



Flights of Fancy Newsletter

Trapper Joe Update

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Trapper Joe's foot injury from the coyote foot-hold trap has not healed enough for him to be released back into the wild. The tendons and nerves suffered enough damage that he has limited use of the foot; without full use, he would not be able to hunt properly.

Eagle Valley is making preparations to send Joe to Operation Wildlife in Linwood, Kansas (near Kansas City) for continued care. They have a veterinarian on staff there that specializes in birds of prey. He will be able to monitor Joe and

evaluate his foot. He will want to make sure that Joe is not in any pain and at least has enough use of the foot to stand and distribute his weight properly. If he is not using the foot well enough, he could develop a condition called "bumblefoot" on his good foot, from using it to bear all of his weight. We hope that will not happen and that he will be able to live out his years in captivity as a feathered ambassador in Operation Wildlife's educational programs.

However, we were pleased to

discover that his wing sprain (sustained while he was dragging the trap around) has completely healed. Our resident male eagle, Wasu, had to give up his private flight pen (again) so that Joe could exercise his wing a bit. He flies very well and seems to be enjoying having a little more room to maneuver in.

Below is a picture of Trapper Joe sitting on one of the two tall perches in our flight pen.

Eagle Valley recently joined the Cheney Chamber of Commerce. We're excited about partnering with our local chamber and hope to work closely with them in the future for programs and events.

We were also invited to Salina, KS for their local "Big Boys Toy Show." Talon, our golden eagle, went along to wow the crowd.



Location, Location, Location!

The very near tragedy of US Airways Flight 1549 has brought the reality of bird strikes to national attention. The plane, carrying 155 passengers and crew on board, lost both engines to bird strikes (this was confirmed after the plane was recovered from the river and the engines examined). Fortunately, all 155 people survived and the injuries were few and mild. The pilot, Chelsey Sullenberger, is being hailed as a hero for managing to pull off the water landing safely.

But you don't have to be a top-rated pilot to be a hero. We have some heroes right here at McConnell AFB. The base has a bird strike team that works diligently to keep the runways and air free from birds, so that the bird strikes will not happen. McConnell has some large populations of red tailed hawks as well as some owls that are occupying an area of the base directly in the flight

paths of the jets and other aircraft. They have been forced to stop air traffic at times, putting planes in holding patterns over the base, while they work to clear the area.

Recently, McConnell received permission from the US government to trap and relocate the juvenile hawks and owls. They then contacted Eagle Valley for assistance in banding and relocating the birds. As such, we are now working with the Bird Banding Laboratory in Maryland, which allows us to put a temporary non-toxic identifying mark on the McConnell birds that we release, so the bird strike team will be able to tell if any are coming back into the area.

Last week, McConnell trapped their first hawk. Ken Lockwood marked and then released the young male just north of Great Bend.

McConnell just caught their second hawk; he will receive treatment for a minor foot injury before being released.

Did You Know...

Since 1995, there have been over 82,000 reported bird strikes with airplanes.



Here, Ken Lockwood holds a juvenile red tailed hawk prior to its release. The pink band on its tail will identify it should it return to the McConnell area.



Eagle Valley quietly released Denali, our eagle who had suffered from lead poisoning, near an area lake this past week. He had made some remarkable improvements recently, so we were hopeful that the release would be successful.

The lake is not far from EVRC

Sweet Release

property, so we will be able to quickly retrieve him should he show any sign of weakness or illness.

After his release, he flew right up into a big cottonwood tree, just like he was supposed to!

We did alert officials from Kansas Wildlife & Parks to the

release, so that they would be aware of the bird in case anybody reports it.

Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope that Denali does well back home!!!

Eagle Valley Raptor Center

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**Caring for Nature's
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife**



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. Our food and veterinary costs have really skyrocketed, what with having 3 injured bald eagles to provide for. Any donations you can make to help off-set the cost of their care would be greatly appreciated, and are much needed.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for our annual spring cleaning drive! We have lots of yearly chores and you don't need to have a fancy degree or special skills to be able to help!

We need people to help with mulching trees, cleaning pens, recovering perches, staining the pens, lacquering the log benches, weeding, and other types of outdoor activities.

Call Ken Lockwood at 316-393-0710 if you want to help. Gather up some friends and make a party out of it!

Name

Address

Phone

Email address

Yes! I'd like to help!

- Add me to your mailing list
- I'd like to volunteer with 2009 Spring Cleaning!.
- 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 to help provide food and vet care for the injured eagles: \$ _____