



Tuesday, April 08, 2014

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## International Visitor

CRC was delighted to host Celeshia Guy for a week recently. She is a staff member with Belize Bird Rescue, which focuses on education, conservation, and rehabilitation. Kit (Education Director) and Louise (Executive Director) met her at the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council conference in Vancouver BC last November and extended an invitation. BBR was originally founded to focus on the rehabilitation and reintroduction of parrots confiscated from the illegal pet trade, but also rehabilitates orphaned, sick, or injured birds of any indigenous species, including a lot of raptors. In Belize, Celeshia works both in rehab and education and was interested in seeing both aspects of our operation. She's the primary educator at BBR, where they focus on conservation messages: parrots are seen as crop pests or sold into the pet trade, diurnal raptors are often hit with sling shots as they fly over, as farmers think they are after their chickens. Belize is also important for migratory birds of all kinds, and its coast is part of the largest barrier reef system in the Northern hemisphere. Although they are 50 miles inland, they receive both marine and inland water birds, as they are the only rehab facility in the country. It was a fun week, Celeshia says she learned lots - and enjoyed herself. Our thanks to staff and volunteers for making her so welcome.



We were also able to provide one experience that was a first for her: SNOW!

>> [For more information on BBR, click here.](#)

## Pints for a Cause

Join us and lift one for the birds! Dmitri will be there to greet his fans from about 5:00. Hope to see you there!

## The First Baby



Our first nestling of the year was, as usual, a Great Horned Owl. This species is the earliest nesting of the raptors in our area, often courting in December, on eggs by January, and busy with nestlings in February. This youngster was found on March 8th, about 2 weeks old; he was on the ground at the base of a tall tree, luckily uninjured by the fall. Intrepid volunteer and experienced re-nester, Scott Altenhoff, climbed the tree, found the nest, ascertained there were two other youngsters there but determined that it was fairly precarious and unlikely to fit three growing birds.



Most owls are cavity nesters by preference, but the larger owls cannot always find a cavity large enough. So Great Horned Owls frequently nest in

an unoccupied hawk or even a crow nest. Unlike the original nest builders, however, it is not in the owl DNA to make improvements to the nest - and after a winter or two of storms and winds, the nests they choose can be a bit ragged. With the high growth rate of their nestlings, what seems like a perfect nest for incubating eggs, can rapidly become too small.

Both parents were present and complaining as we performed an Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, courtesy of a donated basket! (And we can always use sturdy baskets like this, should you have any lying around!)



## 2014 Family Nature Discovery Days



Save the dates! Family Nature Discovery Days return for 2014, the last Sunday of each month from May through September. Please join us for child and family activities with different themes monthly. As always, members get in free; non-members pay regular admission; everyone participating in the activities is asked for a \$2 activity fee to cover the cost of materials. And that activity fee is waived for visitors coming via bike or

## Spring Programs

Teachers and Parents: What better way to celebrate the return of spring than a field trip to a nature center? Please book soon, though, as our calendar is filling up for field trips and the few classroom presentations we can fit in at this time of the



year. We love having students visit us here, as we can show them so much more than we can carry into their school! CRC has various levels of programs, can custom tie in a program to curriculum, and has gorgeous birds and a delightful place to spend part of a day.

If you are interested in a program or field trip, please email our Education Director: [Kit@eRapators.org](mailto:Kit@eRapators.org) with your preferred date, age and number of students, and curriculum topic. For more information, please see our Education/Program page.

>> [For more information, please see our Education/Program page.](#)

## Neonicotinoids Kills Bees

Spring is in the air—time to talk about the birds and the bees. Perhaps not “the talk” that first springs to mind, but rather the one about pollinators and how important they are to life on earth (not to mention their financial impact worth over \$15 billion in crop value each year). It’s

also time to consider why so many populations of bees and birds are in serious decline. A devastating event occurred last summer in the Portland vicinity, when about 50,000 bumblebees were found dead—the world's largest record for bee deaths. The massive die-off was attributed to dinotefuran (trade name Safari), a neonicotinoid pesticide that was sprayed on ornamental trees in the area.



Neonicotinoids, which are neurotoxins, are now the most widely used class of pesticides. The chemicals have been shown to persist and accumulate in soil. They are water soluble and have been found in the pollen and nectar of treated crops. Several research studies published in scientific journals report the adverse effects of these pesticides on bees, even at sublethal doses. A significant overall colony growth decline can be observed at about two weeks after exposure to neonicotinoids. The chemicals damage the central nervous system, impair learning, and slow brood development. Worker bees exposed to neonicotinoids are smaller and bring back less pollen than unexposed worker bees, and they are also less successful at returning to their hives. Immune suppression has been documented; a recent study found that infected bees exposed to neonicotinoids suffer an increase in viral replication. Exposed bees appear to be more susceptible to colony collapse disorder, and this occurs even when the bees have been foraging on plants that have not been directly sprayed but contain low levels of mixed pesticides due to pesticide drift.

*[Some plants are now being 'created' by growing them from seeds genetically modified to contain neonicotinoids. Avoid these plants! Ask your nursery to only buy untreated plants. Editor]*

Vertebrates are less susceptible than insects to these neurotoxins, but many researchers believe that the effects on birds have

>> [Click Here](#)

## Fred Meyer giving program

How would you like to donate to Cascades Raptor Center simply by shopping at Fred Meyer stores with your Rewards Card?

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Cascades Raptor Center at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for CRC by our name or by our non-profit number 80821.



by hiking the Ridgeline Trail.

Sunday, May 25th - Birds in Springtime (egg painting and nest building)

Sunday, June 29th - The Art of Nature (artworks by you with found objects from nature)

Sunday, July 27th - Wildlife Play Hospital (rescue an 'injured' stuffed animal)

Sunday, August 31 - All About Owls (owl pellet dissection and pine cone owls)

Sunday, September 28th - Migration Station (Migration Bingo)

Hope to see you and the whole family here!

## Member Mondays!



Other dates to save this summer are our five Member Mondays: the third Monday of each month, May through September. As debuted last year, this is a day we are closed to the general public and are holding special themed visiting days, just for members! We're making some changes this year, though each month will still have a theme and special kids' activity. Hours will be from 3:00-6:00 for families with kids and from 6:00-8:00 for an adult 'happy hour' with beer and wine. Stay tuned for more information.

Monday, May 19th

Monday, June 16th

Monday, July 21st

Monday, August 18th

Monday, September 15th

We are very grateful for your support and love sharing with you all you've helped us accomplish.

- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping CRC earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

THANK YOU!

>> [For more information, visit](#)

## For the Birds!

Bird year 2014 has started out with a sprint! By the end of March, our community had sent us more birds in need of care than in the first FIVE months of 2013. We have already released three eagles, six hawks, nine owls and a falcon back out in time for nesting season, including returning our first baby of the season back to his family. Won't you help us help the birds in your world?

>> [Click here for a secure online donation, to become a member, or sponsor a bird.](#)



Welcome to the team, Pip! This one-year old peregrine has joined our education team and has made appearances as far away as Pacific City already!

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