



The Raptor Chapter

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1st Quarter Edition

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A Publication of Three Rivers Avian Center

Baby Season - It's Not Just For Eaglets Anymore!

Spring seems to be arriving much more quickly this year. Maybe it's the warmer weather, maybe it's the mild winter we had, but many species are moving into their Spring habitats early. Some bird watchers have seen species such as a blue-headed vireo coming into the State 3 weeks early! (Reported by Matt Orsie, a Pendleton County sighting.)

TRAC accepted our first baby orphan of 2012 on March 18; a baby great horned owl just a few weeks old at the most, found on the ground near Fayetteville, WV (pictured above). Covered in baby down but beginning to show the typical great horned owl markings, this youngster weighs in at almost a pound and obviously has a lot of growing yet to come! It is being fostered by our Great Horned Owl Hoolie, and the finders are working to discover the location of it's nest so it can be returned to it's family. In the meantime it's eating very well and growing.

So what do you do if you find a baby bird on the ground? It's a common thing in the Spring, and we get the question a lot. The answer is "it depends".



If there doesn't seem to be anything wrong physically and the bird has feathers but can't fly yet, put it in a safe bush near where you found it and leave it there. Mom & Dad Bird know where their baby is and will be keeping an eye on it, even if they don't show themselves to you. If

the feathers aren't grown out yet, and you know where the nest is, put it back in the nest if possible. Don't believe the myth that touching a baby bird will make the parent abandon it due to your scent on the bird. Bear in mind however that a significant number of birds nest either on the ground or less than 4 feet up, so the bird may have NOT fallen from a nest. Keep pets and children away from the bird and it's location.

If you find an injured or obviously orphaned wild bird, especially if it is naked or covered in pure white fuzz, get it into a warm (room temperature) safe, quiet place and call TRAC, (304) 466-4683 for further instructions. Keeping the chick warm, but not overheated is key. If it is panting or moving around a lot, decrease the heat. You'll need to know what species you're working with to know exactly what food it requires. Give water via dropper very carefully - a very little at a time.

Happy Spring!

Spring Madness...

- Ron Perrone,
TRAC Education Director

The Cardinal is back today, banging his head against the Mazda's windshield and mirror. Some people get bent out of shape when this happens to their vehicle, but to me it's a source of mild amusement. For the price of having to clean up his mess every once in a while, I get to muse on the absurdity of a life spent in fruitless aggression. The hormone driven need to drive off the competition has become a full time occupation for this bird. The poor fellow - and it is a male - suffers from a testosterone overload, and what should be Springtime phase has blossomed for him into a full time, year long handicap.

Wendy found him inside the van once this Winter in a hysterical confrontation with his reflection. At first she thought "well maybe he just blundered his way into the van and can't find his way out". That benefit of the doubt vaporized when she approached the van from the other side. He immediately vacated the vehicle post haste through the already open window at the other end of the van. Having been thwarted by the "Intruder" from one side of the glass, our brainy boy had pulled an end run and slipped up behind him from inside the van to do battle.

It seems to me that for whatever the cause, this behavior can't carry much weight on the survival scale. If a Sharp-Shinned or Cooper's Hawk doesn't bag him during one of his fits, I can't imagine that the girls find him, well, attractive. Who knows though, maybe they will. The survival value of extravagant behavior can work both ways.

We are often asked what to do about a bird who is attacking somebody's window or vehicle over and over again. The only thing to do is to hide the reflection that the bird is seeing, either by covering the reflection on the outside, covering the mirror, or garaging your vehicle completely. Or just shake your head.



Mark your Calendars!

Join us for these upcoming free events! A full schedule of activities is available on our website: www.tracwv.org

April 20 10 am - 1 pm display for Earth Day at the Clay Center in Charleston, sponsored by the Governor's Make It Shine program.

May 4 7 pm Tygart Lake State Park "Wings of Wonder" Birds of Prey program. Call the Park at 1-800-CALLWVA for more information.

May 5 1pm - 5pm Public Tour Day at TRAC. Tours of the TRAC educational raptors and facility grounds. Interactive displays. Fun for all ages!

May 12 9 am - 5 pm Migration Celebration 2012 at Little Beaver State Park! A full schedule of events will be up on the TRAC website at the beginning of April.

May 26 11 am - 5pm, & May 27 12 -5 pm Display at the Vandalia Festival. Come see Regis, Perry and some of TRAC's other feathered friends at the Capitol entrance nearest the Governor's mansion.

