

EAGLE VALLEY RAPTOR CENTER

caring for nature's injured and orphaned wildlife

FLIGHTS OF FANCY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2006

Whew!

What a sweltering month we've had! And it wasn't just us humans feeling the heat – wildlife all over the area found its way to Eagle Valley in need of some shade and fluids to combat dehydration. In the space of just three weeks, we took in the following:

- 4 juvenile Cooper's hawks
- 6 juvenile Mississippi kites
- 3 red tailed hawks
- 1 juvenile bald eagle
- 1 baby screech owl
- 1 baby turkey vulture



With the exception of the little screech owl, which had gotten itself caught in a glue-type mouse trap, all of these birds were suffering from the effects heat exhaustion and dehydration. The worst case of all was the bald eagle, which we'll highlight later on.

However, despite the high temperatures, some courageous volunteers did come out and work up a sweat. Boy Scout Troop 743 from Wichita came out with some scaffolding and finished staining the upper reaches of our flight pen. It looks terrific!! Thanks a million, guys!

Eagle Scout Chase (on left) and his father John (right) pose in front of one of the jump boxes Chase built for Eagle Valley. The two boxes are a welcome addition to our facility and have already been put into use!



One of the young men from Troop 743 completed his Eagle Scout project and made two beautiful jump boxes for us. The box has a padded perch inside, to allow for shelter and shade, and a tether pole underneath to securely attach the bird. This will give our resident birds some time outside in the sun as well as providing a good exercise opportunity for our rehab birds before they are released into the wild.



The boys from Troop 743 braved the late-July heat.



If You Can't Take the Heat...

...hope Ken Lockwood rescues you?

This is "Liberal", a juvenile bald eagle. He was found, as his name implies, just outside of Liberal, Kansas, on July 27th. Fish & Wildlife officials contacted Eagle Valley with reports that the bird had been on the ground for several days. "It was like a desert out there," says Ken, of the area where they found him. The young bird fractured his left wing, probably from falling out of his nest, and then was unable to find either water or shelter from the scorching sun. As a result, he has suffered severe burns to his face and feet.



Here you can see the burns and blistered area around his beak and eyes. Once the burns heal, the feathers should grow back.

At four to five months of age, Liberal should weigh close to ten pounds. "He topped the scales at four and a half," reports Ken, who immediately rushed the bird to a veterinary clinic for x-rays and an examination. "He was terribly dehydrated, so we gave him fluids and a tube feeding after setting his wing in a cast." Ken and Susan both applied a salve to the terrible burns to prevent infection and promote healing, and then stepped back to let nature do what it does best.

Two days after being rescued, Liberal finally ate and drank on his own for the first time. He was then transferred to an outdoor pen where he has settled in comfortably, though he is still weak and moves slowly. Still, with each day his hopes for survival improve.

"We won't know how well the wing heals for another couple of weeks," Ken told the Channel 12 film crew, who came out to do a feature story on the poor bird (the story aired on the evening of the 28th). If all goes well, we hope to be able to release Liberal back into the wild this winter. With that in mind, vet bills for Liberal reached the \$300 mark after just two days of care, so a special fund has been set up to receive donations toward his care. To donate, contact Ken Lockwood at 316-393-0710 or visit our website at www.eaglevalleyraptorcenter.org. Be sure to specify Liberal's Fund.



Do you, or anybody you know, have construction experience?

Or can you at least drive a nail into a piece of wood? We're trying to finish our second set of pens for wild birds and need some help putting the walls up! The boards have been ordered (thanks to a generous donor) and will be in the first weekend in August. Contact Ken at 316-393-0710 if you can help!

Glue Mouse Traps are a Danger to Owls

Nobody likes to find mice droppings in their house, and many of us have seen (or used) those handy little glue-traps which catch those furry trespassers. It seems like the ideal solution: no poison, no mess, it's perfect? Right?

Not always. And especially not if you happen to be a little screech owl who sees what you think is an easy meal: a mouse, right there in plain sight!

Imagine the homeowner's surprise when they discovered their trap had caught not only a mouse, but also an owl!

Fortunately for the little owl, his tangle with the glue trap was not fatal and he is well on the road to recovery (minus a few feathers). But this is a good reminder for those of you who might use these traps. Please be sure to use them *indoors only* and to dispose of them properly when you are finished. Not every owl may be as lucky as little Elmer.



Eagle Valley helped me out of a sticky situation! Will you help them?

Donate today!

Bird of the Month:

The Turkey Vulture!

If you thought somebody caught this bird in the middle of playing dress-up, you



wouldn't be too far off. This is **Lilly Munster**, a baby turkey vulture who was rescued from an old house in Kingman just before it was demolished.

Those fluffy white baby feathers are slowly being replaced with the black plumage and characteristic featherless red head of an adult. The turkey vulture gets its name from their feet – which are certainly more like a turkey's than an eagle's!

Vultures feed exclusively on carrion – animals that are already dead. They have an excellent immune system and very strong stomach acids that help prevent disease. And unlike other birds, they have an incredible sense of smell. Vultures have even been trained to help smell out leaks in natural gas pipelines (because natural gas smells like rotten eggs).

The black vulture, a cousin to the turkey vulture, may also be seen occasionally in Kansas, though they tend to live further east.

Yes! I'd like to help!

Enclosed is my donation for \$ _____
(Check here for **Liberal's Fund**.)

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