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HUGE thanks to our caring community for financial contributions and hands-on assistance to help with all our storm damage (see article below). If you would like to help, come to our WORK PARTY tomorrow: Sunday, 2/16/14, starting at 11:00 am. Please park along Christensen Road. Bring gloves, wheelbarrows, rakes, if you have them, and help us get rid of the last of the storm debris!

Your financial support is so important to us and the birds, and is very much appreciated. You can donate online through the link below or print out a donation form and send in a check. Help us get back in shape for the spring rush!

[Click here for secure online giving.](#)

All in a Family



Jean Nesta-Berry practices Reiki, an ancient form of healing using energy, and has been offering this to our birds pro bono for nearly a year now. Recently, she had the opportunity to provide some more 'hands on' rescuing! On her way between Creswell and Cottage Grove on January 8th, she passed an injured Red-tailed Hawk on the edge of Hwy 99. Calling us on her cell phone, we walked her through approaching the bird (traffic just didn't ever stop!), picking it up, and bringing it in.

The bird was not standing, had blood in his mouth, was holding his right eye closed, cocking his tail to the right, and had swelling and bruising along the side of his spine above his pelvis. Clearly he had been hit by a car, suffering head and spinal trauma. Radiographs showed nothing was fractured and, given supportive care and a tincture of time,



**Feb 2014
CRC Storm Damage**

Snow and Ice and Crashing Trees

The recent snow storm brought a good 8" of wet snow to our facility, followed by freezing rain and ice. Like many areas of the Willamette Valley, we lost power for several days and lost a lot of trees. Saturday, February 8th, will live for quite a while in our memory. The sound of cracks and crashing as large branches and whole trees came down from the weight of the ice was truly scary. Volunteers were wearing a hard hat as they went around to feed the birds and check on them.

Obviously we were most concerned about our birds - and they came through it all just fine. Dmitri, our Eurasian Eagle Owl had to be brought inside after a couple of large branches hit his roof and scared him; and Darwin, our Northern Pygmy Owl, and Dakini, one of our White-tailed Kites, also spent part of the weekend inside after we found them scared and on the ground. And our second concern, as part of our bird worries, was for our aviaries. Brian, our Facility Manager, spent all of Saturday night, chain saw at the ready, prepared to remove trees and

rescue birds - but luckily that wasn't necessary. But he did get the whole driveway shoveled as his way of staying awake and alert!

Despite all the crashing branches and falling trees, and a lot of very close calls, only two aviaries experienced any damage and it was minor - luckily we found the hole in the roof before Finn, our white Gyrfalcon, did! The non-bird side was not so lucky, as branches crunched our education supply shed and damaged much of the contents, caved in the roof and bowed the walls of our (new!) emergency supply shed, punched a hole in the roof of the mouse barn, and damaged a car. An enormous amount of tree work and having to close for nearly two weeks are undoubtedly the costliest impacts.

>> [More...](#)

Say 'Cheese'!

While we were undergoing our trial by snow and ice, our Education Director, Kit, was helping to host, and presenting a paper at, the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators' conference in Dallas, TX (where she had her own weather travails, including on her flight back). IAATE puts on a great conference and brings representatives from zoos all over the world, as well as nature centers and, in large part thanks to our efforts, more and more rehabilitators who use birds in education.

Kit's talk addressed using birds in photography studio work and was based on our experiences using both our native birds for portrait and flight work for our own use, courtesy of some very generous professional photographers, as well as commercials using our non-native birds. For example, those wings you see in one of the Nike Air Jordan print ads (above) came from Kaida, our Saker Falcon. And the Eurasian Eagle Owl you can see on three billboards along I-84 advertising an internet service is our very own Dmitri! This commercial work helps support ALL our birds.



The paper was very well received. In fact, many among this group of consummate bird professionals were amazed at how well trained and confident our birds were amidst the flashing lights, background screens, moving ladders and other equipment, and groups of people who were not as used to working around birds as our birds are to working around people!

Check out this video <http://youtu.be/UGxD80LpsdA> for a flavor of what goes on with our native birds doing studio work, or go to <http://vimeo.com/49048604> to see our non-natives hard at work! Congratulations, Kit! As a member of IAATE's board of directors, she is doing us proud.

Sincere thanks to Jon Christopher Meyers (<http://studiomeyers.com>) for his interest, talent, and generosity in photographing our birds so beautifully. And to Talented Animals (<http://www.talentedanimals.com>) for sending commercial opportunities our way.

