

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

FLIGHTS OF FANCY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

Extreme Home Makeover – Eagle Style!

Bald eagle nests are the celebrity homes of the raptor world! Like a multi-million dollar palatial palace in Beverly Hills, one of these gargantuan nests can easily reach upwards of six or seven feet in diameter. Bald eagle pairs return to the same nesting site each year and will add more sticks, twigs, and leaves to their old nest as part of their courtship ritual. One nest in Florida was 2.9 meters in diameter and weighed nearly 3 tons!

Though we don't have any nesting pairs of bald eagles in south central Kansas, Eagle Valley recently constructed our own version of a bald eagle's nest so visitors can see just how impressive these structures can be! It took Ken over two weeks to build it, whereas a bald eagle pair would probably have finished it in just a few days. And just like real bald eagles, schools and tour group members can add a branch or two during their visit, so that our eagle's nest will continue to grow.

Ken stands next to the nest in the early stage of its construction. You can see just how big it's going to be when it's finished.



Voila! A nest fit for a king...or at least a pair of bald eagles wanting to start a family!



Thank You

Eagle Valley Raptor Center would like to extend special thanks to:

- Star Lumber, for their gift of \$250
- Group Construction Company, for their donation of new doors for the new set of bird pens
- Wyldeewood Cellars, for their donation of mulch for our trees and bird pens
- Idaho Timber, for their donation of lumber for our new bird pens
- Westar Energy, for their donation to help fund our new bird pens

Calendar of Events

Be sure to catch Eagle Valley representatives (both human and avian!) at the upcoming events:

- Great Plains Earth Institute, Friday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.
- OK Kids Day at Cheney State Park, Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Prairie Days at Cowtown, Friday, April 21, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- River Festival, Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in front of Century II



Fundraisers....are for the birds!

Eagle Valley Raptor Center is holding its First Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction this summer! While we haven't finalized all the details yet, here's some of the exciting things we are working on:

- Terrific silent auction items
- A delicious sit-down dinner
- Entertainment, live music
- A visit from some of Eagle Valley's most popular residents
- Unique Eagle Valley items for sale

We hope this event will not only raise some much-needed funding for the center, but also awareness of the service that we perform in the community and in our environment. Wyldewood Cellars in Mulvane has generously donated use of their banquet facilities, which can seat up to 150 people, and we've already approached area business about sponsoring auction items. We hope to have plans finalized by next month, so stay tuned for more information!



In the Spotlight: Harley



Please welcome the newest member of the Eagle Valley Raptor Center Ambassador Team: Harley Hawk!

Harley is a juvenile Harlan's red tailed hawk. Usually found in Canada and the northern United States, the Harlan's differs in color from the red tails we see here in Kansas, which are mostly shades of brown with a light-colored chest. As you can see, Harley is almost solid black on the outside (his undercoat of feathers is white).

Harley came to us after being hit by a car. The head trauma he suffered resulted in some vision loss in one eye. Hawks are very visual birds, hunting almost purely on sight alone – without 100% perfect vision, Harley would not survive well in the wild.

Volunteer Rachel Bournival has worked hard to acclimate Harley to his new captive environment and get him used to being an educational ambassador to the public. It was a rough start, but he soon became quite bonded to his human caretakers and has settled in well.

Harley accepts being around large groups of people and is now showing off his aeronautical skills with free-flight demonstrations during center tours. He also recently made his first public appearance at Boy Scout Troop 702's Blue & Gold Banquet. He did remarkably well for a first-timer and impressed many of the scouts and parents there that night. We're very excited about being able to offer a glimpse of this handsome bird.



Harley and trainer Rachel pose at the Eagle Valley sign in front of the center's property.