



Friday, December 12, 2014

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## Native Predators in Your Yard

Hunting takes a lot of energy. For that reason alone, most predators are somewhat "lazy," in the sense of conserving energy when they can. It's also why they hone in on and cull the sick, the weak, the young, the old, the injured, clumsy, slow or outcasts - it takes less energy. And that culling plays an important role in maintaining the health of the prey population, because it thus leaves the agile, alert, strong, smart prey to reproduce and pass on those genes. Also, thinning the population helps ensure resources are available to feed and house those remaining. Prey (think, for example, of mice or rabbits or even robins) reproduce at a far higher rate than the ecosystem can sustain because they need to keep the breeding population constant AND feed the predators. Without that population check, prey species would quickly outstrip their resources, leading to starvation for them and decimation of the landscape on which they depend.



Humans have a love-hate relationship with predators. We name our sports teams after them (well, not the Oregon Ducks!), our fast cars and military planes, in the hope that the attributes of these top-line predators will reflect on us. Yet we have a hard time watching that part of the nature documentary where the lion actually gets the impala, or watching a hawk actually catch a rabbit or small bird outside our window. Then we vote for the underdog!

It's ironic that CRC gets so many calls from people distressed by hawks hanging out at their bird feeders when it is the people themselves who are creating the congregation of prey and attracting their hunters. If one watches carefully, you'll see that all small bird activity will stop after one issues an alarm call; if no one sees the hawk approach, it might take one bird - but within minutes

## Christmas Shopping

Come visit with some birds and volunteers at Market of Choice on Saturday, December 20th, from 10 am to 3 pm. Family memberships or bird adoptions\* make great holiday gifts, and there will be lots of stocking stuffers as well. Hope to see you there!

OR come on up to CRC itself and browse in our gift shop for more selection (and more birds!)

Remember, members get a 10% discount on gift shop purchases.

Thanks for your support year-round and particularly for remembering us during the holiday season. You make it possible to do what we do.

\*Adoptions made after the 15th of December cannot be guaranteed to reach their destination by Christmas - but you can let them know it is coming!



## Eugene Weekly

normal feeder activity resumes. It is a fact of life, this sudden death, and the birds have evolved to deal with it.

>> [More ...](#)

## Trauma Season - How to Help

As you have heard since baby season began, this has been a record year for hospital intakes. Now we are knee-deep in trauma season and it is probably the most intense part of our year. Yes, babies take a lot of work, with searches for the nest, feedings every few hours and daily weighing for those that cannot be re-nested, but watching them grow so quickly, develop feathers and skills and attitude can be uplifting.



Trauma season is hard - hard on the birds, hard on the caretakers. The majority of the cases coming in are collisions: mostly vehicles but also windows and even fences. We've seen an unusual percentage of cases with broken legs this year, for some reason (photo: Barred Owl with fractured leg.) One particularly difficult case was an apparent electrocution, where the electric current entered at the wing and exited at the head, as far as we can tell. The wing tissue of this Red-tailed Hawk healed beautifully, as did the head wound itself, but he is still suffering from some brain injury. We are providing him with extended 'hawk occupational therapy' - he has a lot of skill to recover.

Winter is also the season we get to see some species we don't see during breeding season. We have at least one gunshot hawk with a broken wing and her 'twin' that came in a day later (though from a completely different area) with a broken leg - both immature females are either dark morph Red-tailed Hawks or Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks. Harlan's are from the far north, as are Rough-legged Hawks, Gyrfalcons, and Snowy Owls (we are grateful that we have never received an injured Snowy, though there is at least one in the area already this winter, according to birders). We also only see Merlins during the fall and winter as Oregon is just south of their breeding range.

One of the most critical things that can impact chances for a successful release is WHEN we get a bird. We can make a much bigger difference the sooner the bird gets into care. Even if we cannot repair the injury, a humane euthanasia saves days or weeks of pain and starvation for the bird. But if we receive the bird while a

Our sincere thanks to the Eugene Weekly for including us in their annual Giving Guide this month - as well as for naming CRC as Staff Pick for **Best Rehabbed Raptor Wonderland** (couldn't have been a LOT of competition for that one!) in their annual Best of Eugene Awards last month. We also very much appreciate being voted as second in the Best Animal Non-Profit category by Eugene Weekly readers. WooHOO! We very much appreciate the love. Thanks, all!

## Oregon Cultural Trust



Just a quick reminder that your gift to us, if matched with one to the Oregon Cultural Trust, can result in a tax credit for you! For more information on the Trust and how the tax credit works, click below.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

## Year-End Magazine Winging Your Way

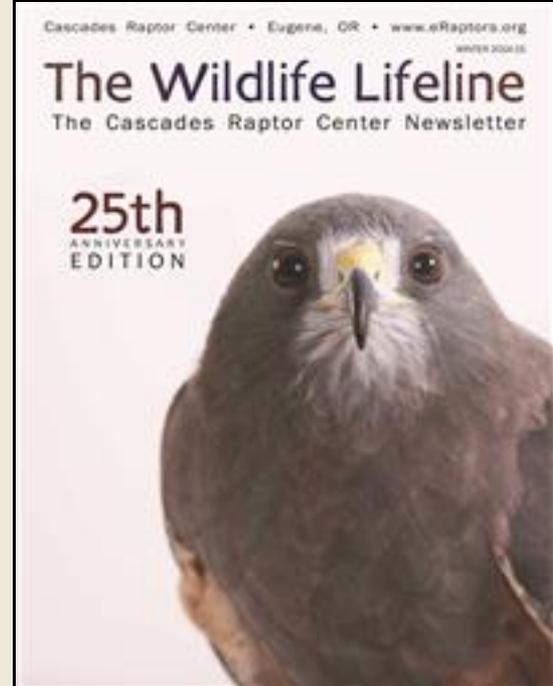
fracture or wound is fresh, the prognosis for healing and return to function is much greater than if the bird has been out moving the wing, exposing bone ends, fighting an infection, and starving.

We are always deeply grateful to those caring people who see a bird get injured or see a bird and something just strikes them as not quite right. If they can bring in the bird or at least give us a call so we can send our intrepid transport volunteers out, it can make all the difference in the world for that bird. Please enjoy the season and, in the Willamette Valley, enjoy the plethora of hunting hawks - and if you see one get hurt, please stop and get it help immediately. Thank you!

## Year-End Giving

For a year-end gift, to join or renew your membership, or to adopt a bird, please go to our website. You can also call us (541-485-1320) to do a credit card transaction over the phone or send in your contribution in the envelope included in the Wildlife Lifeline. We thank you so very much for all your support this year and throughout our 25 years in service to our human and natural community! We definitely could not do this without you.

>> [For a secure online contribution, click here!](#)



Your annual Wildlife Lifeline is on its way! CRC is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and wants to be sure all of our volunteers, donors, members and friends know just how much we appreciate them. Learn about our team approach to the care of the birds entrusted to us, how important is our view that both rehabilitation and education are equal partners in what we do, what a record year we've had in the clinic, and the adrenaline rush of entering a peregrine nest to band the young! Enjoy!



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[www.eRaptors.org](http://www.eRaptors.org)  
Cascades Raptor Center  
32275 Fox Hollow Rd  
PO Box 5386  
Eugene OR 97405 USA

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