

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

FLIGHTS OF FANCY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

Sad News

After a month-long fight, numerous vet appointments, and daily medications, Libby our brave bald eagle lost her battle on Friday, August 25th. The wounds and scarring on her face and feet were not just burns but a symptom of a fairly common virus that affects young birds like Libby. We had hoped that the lesions would remain confined to her face and feet, but unfortunately they began to invade her mouth, throat, and lungs, making it difficult for her to eat and even breathe. At this point her condition began to rapidly deteriorate and I made the choice to have her put to sleep rather than have her continue to suffer. It was a difficult decision, but one that had to be made for her sake.

I would like to thank everyone who came forward to sponsor Libby and help with the cost of her care. We all fought hard for Libby – and she fought for herself – but in the end the disease was just too much for her. I'm glad at least that we were able to make her last days comfortable.

--Ken Lockwood, Program Director



Libby was humanely euthanized the last week of August. A small memorial will be placed on the Eagle Valley grounds in honor of her memory.



New Bird Housing Pens Completed

We've (finally!) completed construction on our new housing pens for wild birds undergoing rehabilitation. Thanks to donations from Angie Whiteman and family, we were finally able to purchase the necessary boards. The only thing that remains is to finish and hang the large swinging door for the larger pen (you can see the unfinished door leaning against the larger pen in the lower photograph). This door will allow us to either section off the larger pen into two smaller pens, or open it up for smaller owls and hawks to exercise in.

These pens have long been a goal of our center, as they are a requirement by the State of Kansas for rehabilitators, and also so we can quarantine the wild raptors away from our resident captive birds.

Thanks again go out to: Group Construction Company, who donated the doors for the pens; Idaho Timber, who donated some of the lumber; and Mark Garcia, for his donation of materials for and the construction of the large swinging door.

We couldn't have done it without you!



Congratulations Interns!

Congratulations are in order for our two summer interns, Phil and Anna. They successfully completed their practicum at Eagle Valley as part of their degree program at Friends University.

Both students enjoyed their time with us so much that they've decided to stay on as volunteers! But more importantly, they earned valuable skills and knowledge that will help them in their future careers.

Way to go Phil & Anna!!



Friends University intern Phil gives Wasu the bald eagle a bath while cleaning the flight pen.



Stuff to Watch For

Keep your eyes open for news on the following upcoming events:

- Sierra Club dinner @ EVRC
- Hawk release
- Scout camping area
- Fire pit and nighttime Native American story-telling
- New items at our online store, The Eagle's Nest! (www.cafepress.com/evrc)

Volunteer Spotlight: Joe & Debbie Anderson

Where would EVRC be without Joe and Debbie? The answer is a hit television show: LOST!

Joe & Debbie might not clean pens, or rescue birds, or mow the lawn, but they provide a service just as important. Together they design, host, and maintain our website at eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org, all completely free of charge to us.

Both Joe and Debbie also serve on our board of directors.

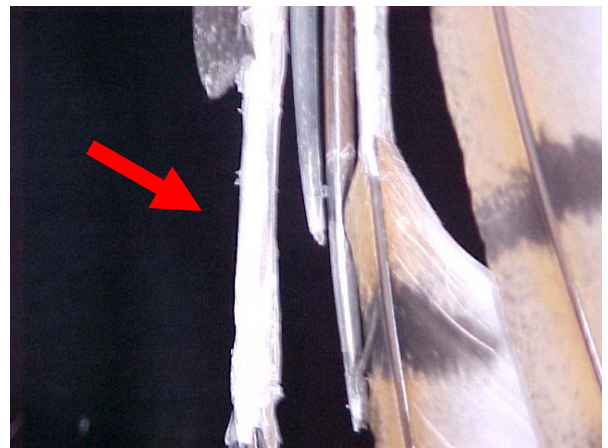
We cannot thank them enough.

Miles and the Fickle Feathers

No, it's not the latest band to hit the club scene. It's only poor Miles, the barn owl, and his feather troubles. This summer, when he shed his old feathers in preparation for growing in new ones (a process referred to as "molting"), the new feathers did not come in properly! They grew in but the soft outer parts (called the "vanesh") did not break out through the central shaft (as you can see in the photo below). Without them properly formed, Miles cannot fly!

Fortunately, we were able to correct his problem with the help of Dr. Christen Skaer at Skaer Veterinary Clinic in Wichita. They anesthetized Miles and, with their fingers, gently slit open the thin covering of the shaft to release the feather vanes. While he was under the anesthetic, Dr. Skaer also took the opportunity to trim his beak and talons.

Miles made a complete recovery from his little trip to the vet and is already looking much better. We thank Dr. Skaer for the generous donation of her time and talents. Miles thanks her as well, and so do the school children who would hate to miss out on Miles flying over their heads this year!



How would you like to support Eagle Valley by simply searching the internet? You can, and it's easy, with GoodSearch.com.

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo!-powered search engine that donates roughly half of its advertising dollars each year to non-profits like us. When you stop to consider that last year internet advertising grossed over \$6 billion, that's a lot of money to go around.

Here's how it works. Go to www.goodsearch.com. In the "I'm Supporting" box, type in "Eagle Valley" and click VERIFY. We are already signed up with GoodSearch and our name "Eagle Valley Raptor Center (Cheney, KS)" should appear in the box.

Now you can search the internet! That's all – just search! There are no fees, you don't have to purchase anything or even click on any of the advertising links. For every search you do, you earn \$.01 for Eagle Valley. That might not seem like much, but over time it can certainly add up! How many searches do you perform in a day? A week?

Now think about 50 people also doing searches. How about 100? If Eagle Valley has 100 people performing an average of 2 searches each day, in a year we will earn over \$700.

So save GoodSearch.com in your favorites and use it whenever you need to search the internet. The more searches you perform, the more money you earn for EVRC. So put your computer to good use and get searching!

(Click on "Amount Raised" to see how much EVRC supporters have raised so far!)



Raptor Fact: the Harpy Eagle is the largest and most powerful raptor in the world. The photo on the left shows the following talons from left to right: harpy eagle, golden eagle, bald eagle, great horned owl, red tailed hawk, and peregrine falcon. The harpy eagle's talons are larger than the claws of a brown bear!

Photo source: Gary Ritchison, Eastern Kentucky University

Yes! I'd like to help!

Enclosed is my donation for \$ _____

Please add me to your mailing list.

E-mail address: _____

I'd like to volunteer with special projects at EVRC.

I am interested in Board of Directors/Committee membership.

I am interested in scheduling a school/church visit or group tour at your facility.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Cut out and mail to:

Eagle Valley Raptor Center
927 N. 343rd St. W.
Cheney, KS 67025