

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

Flights of Fancy Newsletter

December, 2007

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...

While us humans are bustling about, writing Christmas cards, purchasing gifts, baking pan after pan of holiday cookies, some raptors are also getting into the spirit of the season.

But not the Christmas season. The mating season.

In late November and early December the great horned owl begins its annual hunt for a mate. The most common owl found here in Kansas, the great horned is the earliest raptor to begin nesting, sometimes as early as January. And now is the time for them to do their own holiday shopping: the males for a nice, juicy bunny or rat, and the females for the male with the biggest present.



Eagle Valley recently played host to a large female great horned owl who has taken a liking to our resident male, Templeton. As you can see in the photo above, she also took a liking to our eagle's nest display! Program Director Ken Lockwood snapped this picture just moments before she flew off, though she has come back on several occasions to what probably looks to her to be the Ritz-Carlton!

In the wild, great horned owls usually take over an abandoned nest of other species, or will drive off other birds from their current nest, instead of building their own. I'm sure this female would love to brag that she took over an eagle's nest to raise her clutch!



Westar Green Team members (from left): Aaron Robertson, Darrick Wilson, Dennis Titus, Steve Dinneen. And, of course, Wasu on the far right!

Westar Green Team Helps Finish Final Fall Project

Thanks to the Westar Green Team, EVRC was able to make some much-needed repair on our flight pen. The four gentlemen pictured at left and their bucket truck repaired loose boards and fixed the holes in the netting across the top. The holes were made by former rehab eagle Millie, who was released in September at Milford Lake.

Getting those two big jobs complete is a load off our minds. Thanks, Westar!



Deck Your Halls with Eagle Valley, Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la!

Our Christmas ornaments are a huge hit this season! Just two days ago, a brief article appeared in the *Wichita Eagle* about them and we've taken orders for close to 100 since then! If you're interested in having your favorite Eagle Valley resident perch in your Christmas tree this year, contact Program Director Ken



Lockwood at 316-393-0710. We have ornaments in all shapes and sizes, featuring Wasu (bald eagle), Talon (golden eagle), Miles (barn owl), Twister & Tidbit (screech owls), Chewy (peregrine falcon), Tara (eagle owl), Tundra (snowy owl), Turnpike (American kestrel), and Hermy (turkey vulture).

Eagle Valley's Christmas ornaments are a great way to support your favorite raptor center as well as give a unique gift this holiday season!

Season of Giving

With the success of our Christmas ornaments, and the fact that everybody has been so thoughtful and generous this year, Eagle Valley is going to give back to the community. In January 2008 we will be presenting a very special program for the people of Greensburg, Kansas, who lost so much in the tornado last spring. This is our way of thanking everybody for their generosity and love this past year, both to us and to Greensburg and other areas hard hit by the spring storms.

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'd like to purchase _____ **Christmas ornaments!** (\$4 each or 3/\$10)

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: _____