

WILD TRACKS

Wildlife Care Clinic Iowa State University Fall/Winter Quarter 2003

Editors: Leslie Reed, Jessa Franck, Emily Tooker, Matt Reed, Tim Shivers

It has been a busy past six months at the Wildlife Care Clinic. Many patients have come and gone, we have three new staff members, a flight cage project in the works, a new school semester started, and baby season that is just around the corner. We would like to thank all of you for showing your concern for wildlife this past season, and we hope that you continue to show support for the Wildlife Care Clinic.

Fall 2003 Releases (August 1-December 31)

BIRDS

American Coot	1
Barred Owl	1
Cedar Waxwing	2
Common Nighthawk	2
Eastern Kingbird	1
Eastern Screech Owl	1
Mourning Dove	6
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Rock Dove	5
Sharp Shinned Hawk	1
Wild Turkey	2
Wood Duck	11

MAMMALS

Brown Bat	6
Eastern Chipmunk	1
Eastern Cottontail	20
Fox Squirrel	9
Northern Myotis Bat	1
Opossum	11

Total Releases: 85

Upcoming Releases: 3 Red Tailed Hawks
1 American White Pelican (to be released at Lake Red Rock this spring)
1 Virginia Opossum



Mississippi Kite

Ictinia mississippiensis

By: Matt Reed

While fragmentation and exploitation of the environment continues to cause most raptor numbers to decrease, one species in particular has adapted rather well to the ever changing conditions. The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) has actually expanded its range and increased in numbers making this a truly unique bird.

These birds can now be seen from Arizona to the Great Plains, and as far east as the Carolinas. They winter in the tropics, some migrating as far south as Paraguay. Their range is increasingly expanding northward, and they can sometimes be spotted in New England. Kites are one of the smaller birds of prey, obtaining a maximum height of 14" in contrast to the Red-Tailed Hawk, which can reach lengths of 25". They are gray in color, and their flight feathers and tail are usually very dark, sometimes even black. They will most often be seen in the air as they spend countless hours soaring in the skies. They are known as graceful and acrobatic in flight, sometimes soaring so high as to disappear in the sky. They can also dive at amazing speeds while performing mid-air maneuvers such as somersaults that gymnasts or divers alike could only dream of doing.

Mississippi Kites prefer open woodlands and thickets, usually near a source of water. They build stick nests in tall trees, most often in the forks of the trunk. Nests are built in mid-May. Clutch sizes consist of 2 to 3 white to faintly blue eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs, which hatch in about a month. Another 35 days of parental care pass before the hatchlings are able to leave the nest.

Despite being a bird of prey, much of their diet consists of insects caught while in flight. On occasion, they are known to chase bats, and take small snakes and frogs. Keep an eye on roadside pastures, as Kites can be seen following herds of cattle, as insects are disturbed from their cover in the grass.



A juvenile Mississippi Kite



A mature Mississippi Kite



Patient Spotlight: Rough-legged hawk

By Jessa Franck

This patient spotlight belongs to a rough-legged hawk received from a couple in Emmetsburg, IA. They had found the hawk alongside the road while they were out hunting.

Radiographs revealed that the hawk had a dislocated shoulder. Despite surgery, she did not regain the ability to fly. We weren't able to keep her as our own permanent because we already have a large number of animals. But we didn't want to destroy such a beautiful animal, so we placed her outside in our outdoor cages while we looked for a new home for her.

We placed an ad on an on-line forum. Soon afterward we were put in touch with Len Soucy, the director and founder of the Raptor Trust in Millinton, NJ. Len was very interested in our bird and said he'd love to take her as soon as the weather got a little cooler. At that point, West Nile Virus had struck his facility very hard. He was very busy installing screens around all his cages.

In the meantime, we completed all the paperwork and arranged a flight with Northwestern Airlines. Petsmart in Clive, IA generously donated a carrier for the bird so it could safely ride in the plane. The hawk was transported to the Minneapolis Airport one Friday last fall. Later that evening, Len picked her up in New Jersey and took her to her new, permanent home.

Once again I want to say a big thank you to Len Soucy, the Raptor Trust, and Petsmart.



The Rough Legged Hawk in the outside cage



The Rough Legged Hawk preparing for her trip to Minneapolis

Junior the Turkey Vulture Finds a New Home in Georgia

By: Tim Shivers

Junior, a female Turkey Vulture, came to the Wildlife Care Clinic on October 4, 2000 as an immature bird. Her right wing had been fractured some time earlier and the bone had healed improperly and was not surgically correctable. She was kept as a permanent resident for educational programs with a hope of one day placing her at a different facility.

