REHABILITATION WILDLIFE COUNCIL

WILDLIFE JOURNAL

Vol. 4 No. 2 SUMMER 1981

Inter-Agency Cooperation Saves Raptors

On February 10, 1981, we received an emergency call. A large white-headed bird was apparently injured in a rancher's field. On arrival we found an adult bald eagle, sitting under a power pole. It was unable to fly and we captured it easily. A quick survey of the pole led us to the discovery of the bodies of two dead prairie falcons. The tiercel was badly mummified already; the female obviously made it as far as a nearby fencepost before dying and falling to the ground. I found her burned-off foot on the top rail. Both bodies were picked up (along with the severed foot) and we rushed to Dr. Sawyer's clinic with the ailing eagle.

The eagle was suffering from severe pulmonary edema, blood coming from its mouth and nostrils, its breathing labored and gurgling. It died despite intensive efforts.

We contacted Scott Pearson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, California that day and described the situation. We felt all three birds had been victims of electrocution. Could the power company be persuaded to alter their pole? He readily agreed to come take a look at the pole in question.

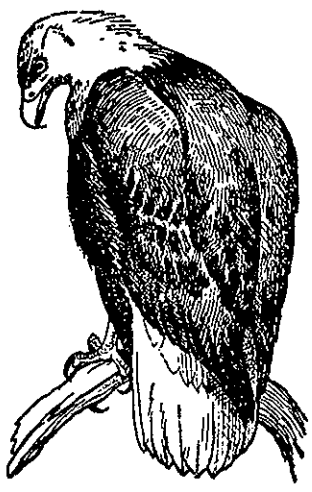
Scott arrived March 8th and walked the power-line with me, taking pictures of the pole. He pointed out that it was the only conspicuous perch from which the raptors in the area could hunt. Unfortunately, it was equipped with transformers and several hot lines ran closely spaced from them. He took the three frozen carcasses we'd kept for him, and said he'd be in touch.

The necropsy report from the National Wildlife Health Lab confirmed our suspicions--death was from electrocution. Scott proceeded to contact P.G.& E. about the situation and provided them with several methods of altering the pole to protect other raptors from the same fate.

The pole was fixed April 28th, a killer no longer. We thank Scott Pearson and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their quick and efficient detective work, and especially P.G.& E. for their cooperation.

We CAN make a difference!

Deborah Soars
San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center
Merced, California



Rehabilitation Brazilian Style

The following letter was sent to the WRC secretary. We thought that WRC members would like to read about efforts being made to care for wildlife in another country--Brazil in this case.



Dear Susan:

Thank you very much for your letter dated April 24. I will soon send you my check of $15.00 to help your work. Also, I will make a check to California Marine Mammal Center too.

Our little (but efficient) group of the Servico Voluntario de Protecao da Vida Selvagem (Volunteer Service for Wildlife Protection) is not even a registered organization, and we receive no support from anybody other than ourselves. We are authorized by the Government to use the help of the Military Police soldiers to fight against illegal hunters and other bad people as those who kill marine mammals. We are using some cars to move from here to there and cover all our State's land; we have an Alfa Romeo 2300, a Volkswagen, one Chevrolet Station Wagon, one Jeep and a Diesel Pick-up (we are planning to buy a Jeep Toyota Diesel in October '81). Actually we are a little Army; we have to fight against rifles, knives, clubs, etc. which are used to hurt not only alligators or birds but seals and dolphins as well. Then, we use some .38 and .357 revolvers, anti-bullet waistcoats, camouflaged shirts and trousers, armour-plated helmets and rubber clubs.

I'm now in self-rehabilitation of a bullet .22 I received in my right leg from a bird-catcher we arrested in a recent siege we made in a mountain near the coast. I must be well for our winter (June-July) because it's when the Falkland Islands Current runs right to the Southern Brazilian Coast, near where we live, and it makes almost every kind of marine animal stranding in our coast, such as dolphins, seals, penguins, etc.

In the field of Education for the Environment, we often make lectures with slides and 16-mm films, concerning the problems related to environmental preservation and animal protection all around the world. Also, we distribute leaflets for specific campaigns, such as the anti-sealing and anti-whaling international campaigns.

As I think I have already told you, I'm publishing, at my own expense, a 1000 copy edition of the "First Aid for Stranded Marine Mammals" from IFAW, which I translated to Portuguese. It will be distributed (free) to fishermen and policemen who live in our coasts.

