



Flights of Fancy Newsletter

2009 in Review

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2009 might not have been the best year for the economy or the national job outlook, but on the whole it was a good year for Eagle Valley.

We started off on a high note with the successful release of a rehabilitated bald eagle on the Arkansas River in February. EVRC dedicated the release to Patriot Guard co-founder Greg "ebay" Hansen, who had been a supporter of Eagle Valley for some time. Greg passed away from lung cancer just months before the release. Hundreds of people turned out to watch that majestic eagle take flight once more.

Not long after, we quietly released a second bald eagle who had suffered from lead poisoning.

Spring and summer brought us

some much-needed time for construction, and we completed our new sidewalk, to allow for easier mobility for our senior and handicapped visitors. We also had several Eagle Scout projects completed: new benches down by the bird pens, a pergola roof over those benches, and new benches up by the Westar Energy Pavilion.

In addition, twelve new schools enjoyed their very first Eagle Valley Raptor Center program, allowing their students to get an up-close and personal look at the raptors we work with every day.

2009 also saw EVRC join forces with Exploration Place. We are now officially affiliated with EP and do monthly programs for them, including

Roots and Shoots and our own Bird of the Month program feature.

We also welcomed a new program bird to our organization: Durango, a young male Eurasian Eagle Owl has proved to be a fantastic program bird to the delight of many.

As fall descended and brought our year to a close, we capped everything off with our first ever Native American Storytelling night on Halloween Evening. Forty adults and children crowded around a crackling fire as storyteller Eugene Cameron of the Southern Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma regaled them with tales of hawks and owls and wolves.

We'd like to thank everyone for a terrific year, and we look for a fantastic year to come!

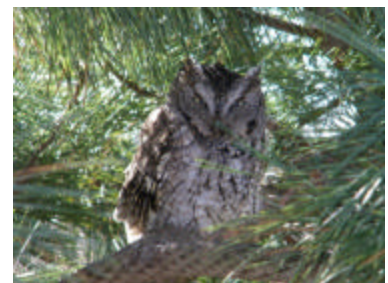
Screech Owl Release

A brief break in the bitter temperatures allowed us to release a little screech owl who had been brought in for rehabilitation just a few weeks ago. This spunky little fellow had made a full recovery and was more

than ready to rejoin the natural world!

Ken Lockwood released him in Cheney State Park and managed to get a picture of him before he took off into the tree cover.

We're sure his New Year's resolutions include: Stay away from humans!



The Eagles are Back!

Bald eagles are once again making their presence known in Sedgwick County, as they migrate down from the colder climates up north. In fact, the entire bald eagle population in Kansas is growing steadily, especially with recent reports of an active bald eagle nest situated right in the heart of Wichita!

This is both a blessing and a curse. A blessing because we know that these magnificent birds are indeed making a comeback in numbers and

territory. A curse because with more eagles comes more injured eagles.

Eagle Valley recently received two injured eagles: a young male, probably hatched last spring, with a fractured wing. A veterinary examination revealed he had been shot. The wing has been set and his injuries treated and at this point we are confident he will make a full recovery and be released later this year.

The second eagle was an adult female suffering from a severe

case of lead poisoning. Sadly, her illness was too extreme and she passed away after only a few days of treatment. This is a grim reminder of what happens when lead is introduced into the environment, particularly through hunters using lead shot.

We will keep you posted on our young male and update you on his progress.



Our juvenile male bald eagle, who suffered a gunshot wound to his right wing.



An adult female bald eagle, suffering from lead poisoning. The greenish tint to her tail feathers is a classic symptom. Sadly, she passed away several days after this picture was taken.

Lead poisoning does not just affect birds of prey, who may ingest the pellets while feeding on waterfowl injured or killed by hunters using lead shot. Fish can swallow lead sinkers. Waterfowl might swallow discarded sinkers or spent lead pellets. It is a highly toxic metal that is dangerous also to humans. We encourage all hunters and fishermen to replace their lead shot and sinkers with safer, environmentally friendly alternatives.

What to Look for in 2010

EVRC is looking forward to the upcoming year. We have some exciting new projects planned as well as the return of some old—and not quite so old—favorites.

Be sure to catch us each month

at Exploration Place for our Bird of the Month program. Also, we will be looking into another Native American Storytelling night as soon as the weather warms up.

And hopefully we will be able

to release another bald eagle this year, hale and whole after his unfortunate brush with a hunting rifle.

Happy New Year!

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. Our injured bald eagle eats quite a lot of food and still has weeks of recovery and rehabilitation to go. He will be glad of your support!

Also, with the current bitterly cold temperatures we are experiencing, we need donations for our food supply all the more!

You can donate online with Paypal at our website (to the left). Thank you for your support!



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
- I'd like to order _____ magnets and/or _____ hanging ornaments (fall theme). \$4 each or 3/\$10. Please enclose check.