>> [Click here to see the abstract of the paper.](#)

Rodent Poison Kills More Than Rodents

Recently, a combined Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife/Department of Agriculture press release was sent out to discourage the use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and offer safe alternatives and preventative measures (see below). CRC is delighted to see this, needless to say, and we were interviewed locally by media in connection with this. (Kudos to KVAL for presenting this story.) We've mentioned more than once the increase in poisoned raptors we have seen. It is a truly serious problem and not just for wildlife, but for cats and dogs and even many cases of children getting into the poison.

PLEASE do not use these poisons. They are devastating to the predators of the poisoned rodents. We recently received a Great Horned Owl found in a pond; on intake, you could see bruising under the skin of the neck where blood was leaking out of the jugular vein. Internal bleeding creates dehydration and leads the poisoned animal to seek water. This bird died despite our care. Educate yourself - here are the ingredients to look for and avoid: Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Defethalione, Dephacinone, Chlorophacinone, and, of course, the original - warfarin.

If you need more convincing, here's a link to a presentation by California Fish & Game on the levels of rodenticides found in wildlife throughout the state: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/prec/2012/031612rodenticides.pdf>. Similar studies have been done in other states and Canada. The problem is very widespread.



he is now in our big flight cage, reconditioning his muscles to top notch shape after nearly 6 weeks in care.

Jean shared her experience (and our Rescue 101 instructions) with her husband, of course - and a good thing! Not even a month later, on the 4th of February, Brian Berry, principal of Yoncalla High School some 45 minutes south of us, had a student come running in to school saying there was an injured Great Horned Owl on I-5 nearby. Remembering what we had told Jean, he managed to pick up the injured bird, who was huddled up against the concrete divider, and with some student escorts, brought him in to us. This owl was incredibly lucky, too - suffering 'only' a fractured ulna. With the radius intact, and the ulna pieces in good alignment, it was felt that she did not need surgery to pin the wing. The wing is still wrapped but she is feeling well enough that she recently broke out of her hospital cage and had to be moved to more secure housing! Her prognosis is good for release.

Thank you, Jean and Brian, for modeling such compassion and responsive action, especially for those high school students. Teaching by example is the best!

From a Teacher of Teachers

Nestled in beautiful woods on Fox Hollow Rd, just across from an entry to the Ridgeline Trail is a wonderful educational outreach, Cascades Raptor Center. Whenever I notice an opportunity for my students to experience an extension of the four walls of their classroom, I take it, and the Raptor Center has been one of the favorite destinations for the last several years.

There are three major goals for my visits. One has to do with following one's dreams. I have watched Louise Shimmel persevere with determination, grit, hard work and high spirits over the years, as her dream of the Raptor Center unfolded. It has been much like watching a flower bloom. I want my students, as future teachers, to keep their passion and idealistic dream alive. I want them to see that patience, persistence, hard work and keeping the dream alive pay off. I also hope that my students can foster this valuable mindset in the students they teach.

My second goal is more directly related to science content. From observations and raptor stories heard on the trip, my students are asked to design interesting lessons for their

Most manufacturers are complying with EPA orders to limit access to these poisons - with one exception, the manufacturer of D-Con. With other products pulled off the shelves in keeping with the EPA edict, D-Con now has a clear killing field. Check this out: <http://10000birds.com/?s=rodenticide>

ODFW/ODA Press Release: Owls and other wildlife dying from rodent bait

SALEM, Ore.- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife veterinarians advise home and land owners that poison baits used to control mice and rats can sicken or kill owls, hawks, foxes, bobcats and other species. To protect wildlife, people should carefully follow product directions and explore other options for rodent control.

>> [continued ...](#)

AmazonSmile

For anyone who orders through Amazon.com: there is now a program which allows you to pre-select a charity and automatically have 0.5% of your sales price donated to them - AmazonSmile. Of course, we hope you'll select Cascades Raptor Center! You can sign up and predesignate your charity here <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1038827> and bookmark <http://smile.amazon.com> as your portal to shopping! Your preferences and other aspects of any pre-existing Amazon account will be transferred to AmazonSmile.



students, lessons that lead young students to ponder the interconnectedness of life, how structure relates to function, requirements of food and habitat to keep a species healthy, and artistically, how these birds are so amazing.

My third goal is that my students become aware of all of the educational opportunities provided by the Center. It is my hope that some of my students will bring their students to this facility some day or have birds join them in their own classroom if they find teaching jobs in this area. Or if they are in other cities, that they will seek out learning opportunities outside the confines of the four walls of their classroom.

I would like to thank Louise Shimmel, Executive Director, Kit Lacy, Educational Director, Dan Gleason, wonderful tour guide, and all the volunteers that make our visits so memorable.

Judy Francis, Adjunct Staff, Educational Studies, UofO

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