Technical research on marine mammals are almost non-existent in Brazil. We have here in the South, in the city of Rio Grande, the Atlantic Oceanographic Base, which works only with dead animals; we have had serious problems with them, for we found that they were killing stranded animals to get one more specimen to their Museum...But the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, where I'm graduating in Biology, is establishing in the coast (city of Tramandai) the CECLIMAR - Center for Limnologic and Marine Studies - that will have a special aquarium with a great pool to great marine mammals, and I'm making efforts to designate that pool to receive wounded

marine mammals that, eventually, will strand in our coast without conditions to return to the open sea.

I'm enclosing some data about our State to give you an idea of the area we cover with our efforts.

We are at your service in Brazil, and hope you will continue there with your wonderful work for the Environment.

Cordially,

Jose Truda Palazzo, Jr.

P.S. Excuse-me my wrong English writing.

BOOKS

The Basic Science of Poisons, second edition, edited by John Doull et al. MacMillan Publisher, New York, 1980.

Rabies and Wildlife: A Biologist's Perspective, David W. MacDonald, Oxford University Press, New York, 1980.

JOURNALS

"Parvovirus Infection in Translocated Raccoons," Victor F. Nettles, et al, Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 177, Nov.1, 1981, No. 9.

"Disseminated Visceral Coccidiosis in Whooping Cranes," James W. Carpenter, et al, Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 177, Nov.1, 1981, No. 9.

"Avian Pox in a Whistling Swan," Roy D. Montgomery, et at, Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 177, Nov.1, 1981, No. 9.

"Lead Toxicosis in Raptors," Patrick T. Redig, et al, Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 177, Nov.1, 1981, No. 9.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION
1981 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1981 meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation will be held Friday, October 30, 1981, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. All sessions and workshops will be held in the Sheraton Mt.-Royal Hotel. The tentative schedule includes workshop sessions on Friday, paper sessions from Saturday through Monday (if necessary) and tours of the Macdonald Raptor Research facilities. Evening films and an art exhibit featuring Canadian artists will also highlight the event. Preceding the formal program, a special two-day symposium (Oct. 28 & 29) will be held on the bald eagle and osprey.

Individuals wishing a place on the program should contact Dr. David M. Bird, program chairperson, before August 31, 1981. Requests for workshops, space, time and audiovisual needs must also be indicated by the above date. If notice is received by June 1, 1981, workshops may be advertised in the second brochure preceding the meeting. For those who wish to present papers, send abstracts (200 words or less) to Dr. Bird indicating the title of the paper, authors' names and addresses as you wish them to appear on the program.

For more information, contact:

Dr. David M. Bird, Program Chairperson
Macdonald Raptor Research Center
Macdonald Campus of McGill University
21, 111 Lakeshore Road
Ste.-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec
Canada H9X 1C0



GARY BOGUE'S WILDLIFE

If you have a question on any aspect of wildlife care and rehabilitation, send it in to Gary. Those questions that are particularly pertinent will appear in the next issue. If you wish to receive a personal answer, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your question.

Often, what we think might be a difficult problem may actually have a relatively simple solution. Sometimes we get so involved in trying to save an animal that we actually complicate the issue.

What follows are some simple answers to problems that have, in the past, and even now--on any busy day--seemed insurmountable. Especially when you're trying to deal with 50 or 60 baby animals, all screaming for food at the same time!

FORCEFEEDING: Some animals, especially vultures, kingfishers, and any other shorebird or fish-eaters like grebes and loons--are extremely difficult to force-feed. Simply, they upchuck everything you shove down. If you push the food as far as possible to the back of the throat, and then gently massage it down into the crop or stomach with your fingers. . . and THEN hold and calm the bird for several minutes, it should stay down. The trick that helps is that you should put the bird back into a container where it cannot see people. Vultures, especially--are a problem. They sometimes will vomit food just when hearing sounds of people in the area. For this reason, vultures should be confined as far away from disturbance as possible.

THOSE SHARP BILLS: If you've been working mostly with land birds, and then get in your first wading bird--like a heron or an egret--or other fish-eating birds like loons or pelicans. . .take care. Raptors and songbirds have sharp tips to their beaks, but dull down the sides. But the fish-eaters have sharp edges clear down the sides of their beaks. The first time you stick your finger between the top and bottom beak of such a bird to hold it open so you can force-feed it. . .WOW will you get a surprise!

Pick up your finger from the floor and start over.