Last November, we received an email from the coordinator of a zoo/sanctuary in Georgia called the Parks at Chehaw. He was interested in acquiring Junior! The Parks at Chehaw is an 800 acre zoo/campground. Visitors can camp around the facility where exotic and local wildlife roam free in natural landscaped enclosures. Visitors can get more up close and personal with the animals through boardwalks and trails that wind their way through the woods and swamps. Junior will be living in a newly built swamp habitat enclosure made for owls, eagles, and vultures. Junior will not be the only vulture there, for she will be sharing her new habitat with a black vulture.

We are all very happy that Junior will have such a wonderful place to live, and we wish her the best!



Wish List

By Leslie Reed

The Wildlife Care Clinic is funded primarily by donations. In addition to money, we also accept donations of equipment. The following items are always in need at the Wildlife Care Clinic. If you have any of the following used items that you're thinking about throwing out, please keep us in mind. Your donations are much appreciated.

Large blankets/comforters (make great "beds" for our larger patients e.g. swans, pelicans, geese, deer)

Stuffed animals (we use these during baby season as an artificial mother for orphaned wildlife)

Electric Heating Pads

Cat litter boxes (used for incubators)

Tools

Long Welding Gloves (elbow length)

Refractometer (to check Total Protein levels in blood samples of patients)

Otoscope (to check ears and eyes upon physical examination of an animal)

Welcome New Staff Members!!

By: Leslie Reed

The Wildlife Care Clinic is proud to present our newest addition to the clinic: three new staff members!!



Timothy Shivers is from Woodstock, IL and has been volunteering at the clinic since fall 2002. He is a 2nd year senior in Animal Science here at Iowa State University. Tim would like to be a veterinarian, and has applied for the upcoming fall to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University . After receiving his DVM, Tim would like to enter a small animal/wildlife practice. He would like to stay in the Midwest to practice. Tim says that his favorite thing about working at the Wildlife Care Clinic is the unique hands-on experiences and opportunities he gets with wildlife.

Emily Tooker is from La Crescent, MN and has been volunteering at the clinic since spring of 2002. She is a junior in Animal Ecology at Iowa State and is also planning on attending veterinary school. Emily would like to teach and practice in the fields of exotic and wildlife rehabilitation. Emily's favorite thing about working at the Wildlife Care Clinic is having the opportunity to return injured animals back into the wild.



Matthew Reed is from Eldridge, IA and started volunteering at the clinic in fall 2002. He is a junior in Zoology at Iowa State and is also planning on applying to veterinary school. Once Matt has a DVM, he would like to do small animal or zoo practice outside of the Midwest. Matt says his favorite thing about the Wildlife Care Clinic is that "You never know what's going to happen each day you come into work."



Congratulations to all of our new staff members for their achievement. They have demonstrated incredible dedication to the clinic over the past couple of years, and their promotion to staff member is well deserved.

Best of Luck Deb and Stacy!

By: Leslie Reed

On behalf of the staff and animals at the Wildlife Care Clinic, we'd like to extend our best wishes to Deb Schumaker and Stacy Puchta.

Stacy graduated from Iowa State University this past December with a degree in Animal Ecology. She had been with the Wildlife Care Clinic as a volunteer and then staff member for 2 ½ years. Her next adventure includes a 6 month internship with the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin where she will be caring for threatened and endangered species of cranes. Stacy says that the thing she will miss the most about the Wildlife Care Clinic is “the huge rush of adrenaline I would get when a call would come in that a new animal was at the front desk. Not knowing what species it was or what story it would tell was exciting. But the best part of the job, I think, was seeing that animal take off into the woods after a successful recovery. Especially after seeing it come to the clinic injured and suffering and providing all the care that went into saving its life. It’s a great feeling to know that I helped save a life that would have had no chance if it had not been rescued.” Stacy’s time and dedication at the clinic will be missed by many.

“I want to thank all the doctors, techs, students and anyone else that volunteered their time or helped out with the care of all the animals at the clinic. I hope the WCC continues to grow and become a great environment where students and the public can learn more about wildlife for years to come.” Thanks for everything and Good luck Stacy!

Deb is looking forward to graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Animal Ecology this May. Deb, who had been with the clinic for 2 ½ years, is spending this semester concentrating on finding a job or internship with a county naturalist or at a zoo.

“I will miss educating the people the most and doing live raptor programs. I will also miss all the cute little critters! They’ll miss you too Deb! Good luck!

Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Hartkopp

By: Leslie Reed

We would like to take the time to express our appreciation for the time and hard work that Tim Hartkopp has contributed to the clinic in the last several months. Tim began volunteering at the clinic in late August of last year. Since then he has been nothing but a blessing. Not only has he donated numerous hours of his time to the clinic, he also donated new equipment, such as a power washer to clean cages, and had new mats made to place inside the cages. Both additions to the clinic have been great! Tim, who is from Iowa Falls, Iowa, has a B.S. in Zoology from ISU and is currently taking a few courses to prepare himself for admission in Iowa State’s College of Veterinary Medicine, to which he applied for fall 2004 admission. “I hope to someday be a wildlife/exotics vet or possibly look into wildlife rehabilitation with an emphasis on mammal rehab.” Tim says the best part of helping at the clinic is “seeing an injured or sick animal be successfully released back into the wild after it’s rehabilitation, and also working with all of the people at the clinic is really great too.” Thanks Tim!



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Wildlife Care Clinic at (515)294-4900 or at wcc.iowastate@yahoo.com

Upcoming Programs

By Emily Tooker

The Wildlife Care Clinic enjoys the opportunities to educate the surrounding communities on wildlife in Iowa. This would not be possible without those schools and organizations that allow staff members and volunteers to bring our permanent educational birds and share the wealth of knowledge and experience gained over the years. Thank you.

Eagle Days at Lake Red Rock
February 20 & 21, 2004 *** (public welcome)*
MICA at Woodberry Elementary
March 1, 2004
Boone County Conservation at Don Williams Park
April 20 & 22, 2004
Migratory Bird Days at Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge
May 8 & 9, 2004 *** (public welcome)*
Boy Scout's Scout-O-Rama
May 15, 2004

If you are interested in scheduling an educational/ live raptor program for your school or organization, or have any questions regarding the current program schedule, please call the Wildlife Care Clinic at (515)294-4900.



The staff and permanent educational birds at the Wildlife Care Clinic

Project Spotlight: Outdoor Flight Cage/Housing Unit

By: Jessa Franck and Lynne Brookes

The non-releasable critters, primarily owls and hawks, who are long-term residents at the ISU Wildlife Care Clinic (WCC) need housing outside for the fresh air, sun and a natural setting that would improve their quality of life. These birds are used for educational purposes; helping to teach children and adults about Iowa wildlife, their habitats and their care at the WCC when injured animals are brought in. They are healthy and alert and every physical need is provided with special care given to those with disabilities such as blindness or missing limbs. It is high time that they have "a room of their own" outside. In addition, birds that have been treated and healed need to exercise their flight muscles prior to being released.

We propose to build a 28' x 24' housing structure in a woody area near to where the WCC is located, that would house the permanent birds in the summer months and provide exercise facilities for recovering raptors. Several WCC outside flight pens and mews are presently in the same area. This new building

would be built using vertical treated 2" x 4" boards spaced 18" apart covered with a double panel of hardware mesh. The peaked roof would be built with translucent paneling. The grove of trees associated with the building site would not be harmed in any way and would provide excellent shade. This airy structure would have a "U" shaped interior with an access walkway around a flight corridor in the center. Twelve pens would be arranged along the "U" shaped interior walkway with their back walls facing to the treed grove outside. The new pens would range in size from 6' x 7' x 8' high down to two smaller 3' x 3' pens for the safety of severely handicapped birds. All pens would provide the residents with the sounds and sights of the out-of-doors. The interior flight corridor would be 24' long, 8' wide, and 12' high along the peak.

We would like to begin building this structure in the early spring of 2004 and move the long-term non-releasable resident raptors into this natural setting by late spring/early summer.

A cost estimation of about \$8,000 for this structure was made based on the cost of a recently built similar structure. Most of the labor would be provided by volunteers. One volunteer has already said he and his family business would provide building equipment needed and a \$1,000 donation towards the project. Big Bluestem Audubon has indicated that there may be grant money available to help fund this project. We are presently searching for enough further funding to be able to start construction as soon as the ground is workable.

For further information, please contact Dr. Mary Ann Nieves, Director, WCC, ISU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Jessa Franck, WCC student staff, or Dr. Lynne Brookes, WCC volunteer (515) 434-2028 or rppsolar@yahoo.com.

If you would like to make a donation, checks (made out to Wildlife Care Clinic) can be sent to: **Wildlife Care Clinic, College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Ames, IA 50011**. You can also drop by the small animal desk and make a donation. Please indicate that the donation is for the flight cage. Thanks!!



Our current outdoor caging unit/ flight facility. This unit contains four individual pens for recovering animals. The new one will look similar and have several more caging units for patients, as well as for all of the permanent raptors. It will also contain a flight area that runs the length of the unit.

