

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

Flights of Fancy Newsletter

JUNE, 2006

A Busy Start to Summer

The babies are finally arriving at Eagle Valley! After a slow start to our usual spring rush of nestling raptors, we finally kicked into high gear with the arrival of two fledgling American kestrels and five tiny screech owls! And with the influx of young birds comes the expected increase in our food bills. Any assistance you can give to help us keep these little lost birds on the road to release will be greatly appreciated.



**How can you resist these sweet faces?
We sure couldn't!**

**Make a donation today to help these
orphaned fledglings fly!**

American
Kestrel:
approx. 4
weeks old



Screech owls
– 2 gray and
1 red phase

Looking for Volunteers

Why not get involved in something a little different this summer? Why not join The Eagle Valley Club! We're always needing volunteers for various projects around the center or just to do general upkeep. The first weekend in June, we had a group of volunteers out to help stain our large flight pen, an annual chore which goes much faster with more hands and brushes! Contact Ken at 393-0710 if you're interested.



The Eagle Valley Club: Mary & Carl Herold, Jack & Peggy Willey, and Sharon Scheffler.

Update on Spirit

Our newest resident, bald eagle Spirit, is settling in to her new home quite well! She enjoys sitting on a perch right at the very front of her cage, taking in the sunshine and trading eagle-calls with our male eagle, Wasu. She quickly learned that crowds of people gathered at the pavilion mean that treats are forthcoming, and eagerly awaits each new group of visitors. Program Director Ken Lockwood says, "She's still a little unsure about people standing near her pen, but she'll usually come to the front perch for some treats." Slowly but surely, Spirit is learning to trust us. Ken reports that she even took food from his hand the other day.

We're looking into building a special pen for Spirit, to accommodate the limitations from her partial wing amputation. Two separate construction companies have approached us about helping to put together the new pen, but nothing has been finalized yet. Let us know if you'd be interested in sponsoring Spirit to help provide for her training, care, and living quarters!



EVRC Takes on Interns

Two students from the Zoo Science Program at Friends University are taking part in summer internships at Eagle Valley. Anna DiSalvo (on left) and Philip Nielsen (on right) first visited our center on a field trip with their Ornithology class. Their professor, Dr. Alan Maccarone, is a member of our board of directors, and encouraged his students to get involved. We're very excited about our first official student internships and are looking forward to hosting more in the future!

A Busy Month

In addition to all of the baby birds we've received over the last week or so, June was already packed full of programs, tours, and activities. McConnell AFB's School Age Program kids will be out almost every day during the first week of June. We'll also be seeing groups from ComCare of Wichita, Camp Haysville Activity Club, Kids Klub of Rose Hill, East Wichita Business Association, Brownie Troop 294 of Wichita, and the West Side Nazarene Church Senior's group. Also this coming Friday we'll be hosting a group of boy scouts from El Dorado who are coming out to camp in our prairie grass fields! This is something we've wanted to make happen for a long time; hopefully we'll be able to host more scout groups in the future.



Upcoming Changes

Keep an eye out for a new look for Eagle Valley. Ron Lockwood with RL Photo in Coatesville, PA has agreed to design us a new logo.

Also – have you visited our online store? We have some neat products available, and are in the process of working up new designs and ideas. Be sure to let us know if there's something you'd like to see!

Our pavilion has a new look! The tables donated by the Goddard Sonic have new coats of paint and some lovely umbrellas to match. Looking for a unique place to hold a company picnic or family get-together? Eagle Valley's expanded pavilion is the perfect place!



In the Spotlight: Tundra

Fans of Harry Potter immediately recognize our snowy owl as similar to the jewel-eyed Hedwig showcased in the best-selling books and hit movies. But you don't have to be a fan to appreciate Tundra's captivating good looks, especially those piercing yellow eyes.

Snowy owls actually have fur underneath their feathers, which helps keep them warm during the bitter Arctic winters. However, summer in Kansas is often too hot for Tundra to handle, so he spends the warmer days inside in the cool air conditioning.

He is a favorite on tours for his gorgeous white plumage and the wide variety of sounds he can produce: he can bark, whistle, and even scream like an eagle!

If you'd like to sponsor Tundra, or any one of our other birds, visit our website:

www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org/support.asp



Tundra at one year. Male snowy owls lose their black spots; at four, he is now almost pure white.