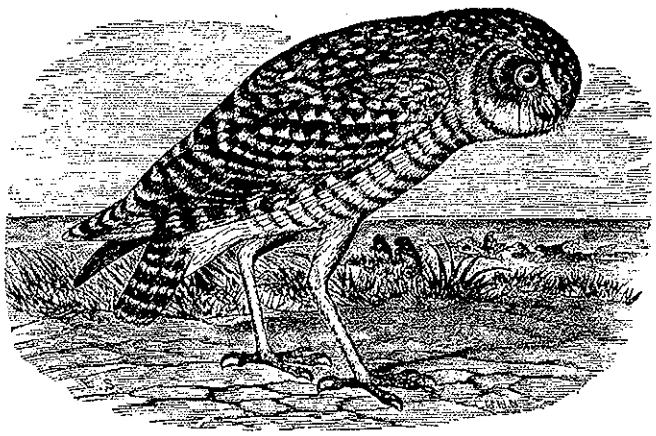
INCUBATORS & MOISTURE: When keeping baby birds in a hot incubator, be sure the "humidity" is up. This most simple need is frequently forgotten--resulting in dead baby birds. They dry out. A shallow dish of water (if the babies are hopping around), or a frequently dampened rag lying near the "nest" should do the job. You'll know when you've got a problem. The unfeathered babies will look "shiny". Dry, stretched skin. Watch it.

SUNBATHS: When giving baby birds that all-important dose of vitamin D--sunlight--make sure you don't just sit them in front of a window. Glass filters out important rays. The sun must be unfiltered. A half-hour of sun a day should be adequate. But you don't want to overdo the sun, either. Too much of a good thing--in this situation--ahem, results in dead babies.

A TALE OF A TAIL: Are busted tail feathers the only thing wrong with that hawk you are treating? So you figure you're going to be stuck holding that bird for months until new feathers grow in, right? (And risk breaking even more feathers in the process.) It's possible, you know, to "imp" or patch those broken feathers with feathers you should be saving from birds that don't make it. Drop me a note with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and I'll send you a reprint of my article telling you how to repair broken feathers. It's so easy you won't believe it! And then you'll have more space for the next bird. . . .



CALCIUM DIFFICIENCY?: Are you concerned that the young animal you are raising might have a calcium difficiency? Like maybe the back legs are starting to not work, maybe the eyes are getting squinty? Or just a feeling? (In birds, if they stop preening off the feather sheaths and the wings start developing "plastic" straws instead of new feathers. You've got a problem!). Have the animal x-rayed. The radiologist can tell you immediately if the bones are calcium difficient. And then your vet can prescribe proper treatment, and you can start figuring out a new diet!!



Burrowing Owl

SPLINTS: Those plastic tubes used to pipe air from air pumps into aquariums, make excellent splints for small songbirds. In fact, if you treat fractures on small birds or mammals, you should collect these plastic tubes of all sizes; cardboard and construction paper of different thickness; plastics; balsa woods, etc. Different sized wire. Keep them in a box. You never know when they'll come in handy. A collection such as this, plus some tape and a pair of scissors, and of course the prime requisit--a talented pair of hands!--can work wonders and set free many animals. Don't be afraid to be creative. If you won't. Who will???

TEARING OFF BANDAGES: Does that owl or hawk keep ripping off the bandage on its wing? Take a piece of used x-ray film--cut to size--and tape it over the bandage. It's flexible, durable, and those beaks slip right off!

SPEAKING OF SMALL OWLS: Saw-whet owls, pygmy owls, screech owls, are all prone to self-mutilation. They might come in with bruised wings from having been hit by cars. Whatever. They tend to tear off the problem wing--ripping it with their beaks--during the night. So if you get in a small owl with any sort of problem of this type. . .make sure to put on an extra-tough bandage, maybe even using the above-mentioned x-ray film. It'll help save you one hell-of-a-shock the next morning!

HUMMINGBIRD FORMULA EXTRA: The artificial nectar you're using to raise hummers makes a perfect "Rescue Remedy". A few cc's of that high-powered stuff down the crop of a shocky, debilitated bird may help it hold on long enough for you to save it.

RECYCLE: If a songbird or a rabbit, squirrel or other rodent which has been brought to your center dies as a result of a physical injury--hit by car, shot, flew into a window, etc.--freeze it and save it for food for other predators you are treating. (CAUTION: use no animals that may be suffering from a contageous disease). There's nothing morally or ethically wrong from recycling these animals where they'll do the most good. And if an animal you lost can help save another. . .like the sharpshinned hawk that won't eat anything except "natural" foods. . .what's wrong with that?

