



Who's News

News from the Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation Center

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How To Help

Become a member: The form is available on-line from the web site, and can be sent in directly to the Center.

Adopt a bird: See the birds available on the web site.

Volunteer: Clean cages, assist in medical care, and feed birds. We also can use help with office work, construction of cages and other needs. Upcoming construction of a new facility will also require additional volunteer labor.

Help Us Raise the Roof!

For the past 7 years the Alaska Wildbird Rehabilitation Center has been operating out of a small garage and back yard of one of our founders. While we have been able to function, rescuing hundreds of birds, the past couple of years have become very crowded. We've outgrown our nest, it's time to raise the roof on a new facility designed for our needs.

The first step is complete! We have been granted a long-term low cost lease on about 25 acres of land in the city of Houston. It is conveniently located off Kenlar Drive between Hawk Road and Big Lake Road, easier access for both volunteers and rescuers.

The summer of 2012 will be a very busy one. After all the permits have been acquired, we need to clear the land, have a well and septic system installed, pour a foundation and construct a building. Outside we will need a parking area, fencing and outdoor mews for the birds.

Our facility committee, chaired by volunteer Jill Parson, has been busy contacting sources for all this work. As a non-profit in a tight financial situation, we are looking for low or no cost providers. If any of our supporters know of anyone in the construction business who could help out, please contact the center.

This is an important and exciting time for the Alaska WildBird Rehab Center. It's a major step to have a fully functional facility designed for our needs, we are excited to begin the process.

Mission Statement:

To care for to injured, orphaned and sick wild birds with the goal of returning them to the wild; and to educate the public about these birds and their habitats.

The Name Game

We've all heard of a "flock of birds" and a "gaggle of geese. But there are many much more interesting names for collections of birds.

See how many of these birds you can match with their collective nouns. *Hint: many of them reflect the behavior, appearance or reputation of the birds.*

Bird Group	Collective Noun
chickens	ballet
cranes	bouquet
crows	charm
ducks	congress
eagles	descent
flamingoes	exaltation
gulls	herd
hawks	kettle
hummingbirds	murder
jays	ostentation
larks	paddling
magpie	pandemonium
owls	peep
parrots	plague
peacocks	screech
penguins	scolding
pheasants	scourge
pigeons	stand
ravens	tiding
sparrows	ubiquity
starlings	unkindness
swans	waddle
woodpeckers	wisdom

Answers are on page 8

Nature's Pest Control

By Tyler Strode

I would like to tell you a story about a small Boreal Owl that came into the Center last year. This owl was very young and out learning how to hunt on his own. Late one evening he was flying over some yards in his area and spotted a mouse running in the grass. He swooped down and grasped it with his talons. Being a young bird he decided to eat his meal right there in the yard. What he did not know was that the yard had been spread with chemicals earlier that day. When he landed in the yard and ate that mouse those chemicals that were in the yard got all over his feet and his face. (Owls are feathered all the way to the talons). His feathers made it impossible for him to get the chemicals off his skin. The chemicals caused swelling and redness of the skin, which would make it difficult to catch prey and perch. He was brought in to AWBRC and treated for chemical burns to both of his feet and his face. He was successfully released.



But not all of them are this lucky for example: Say you are doing the dishes one day and a little mouse comes running out. Maybe you jump, scream or climb on the counter but the next thing you do is run down to the store and get some poison. You go home and put it out: you're going to get that mouse. So that little mouse goes and gets the poison brings it

back to the nest to share with his family.

Well those mice don't stay inside all the time, and you have a beautiful raptor hanging around your house. That raptor knows there is food there; he has been watching and waiting for the right moment, and that moment appears. He swoops down and grabs the mouse with his talons, flies up to the tree and eats. But he is still hungry so he waits a little longer and another mouse ventures out: he spots it, he has gotten another. Depending on the raptor he could eat up to 6 mice a day, and if those mice are contaminated with poison that bird is now full of poison, and will more than likely die.

Birds are nature's pest control:

Raptors primarily eat mice, voles, rats, squirrels, snakes,
lizards (some small raptors will eat bugs also)

Songbirds eat small bugs, worms, mosquitoes, spiders

Corvids eat large bugs, mice, rats, voles, squirrels

Sandhill Canes eat bugs, frogs, mice, voles, worms

Just something to think about.

Thank you to our sponsors, members and volunteers.

We also thank those who find an injured bird and make the effort to contact the center to assure it receives the best care possible.

'Lucky' the Bald Eagle

Not all our success stories end with a bird being released back into the wild. There are times when saving a life and finding a good home are just as satisfying.

In March the state troopers were called about an injured eagle found on a trail. It appeared the Bald Eagle had been hit by a snowmachine, badly wounding the left wing. The eagle was probably taking advantage of a dead moose or other animal for an easy meal in a hard winter. A phone call brought the rescuers from Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation Center. They arrived equipped with a net, heavy blanket and large travel kennel. The eagle was carefully collected and transported to the Center for care.

She underwent medical care to set the wing and heal the infection that so often accompanies traumatic injuries. She was a tough and determined girl, and handled it all with typical eagle aggression and energy.





Now, 2 months later, she is doing quite well. The wing will not heal enough to allow the eagle to fly and hunt, so she cannot be released. However, Center personnel have contacted a wildlife center that is in the process of getting permits to allow them to have this eagle on display in a large outdoor mew.

She will now become an ambassador for birds, educating the public about the importance of caring for our Alaskan wildlife.

Donation Wish List

Building Supplies and assistance: also operating supplies, such as office needs and furniture

Food: fish, meat, berries, seed, anything a bird eats

Medical Supplies/ Equipment: gloves, syringes, needles, disinfectant

Large dog kennels, cages



Alaska Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center

Executive Director: Kent Briske

Board of Directors: Nancy Wade, Randi Perlman, Nancy Moore, Jill Parson, Cheryl Gardner

Rehab Director: Tyler Strode

Education Director: Merle Stewart

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Wade

Address: 1830 Parks Hwy. A-113 #221, Wasilla, AK 99654

E-mail: kbriske@gci.net

Web site: www.akwildbirdrehab.org

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Name Game Answers

peep of chickens

herd of cranes

murder of crows

paddling of ducks

Congress of eagles

stand of flamingos

screech of gulls

kettle of hawks

charm of hummingbirds

scolding of jays

exaltation of larks

tiding of magpies

wisdom of owls

pandemonium of parrots

ostentation of peacocks

waddle of penguins

bouquet of pheasants

plague of pigeons

unkindness of ravens

ubiquity of sparrows

scourge of starlings

ballet of swans

descent of woodpeckers