



Raptor 911

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It is difficult, as private rehabilitators, to drive out to pick up every single bird we receive calls on. Sometimes, the public is willing and able to capture the birds for us and bring them to us. However, we are simply not able to go out on every call we receive. Our time and ability are both limited.

There are some calls, though, that we simply cannot ignore. One such call came in on June 30th.

A couple in South Hutchinson discovered a great horned owl tangled up in a barbed wire fence. He was hanging by one wing in 90+ degree weather with no food, water, or shelter.

These compassionate people called several agencies in and around the Hutchinson area, and to their dismay, every sin-

gle one of those agencies refused to come to that owl's aid, including a licensed rehabilitation facility barely fifteen minutes from the bird's location.

So they called Eagle Valley. Ken cancelled a tour group that was scheduled for that afternoon and made the one hour drive to Hutchinson to save this poor owl, as it would have been cruel to leave him there to suffer.

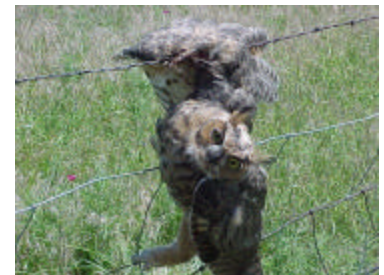
The owl is now resting comfortably at Eagle Valley. He has no broken bones, but there was significant muscle and tendon damage. Only time will tell if his injuries will heal enough for release, but at least now he has a fighting chance.

We've dubbed this little guy "Barba-RENO" (since he was found in Reno County) - and

he has an attitude, just like Vinny Barbarino from "Welcome Back, Kotter!"

Barba-RENO's story was featured on the front page of the Hutchinson News (hutchnews.com) and was also aired as a segment on KAKE TV 10.

Below is a picture of the owl when it was first found. We will keep you updated on Barba-RENO's condition next month.



Sidewalk Campaign Complete!

Our "Walk This Way" Sidewalk Campaign is finally complete! We managed to meet our \$5,000 goal for the sidewalk, which will be fully ADA compliant. This will help handicapped visitors, as well as those who need assistance with walking, such as the elderly. We have received many calls lately from groups who ask us if our facility will accommodate people with disabilities or the elderly, and finally we will be able to say YES!

Scott Hansen from the American Legion Riders and Hansen Construction will begin work on July 14th, weather permitting.

A huge thank you to all our donors and supporters!

National Conservationist of the Year Award Given

Ken Lockwood was named National Conservationist of the Year for 2009 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Representatives from the DAR presented the award on June 20th, which was National Eagle Day.

Though the sky was gray and the ground wet from recent rains, a small group gathered for the presentation and a visit to our resident bald eagles, Cessna and Wasu.

The award was given for Ken's work with endangered birds of prey and his efforts to educate the public on the need for conservation of these apex predators.

"It's a wonderful feeling to have my efforts recognized, especially at this level," said Lockwood. "I hope this will bring about continued awareness of the need for conservation and environmental education."



Eagle Scout Project Complete!

Boy Scout Ben Jensen from Maize, Kansas, completed his Eagle Scout project at Eagle Valley just last week. He completely revamped the seating area in front of the bird pens. The new, permanent benches are now available for visitors to sit on during tours, or for the elderly or those who otherwise cannot stand or walk for the

entire tour. It really looks spiffy!

Our next Eagle Scout project will be to add a pergola roof over the seating area, similar to the one over our pavilion extension, for shade.



EVRC's new seating area

A Mother's Job is ~~Never~~ Finally Done



Resident barred owl Annie finished her second stint as a foster mother last week, and has earned a reprieve from the demands of parenthood...at least until next spring!

The orphaned baby barred owl brought to us from Milford Nature Center two months ago

was released July 3rd at YMCA Camp Hyde. This was the third orphan that Annie had successfully parented this year. For a bird who has never raised her own offspring, we think she did a pretty darned good job.

The Barred Owl has also been called the Black-Eyed Owl, the Wood Owl, the Swamp Owl, and the Laughing Owl!

Other Bird News

Eagle Valley isn't always about the raptors. Try telling that to the several species of songbirds who made their nests on our property this year!

Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have nested in our trees for several years now. The males of this species sport magnificent, long, scissor-shaped tails, so long that we wonder how they are able to fly at all!

After years of trying, we finally received our first Eastern Bluebirds, who raised their first

clutch and are now working on their second!

Another newcomer was a family of Cliff Swallows, who made their nest—of all places—in the top of an artificial pine tree on our front porch! Cliff Swallows normally build their nests on cliff faces (as their name implies) or on the undersides of bridges, but as you can clearly see in the photo to the right, this time they went for a tree. The fledglings here are waiting anxiously for a feeding—in fact,

even after they leave the nest, they will return for free hand-outs from Mom and Dad! Hmm...sounds a bit like humans....

The best thing about all this is that between the flycatchers and the swallows and the dragonflies, the mosquito population at Eagle Valley is practically zero! We hope they'll return next spring.



Our “Boeing Baby” American Kestrel, poses briefly for the camera while she partakes of a small snack.

Boeing Baby

An enterprising American Kestrel built its nest inside a hangar at Boeing, and one of the babies fell out of the nest. It was brought to us to raise and she is now full grown.

We are “hacking” her, which is a way to help release her into the wild. She is allowed to come and go from her pen as she pleases. We leave food and water for her, and gradually reduce the amount so she

is forced to hunt and survive on her own. However, she can return “home” for help if needed.

She is doing well and catching lots of grasshoppers on her own. Hopefully she will eventually catch all her food on her own and leave us to make her life in her natural habitat. It will be another successful rehab and release for us!

June Rescue Figures

During the month of June, Eagle Valley Raptor Center took in:

- Four great horned owls
- Six red-tailed hawks
- Five screech owls
- Three American Kestrels

As always, we do need donations to help with food costs and veterinary bills. The owl caught in the barbed wire fence will be with us for some time and may need additional x-rays and vet care.

Please consider making a donation to help us care for these

birds, as well as our permanent residents. Don't forget, you can purchase gift certificates from Rodent Pro, one of our major suppliers, so you'll know exactly what your donation is being used for: FOOD!

The website for the gift certificates is on the back page.



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

Caring for Nature's
Orphaned and Injured Wildlife



Please consider making a donation to Eagle Valley Raptor Center this month. Your donations help us provide food and veterinary care for our resident birds as well as the wild birds we receive with injuries or illnesses.

To provide directly to our food supply, you can purchase a gift certificate from Rodent Pro:

rodentpro.com/catalog_certs.asp



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 to help cover food and veterinary costs for injured and orphaned birds