



# Flights of Fancy Newsletter

## *Mother's Day is for Owl Mommies, Too*

Inside this issue:

**The Pelican Brief** 2

**Paint the Town Red** 2

**Bits & Pieces** 2

**Upcoming Events** 3

**Donation Form** 3

In the middle of baby owl season, Eagle Valley already had eight orphaned mouths to feed when the call came in on more: two tiny baby barred owls, barely 10 days old, had been blown from their nest.

The other babies were all great horned owls and several weeks older than the tiny barred owls, so it was not practical to put them together. The older owls were already eating on their own, but the new ones were too young and would need to be cared for by hand.

Or beak.

Program Director Ken Lockwood often shook his head in amusement when he thought of his resident barred owl, Annie, laying infertile eggs every spring and sitting on them for

days on end, expecting them to hatch. Now, however, her frustrated motherhood was about to become the perfect solution to his baby owl dilemma.

Early one morning, with a cameraman and news anchor standing anxiously by, Ken gently urged Annie off her nest (which is really just a depression she scooped out of the mulch on the ground), then carefully removed the eggs and replaced them with the two babies.

After a few minutes of watching and waiting, Annie finally approached the nest. Then, to everyone's delight, she carefully tucked the babies up underneath her wings to shelter them and keep them warm.

"This was the first time I've tried this," admitted Ken, "but I'm thrilled it turned out so well."

Annie is an excellent mother. She takes the food Ken leaves for her and carefully tears small pieces off for the babies. The owlets can barely see, but they have tiny, sensitive hairs growing around their beaks. When Annie touches these hairs with her beak and the food, the babies open their mouths eagerly.

Despite never having had babies of her own, Annie is a devoted mother. Happy Mothers' Day to all mothers out there, Annie included.



**Left: Proud foster-mother Annie poses with her new babies, the day they were introduced.**

**Right: Annie feeds her growing babies.**



## The Pelican Brief

Ken Lockwood thought he was hallucinating when somebody called him to pick up a pelican. Surely there wasn't a pelican wandering around Wichita!

There was. "Petey" the Pelican was found near Friends University, unable to fly and in distress. A team managed to catch him and delivered him to Eagle Valley, trussed up in a sheet.

"Pelicans are big birds," re-

ports Ken. "They have a wing-span of eight feet."

Petey underwent a full examination, and it was discovered that he had suffered a fractured wing several weeks ago. The break had healed, but not well enough for him to fly, yet somehow he had managed to eke out a living on land.

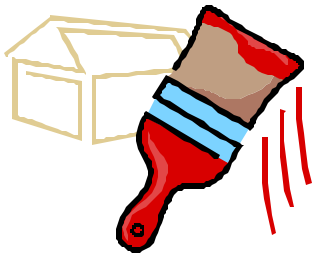
"Petey" also turned out to be a "Patty." Patty is lacking a growth on the end of her bill that male pelicans have during

the breeding season, that helps attract the females.

On May 4, the Westar Energy Green team transported Patty to her new home at Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, KS. She will be introduced to their male pelican once her quarantine period is over.



## Paint the Town Red!



Or, rather, stain the raptor center a lovely cedar shade!

It's time for our annual spring staining party. Each year, we need to re-apply the stain to the bird pens and exhibit displays.

Our Staining Party this year will be held on Saturday, June 20, from 8:00 a.m.—12 noon. Hopefully, we'll "beat the heat" and get everything done

before lunch.

Speaking of lunch, food and drink will be provided. So mark your calendar and grab some friends!

If you're interested in helping at our Staining Party, call Ken Lockwood at 316-393-0710 for details.

### Did You Know...?

The American White Pelican can hold over **THREE GALLONS** of water in its bill!

## Bits & Pieces

**We have another Eagle Scout project waiting in the wings!**

Boy Scout Ben Jensen, a junior at Maize High School, will be constructing new benches in front of the smaller bird pens where our owls, hawks, and falcons live. This will help out our senior visitors by giving them a place to sit down.

**A big THANK YOU to Pals Animal Rescue** for donating a bank of 3 veterinary animal cages to the center. These cages are perfect for housing injured owls and hawks: the surface is smooth and easy to clean and will prevent feather breakage.

**EVRC presented a program at the Earth Workshop the last week in April.** This Earth Day event featured educational presentations from the City of Wichita Water Dept., KS Wildlife & Parks, Westar Energy, Great Plains Nature Center, Sedgwick County Master Gardeners, and many others!

# Eagle Valley Raptor Center

927 N. 343rd Street W.  
Cheney, KS 67025

Phone: 316-393-0710  
E-mail: raptorcare@aol.com

Visit our website:

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

Caring for Nature's  
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



## Upcoming Events:

Bluestem High School, Garden View Christian School, Pray Woodman (Maize), Northridge Academy, Ellsworth Middle School, Pretty Prairie Grade School, Robinson Elementary (Augusta), St. Mark's (Colwich), Heights High School, Georgetown Village.

With so many tours and programs scheduled, it is vital that we reach our goal for our "Walk This Way" sidewalk campaign. Please consider making a donation to fund the construction. We are 1/3 of the way to our \$3,000 goal—and every little bit helps! Plus, we'll send Patty the Pelican over to collect.

**Insert  
Donation  
Here.**



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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_