June 2 1 - 5 pm Public Tour Day at TRAC. Tours of the TRAC educational raptors and facility grounds. Interactive displays. Fun for all ages!

June 3 12:30 pm Canaan Valley Bird Festival. "Wings of Wonder" Birds of Prey program. Call the Park at 1-800-CALLWVA for more information.

June 16 7 pm Beech Fork Lake State Park "Wings of Wonder" Birds of Prey program. Call the Park at 1-800-CALLWVA for more information.

Migration Celebration 2012

A festival of West Virginia's birds & our natural heritage



Saturday, May 12, 2012

9 am - 5 pm

Little Beaver State Park

Hosted by:  **Three Rivers Avian Center**
Brooks Mountain Road, HC 74 Box 279, Brooks, WV 25951
(304)466-4683 www.tracwv.org

*Live Birds of Prey
Photography Workshop
Bird, Bug & Nature Walks
Storytelling & Kids Activities
Family Fun for All Ages!*

Exhibits From:

Three Rivers Avian Center

WV DNR Wildlife Diversity Program

National Park Service

WV Department of Agriculture Insect Survey

This event is free & open to the public!

The Migration Celebration was made possible in part with funding from the WV State Legislature & with assistance from the WV Division of Culture & History





TRAC Staff Veterinarian: Dr Bill Streit
 All Creatures Veterinary Clinic 304-425-9944
 1916 West Main Street, Princeton
Many thanks to Dr Mohler, Dr Hughes & the All Creatures Staff as well!
Thanks also to TRAC Advisory Board members
Dr. Jeff Patton & Monica Patton LVT
 Animal Care Associates, 840 Oakwood Road, Charleston 304 -344-2244
 & the Animal Care Associates veterinarians and staff

The TRAC Hospice Veterinary Network works together to provide high quality veterinary care our wild bird patients. We couldn't do without them, and we appreciate their help immensely. Let them know you appreciate their help too when you have a chance!

Beckley

Beckley Veterinary Hospital 215 Dry Hill Road, Beckley 304-255-4159

Charleston/South Charleston

Animal Care Associates 840 Oakwood Road, Charleston 304-344-2244
 Good Shepherd Vet. Hosp. (Dr. Sarah Stephenson) 3703 MacCorkle Ave. SE, Charleston 304-925-7387
 Kanawha Co. Animal Emergency Clinic 5304 MacCorkle Ave SW, South Charleston 304-768-2911
 Valley West Veterinary Hospital 201 Virginia Street West, Charleston 304-343-6783

Cross Lanes

Cross Lanes Veterinary Hospital 524 Old Geoff Mtn Road, Cross Lanes 304-776-4501

Elkview

Elk Valley Veterinary Hospital 113 Frame Road, Elkview 304-965-7675

Huntington

Stonecrest Animal Hospital (Dr. Kris King) #1 Stonecrest Drive, Huntington 304-525-1800

Hurricane

Hurricane Animal Hospital 2120 Mount Vernon Road, Hurricane 304-757-2287

Lewisburg

Greenbrier Veterinary Hospital Rt 219 North, Lewisburg 304-645-1476
 Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital US Route 60, Lewisburg 304-645-1434

Oak Hill

Oak Hill Animal Hospital 2525 Summerlee Road, Oak Hill 304-465-8267

Parkersburg

A-Vet, Inc. (Dr. Joe Conlin) 3602 E 7th St, Suite 3, Parkersburg 304-428-8387
 Parkersburg Veterinary Hospital 1504 36th Street, Parkersburg 304-422 - 6971

Princeton

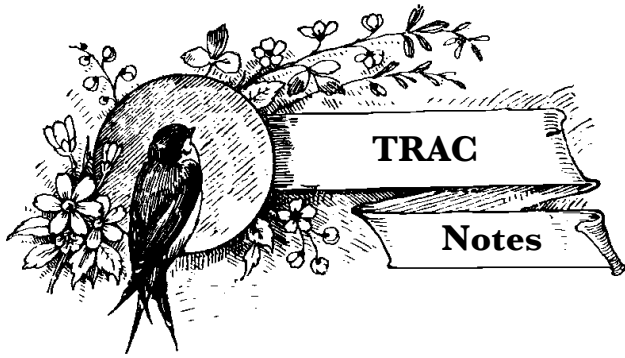
All Creatures Veterinary Clinic 1916 West Main Street, Princeton 304-425-9944

Union

Monroe Veterinary House Calls Union 304-667-2365

Needs list:

Unflavored Pedialyte	Paper towels	Scrub brushes	Black sunflower bird seed
safflower bird seed	Disinfecting wipes	AAA Alkaline Batteries	Postage stamps



The bald eagles nesting on Brooks Island in Summers County have 2 youngsters this year. The chicks hatched out on March 7th or March 8th and are doing very well; Jim Phillips was the first to spot the chicks this year. Updates on their progress are being posted on the Three Rivers Avian Center's Facebook page, including lots of photographs. You don't have to sign up for Facebook to view the page.

