



# Flights of Fancy Newsletter

## Annie's Little Orphans

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Our resident barn owl, Annie, has another new baby to care for. Milford Nature Center, in Junction City, brought us the 3-week old baby and asked if we could place it with Annie.

We agreed, but first it was time for the teenagers to move out on their own! The two babies Annie had raised from last month are already flying, and Ken felt it was time for them to get a bit of life experience before their eventual release.

The two older owls are now feeding themselves (instead of letting "Mom" do all the work for them) and Annie is free to care for the younger orphan.

Ken says, "If we had left the older ones in with Annie and the younger owlet, Annie would have probably ignored the baby and concentrated on the older ones. This is common in nature, that the parents will want to concentrate on the larger, healthier, more robust siblings at the expense of younger, weaker ones."

All three orphans are doing well. Annie took right to her new offspring and her teenagers are well on their way to being ready for release.



**Annie's newest foster baby was not hungry when it arrived, so Annie waited patiently for 3 hours with a mouse in her beak until the baby finally cried for some food.**



**The "Teenagers" hang out in their first apartment after leaving mom's house.**



Spring time is baby raptor time in Kansas!

The great horned owl babies are all grown up and moved away. Right now the barn owls, screech owls, and barred owls are nesting.

As we move into summer, the hawk and falcon species will begin to raise their young. The latest nesters are the red tailed hawks and Mississippi Kites.

"The squeaky wheel gets the grease" is an old adage—and one that is very true when it comes to raptor babies. The older, and therefore larger and stronger, hatchling will in variably get a larger share of the food from the parents. This is because the parents want to insure the survival of the strongest and healthiest babies, so they pay attention to the one that begs the most at feeding time. It may seem cruel, but in times when food is scarce, if the parents divided the food evenly and fairly between all of their chicks, it is possible that the entire clutch would die of starvation. In seasons of plenty, however, when food is abundant, there is more than enough to satisfy even the greediest baby, leaving enough leftovers for the younger siblings

## EVRC Wins Conservation Award



The Newton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution nominated Eagle Valley Raptor Center for their National Conservation Award in Washington D.C. Our center beat out the competition and won the 2009 award for our educational programs and our work with birds of prey!

The organization will present the award on National Eagle Day: June 20th at Eagle Valley.

A big thank you to the entire DAR organization as well as the Newton Chapter for the nomination!

## “Walk This Way” Campaign Receives Donation

The American Legion Post 4 made a very generous donation to our “Walk This Way” sidewalk campaign. They raised \$800 to help us that much closer to our goal.

Post 4 consists of the American Legion, the American Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

They have been huge supporters of Eagle Valley and our mission, and we are thrilled and honored by their support.

We really need your help to make our sidewalk a reality. So far we have raised \$1,660.00 toward our goal of \$4,500.00. If you'd like to contribute toward the campaign, see the donation form on the last page.

## May Rescue Numbers

We had a long distance rescue last month. The mayor of Cherokee, Oklahoma himself brought us an injured barn owl. What a drive! It's wonderful when somebody goes out of their way to help wildlife in such a manner. Due to its injuries, the barn owl is not able to be released, but we found it a permanent home at the Hutchinson Zoo!

Also last month, we took in 19 baby screech owls, 3 baby kestrels, 1 juvenile red-shouldered hawk, 1 burrowing owl, the baby barred owl from Junction City, and 5 great horned owls. All of that in addition to 18 phone calls on ducks and geese and a whopping 67 calls on baby songbirds! It was a busy month!

The large volume of injured

and orphaned raptors we took in last month has severely depleted our food supply fund. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

And don't forget, you can give gift certificates from Rodent Pro, one of our food suppliers! See the link on the last page for details.



**A rare find inside Wichita, this burrowing owl was discovered at Pawnee & Seneca!**

## What's That Smell?



Did somebody forget to take out the garbage? Did some kids throw a stinkbomb in the window?

No, it's just the little baby pictured on the left.

We don't normally take in baby skunks, but we simply could not refuse this cute little bun-

dle. Also, one of our board members, Abby Wisdom-Williams, from Cheney, specializes in rehabilitating mammals...and skunks just happen to be her favorite! We weren't sure why, until we saw how adorable the babies are.

You may have seen Abby on

KSN's "Walk on the Wildside" the last week in May. She brought some of her baby skunks and raccoons into the studio.

## Eagle Valley Raptor Center

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Visit our website:

[www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org](http://www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org)

Caring for Nature's  
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. We could really use your help! We took in over thirty orphaned or injured birds during the month of May and our food fund is severely depleted.

You can help by making a donation—either toward food and vet care or to our “Walk this Way” sidewalk campaign—by using the form below, or by visiting our website.

You can also help us buy food by purchasing a Gift Certificate from Rodent Pro, one of our suppliers. Simply click on the link below to purchase. There are several different dollar amounts available.

### [RODENT PRO GIFT CERTIFICATE](#)



Name

Address

Phone

Email address

Yes! I'd like to help!

- Add me to your mailing list
- I'd like to volunteer or help with special projects.
- I am interested in Board of Directors/Committee membership
- I'd like to schedule a school/church program or tour of Eagle Valley's facilities
- Enclosed is my donation for the “Walk This Way” Sidewalk Campaign: \$ \_\_\_\_\_