2003 Donation Thank You

By Emily Tooker

Without the aid of the local community, the Wildlife Care Clinic could not be as successful in the support and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. The doctors, staff members, and volunteers would like to thank all those essential people who donated time, items and money, allowing us to continue with the work that is so close to our hearts.

Kenneth R. Brenton	Des Moines	Iowa
Jana Erickson	Runnells	Iowa
Dee A. Dreeszen	Ames	Iowa
Lou Ann Demarie	Ames	Iowa
Dr. Frank Simutis	Ames	Iowa
Scott and Pamela Jo Chadwick	Ames	Iowa
Jessica Hinman	Stanhope	Iowa
Jana Erickson	Runnells	Iowa

Terry Besser	Ames	Iowa
William C. Nichols	Ames	Iowa
Marlene Vickstrom	Des Moines	Iowa
Stacey Acheson Velman	Des Moines	Iowa
Marvin and Barbara Saathoff	Nevada	Iowa
Randi Allen Martin	Woodward	Iowa
Susan & Jamey McCaskey	Colo	Iowa
Dennis & Patricia Wright	Grimes	Iowa
Jessica Abernathy	Ames	Iowa
John & Susan Piper	WDSM	Iowa
Richard, Kathy, & Samantha Stanton	Des Moines	Iowa
Charla Prange	Ames	Iowa
Lorrie Knutson	Gilbert	Iowa
Jennifer Wells	Des Moines	Iowa
Dan/Theresa DeWitt	Ames	Iowa
Jennifer Allard	Des Moines	Iowa
Margaret Mae Gross	Ames	Iowa
James/Judy Cherry	Ventura	Iowa
Invaders of the Darkness 4-H	Ames	Iowa
Marlene Ehresman	Ames	Iowa
Deborah Schoon-lowry	Des Moines	Iowa
Sheri Jenkins	Ames	Iowa
Peggy Kriegel	Des Moines	Iowa
Jessica Hinman	Stanhope	Iowa
Derrick P. Grimmer	Ames	Iowa
Marjorie Simmons	WDSM	Iowa
Carol Simmons	WDSM	Iowa
Ron and Brenda Reynolds	Des Moines	Iowa
Terri Lentz	WDSM	Iowa
Lynne Brookes	Nevada	Iowa
Michael Ulm	Urbandale	Iowa
Kim North	Ames	Iowa
Christi Harris	Ames	Iowa
Alyssa Lentz	WDSM	Iowa

2003 donations continued

Cindy Frederickson	Ames	Iowa
Ron and Rebecca Rogers	Urbandale	Iowa
Rita Brault	Urbandale	Iowa
Christi Harris	Ames	Iowa
Teresa Glover	Ames	Iowa
Jane Windom	Ames	Iowa
Chris Capaldo	Alleman	Iowa
Rebecca Jenkins	Mason City	Iowa
Amy Giddings	Des Moines	Iowa
Amy Juhnke	Ames	Iowa
Seray Opton	WDSM	Iowa
Don Gauger	Ames	Iowa

Kari Ohland	St. Paul	Minnesota
Jorgen Rasmussen	Ames	Iowa
Richard Ameen	Nevada	Iowa
Lynne Brookes	Nevada	Iowa
Colleen Francis	Petaluma	California
Lisa Hinote	Ames	Iowa
Susan Mardock	Story City	Iowa
Joyce Matters	Ames	Iowa
Susan Piper	WDSM	Iowa
Derrick P. Grimmer	Ames	Iowa
Linda Miller	Ames	Iowa
Norman J. McCoy	Maxwell	Iowa
Barbara Saathoff	Nevada	Iowa
Boone Area Humane Society	Boone	Iowa
Jeanne Elliot	Boone	Iowa
Daniel DeGerst	Ames	Iowa
Sandra Brown	Des Moines	Iowa
Marlene Ehresman	Ames	Iowa
Warren B. Kuhn	Ames	Iowa
Randi Allen Martin	Woodward	Iowa
Donald and Kay Wall	Ames	Iowa
Rebecca Shivers & Vanessa Heymann	Boone	Iowa
Ben Saturen & Colleen Francis	Petaluma	California
Kendall Reed	WDSM	Iowa

We would also like to thank the following Ames businesses for supporting the Wildlife Care Clinic by placing donation jars on their counters to help raise money for the flight cage.

The Ark Pet Store, Earl May Nursery and Garden Center, Flowerama, Brekke's Country Store, and Wild Birds Unlimited.

If you would like to make a donation, checks (made out to Wildlife Care Clinic) and cash can be sent to: **Wildlife Care Clinic, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ames, IA 50010**. You can also drop by the small animal desk.