Peregrine falcons are flying in the New River Gorge this year, and they are not part of a planned hacking program! On March 17th we conducted a survey for adult peregrines at 7 areas in 3 counties: Lansing/Fayetteville (Fayette Co.), Grandview (Raleigh Co.) and the mouth of the Bluestone River (Summers Co). Each area had an adult peregrine show up, and there were 3 individual adults seen at Grandview for a total of 5 adult peregrines in the New River Gorge. The peregrine spotted at the New River Gorge Bridge appeared to be hanging out, but no nesting behavior was seen, and the bird was not vocal. Grandview had 3 peregrines spotted, 2 of which were a mated pair and were going in and out of one particular rocky area of cliffline between North Overlook and the hacking site and they were quite vocal. The 3rd peregrine seen at Grandview came into the airspace above the Main Overlook but veered off and left the area within a few minutes, headed up high in the air past the Glade Creek Bridge. One peregrine was spotted high in the air over the cliffs at the mouth of the Bluestone River. Data shows that

each of these birds could not have been spotted at any of the other watch locations during the time they were observed.

Allen Waldron, Betsy Reeder and Bev Wright were at the Lansing locations, Wade Snyder, Wendy Perrone and Ron Perrone were at the Grandview locations, Sharyn Ogden and Rodney Davis were at the Bluestone locations. Thanks everyone! Now we have to keep an eye on the Grandview pair...

The Spring Photo Workshop with Steve Rotch will be held at TRAC on May 19, 2012. Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to capture images of raptors native to West Virginia in natural settings in either half day or day-long sessions. Ten or more birds of prey will be modeling for the cameras, including a young Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawks, a Peregrine Falcon, and a Great Horned Owl among others. All raptors will be available during the both the morning and afternoon sessions.

For more information, contact Workshop Leader Steve Rotsch directly at **304-541-7574**, his email is **swrkab@aol.com**. Full details of the workshop, registration forms, and a gallery of photos from previous workshops are on his website: **www.stevenrotsch.com**. The site also has directions to Three Rivers Avian Center, a downloadable registration form and the opportunity to prepay your Workshop registration using any major credit card or Paypal.

If you are unable to make it to the May workshop, a Fall one is planned for October 13, 2012.

We are trying out a new publishing schedule for The Raptor Chapter this year. The newsletter will be published at the end of March, June, and September. The Raptor Chapter Express will be mailed to members only in December. All our newsletters (including past issues) are available on our website: www.tracwv.org/nl.html

Little Beaver State Park Receives Award from Three Rivers Avian Center

Little Beaver State Park, located just outside Beckley in Raleigh County, is a great place for family outings. Eighteen hiking and biking trails, rated from easy to strenuous and ranging in length from a quarter mile to 2.6 miles long, wind their way throughout the 562 acre park. Little Beaver Lake provides an 18 acre focal point at the entrance of the Park and is a popular spot for fishing and paddle boat rides, plus the Park has opportunities for geocaching too. Picnic shelters and tables are scattered in convenient areas around the Lake and a playground offers youngsters a safe place to exercise their youthful energies. The Park added 30 campsites with water, electricity, a bathhouse and laundry room to their facilities in 2011, providing a welcome place to camp and giving more opportunities to further explore the Park and surrounding region.

But Little Beaver State Park is not just for humans. Animals find refuge there too and a place to relax. Squirrels, deer, foxes, bear, and many others call the Park home. So do birds. An osprey has been hunting fish at the Lake for several Summers, peregrine falcons have been seen flying over and birders have counted more than 35 other species there as well.

The Park's family friendly atmosphere and rich diversity of plants and animals has been a strong attraction to many over the years. Beginning in 2004, Three Rivers Avian Center established Little Beaver State Park as the home of their annual Migration Celebration, a festival of West Virginia's birds and of the State's natural heritage.

Held each year on International Migratory Bird Day, the Migration Celebration encourages young and old alike to go outdoors and see what lives in their back yards and in their biologically diverse State. The Festival features live birds of prey on display from Three Rivers Avian Center, displays from the

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program, the New River Gorge National River, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's Insect Survey, storytelling, bird, bug and nature walks, a free photography workshop and family fun for all ages.

