley
- I am interested in adopting a bird
- Donation enclosed (amt: \_\_\_\_\_ )



Name and Address:

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**Cut out and mail to:**

**Eagle Valley Raptor Center  
927 N. 343<sup>rd</sup> St. W.  
Cheney, KS 67025**