Three Rivers Avian Center is a private non-profit organization dedicated to caring for West Virginia's wild birds. Founded in 1990, Three Rivers Avian Center provides veterinary care and rehabilitative services to over 200 wild bird species, is the Project Coordinator for the multi-State and multi-agency effort to restore peregrine falcons to the New River Gorge, provides environmental programs featuring live birds of prey throughout West Virginia, and encourages public participation in birding and bird related activities through an extensive web site (www.tracwv.org) and an active Facebook page.

The 2012 Migration Celebration is scheduled for May 12, 2012 from 9 am to 5 pm at Little Beaver State Park. In honor of eight years of working together to conserve West Virginia's wild birds and educating and involving people in ecosystem stewardship, Three Rivers Avian Center awarded Little Beaver State Park a certificate of appreciation on March 21, 2012.



The Eagle Reward Fund at TRAC was established in March 2011 to give a financial incentive for information leading to a conviction of the person(s) who have killed bald eagles in the region. The Fund has now raised over \$3,000.00 and survey of Fund donors was held recently. The overwhelming majority voted to award \$1,000 for each conviction as long as the money lasts. The Fund continues to accept donations of any amount. Donors may go to the TRAC website to pay via Paypal or credit card, or can mail a check directly. Make a note on the donation that the funds are to be placed in the TRAC Eagle Reward Fund.

Hummingbirds are migrating through these next few weeks, so get those feeders ready! We get a lot of questions about hummers and feeding them, so here's a quick primer. Hummingbirds get their nutrition from flower nectar and small bugs (they are masters at stealing bugs from spider webs without disturbing the web). You don't need to purchase any special mixtures of hummingbird food. Avoid using or purchasing any food that has red dye in it - or any dye. Hummingbirds do not need to see the red color to come to a feeder - that's an old wives tale, and their bodies cannot process the dye. Keep your feeders clean and free from mold and mildew and change the fluid in your feeder when it starts to get cloudy, or every 2 - 3 days in hot weather. Use only white sugar for your hummer food, do not substitute honey (it is harmful to hummers) or any other sweetener.



HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR RECIPE: Dissolve 1/4 cup of white sugar in 1 cup water. Refrigerate any unused portion. The refrigerated mixture will keep for a week or two.

Become a new member or renew your membership and you'll help TRAC continue to care for West Virginia's wild birds. Feathered Friend Sponsors are members who also receive a certificate of sponsorship with a photograph of their chosen raptor from our educational raptor stables. Members at the \$150 or higher level have the option of being listed on the back of the newsletter. All donations and memberships are tax-deductible under IRS code 501(c)3. Memberships and Feathered Friend Sponsorships can also be purchased directly from the TRAC website if you would prefer to pay using a credit card or Paypal account. Thanks for your support!

Memberships

Eagle	\$1,000+
Falcon	\$500+
Owl	\$250+
Sponsor	\$150+
Patron	\$100+
Benefactor	\$75+
Supporting	\$50+
Family	\$25+
Individual	\$10+
Feathered Friend	See other box

Feathered Friend Sponsorships

Regis	Bald Eagle	\$60
Perry	Peregrine Falcon	\$30
Robbie	Barred Owl	\$30
Twister	Barn Owl	\$30
Ginger	Long Eared Owl	\$30
Rudy	Eastern Screech Owl -red	\$30
Thomas	Eastern Screech Owl - gray	\$30
Hoolie	Great Horned Owl	\$30
Nick	Red Tailed Hawk	\$30
Harlan	Red Tailed Hawk -dark morph	\$30
Kendra	Red Shouldered Hawk	\$30
Chip	Broad Winged Hawk	\$30

Remember to check your newsletter mailing label for your current membership level and expiration!

Your name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Many Thanks to our Sponsors!

*Your name, a loved one's name or your group or company's name can be listed here for an annual donation of \$150 or more.
Your donation is fully tax-deductible & will help advance the work of Three Rivers Avian Center.*

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic
Animal Care Associates
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Margaret Ballard
Pat Barker
Kathleen Bilton
Evelyn Bradley & Fred Gilkey
Joyce Broyles
Brooks Bird Club - Handlan Chapt.
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Charles & Beverly Wright
Andrew & Janet Zettle

(Your name could be here.....)

In memory of Robert Tolliver

A Special Thank You to:

The Acker Foundation

The H. P. & Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation

The One Foundation



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