AND FINALLY. . .have you got a simple solution to a "difficult" wildlife rescue or rehabilitation problem? Then jot it (them) down and mail them to me. . . Gary Bogue, WRC JOURNAL, P.O. BOX 331, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

I'll be more than glad to pass them along!!!

RACCOON VICTORY IN CALIFORNIA

Richard Spotts of Defenders of Wildlife with the help of several other animal welfare organizations presented to the California Department of Fish and Game Commission a proposal to prohibit the importation and sale of raccoons in that state. This was reviewed and passed unanimously by the Commission on April 24, and became effective June 21, 1981.

To help Fish and Game enforce this new ruling, notify them of advertisements or pet stores offering raccoons for sale. Also, if you know of anyone with a pet raccoon they should be advised of the new law and apply to Fish and Game for an Animal Welfare permit.

We would like to thank Terry Preston, a W.R.C. member from Hayward, California, for generously donating several of her drawings to the Summer and Fall issues of the Wildlife Journal.

Terry is a wildlife rehabilitator and avid bird enthusiast. Her fine work in biological and wildlife illustration has won her recognition through an exhibit at the Oakland Museum. She will soon receive her Bachelor of Science degree in animal biology and behavior from California State University, Hayward.



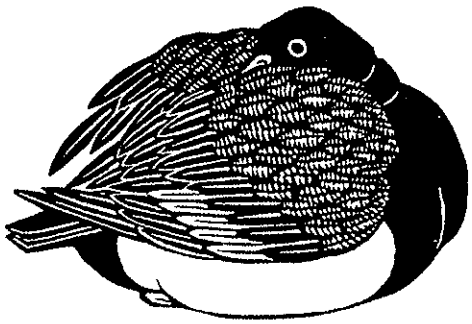
NOMINATIONS FOR W.R.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee is now accepting names with brief resumes to be considered for the ballot. To be eligible you must be a professional or organizational member, and you must be able to attend 75% of the board meetings every year for your three year term. These are normally held in northern California. Resumes must be received no later than August 31, 1981.

If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, contact:

Susan Kelly, Secretary
1915 Kentucky St.
Redwood City, CA 94061

LEE WHITE WILDLIFE CONFERENCE



The Sixth Annual Lee White Wildlife Conference is scheduled for February 20-21, 1982 in San Francisco and is sponsored by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and the San Francisco Zoological Society. The overall theme is mammal rehabilitation. Topics will include captive mammal management, mammal rehabilitation techniques, population dynamics, nutritional requirements, infant diet care, public health concerns in wild populations, and veterinary techniques. Interested persons should submit typed, double-spaced abstracts not to exceed 200 words, to Susan Kelly, 1915 Kentucky Street, Redwood City, CA 94061, by October 15, 1981.

NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen A. Bauer, Indiana
Glenna Beck, Colorado
Denise Blackman, California
SP4 Michael L. Campione, Panama
Verna Miller Case, North Carolina
John P. Caulwell, DVM, New Jersey
Curtiss J. Clumpner, Washington
Alison G. Cook, Louisiana
Les Cowie, California
Carol Curry, DVM, Nebraska
Michael Douglas, DVM, New Mexico
Sheila Fergusson, California
Mrs. Dodi Franklin, California
Jackie Giuliano, California
Connie M. Gregorich, Minnesota
Lynn Hohnhorst, Colorado
Ms. Doris Houpt, Pennsylvania
John E. Jacobson, Indiana
Jennifer Keinath, Minnesota
Linda L. Kersey, Virginia
Sister Mary Laurana, Arizona
Patricia R. Long, California
Deborah Low, Minnesota
Kathy McCarthy, New York
Janet Mischler, California
Susanne Ostermann, California
Wanda Painter, California
Jose Truda Palazzo, Jr., Brazil
Lori L. Paul, California
Terry Preston, California
M. Lee Raymond, California
Ken Reininger, New York
Marion W. Riddell, Texas
Jon R. Rinker, California
Nedra L. Smith, Michigan
Michael Stalder, California
Pat Steele, California
Frank A. Thompson, Jr., California

Animal Welfare Information
and Assistance, Inc.
P.O. Box 942
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Tri-State Bird Rescue
Delaware Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1713
Wilmington, DE 19899

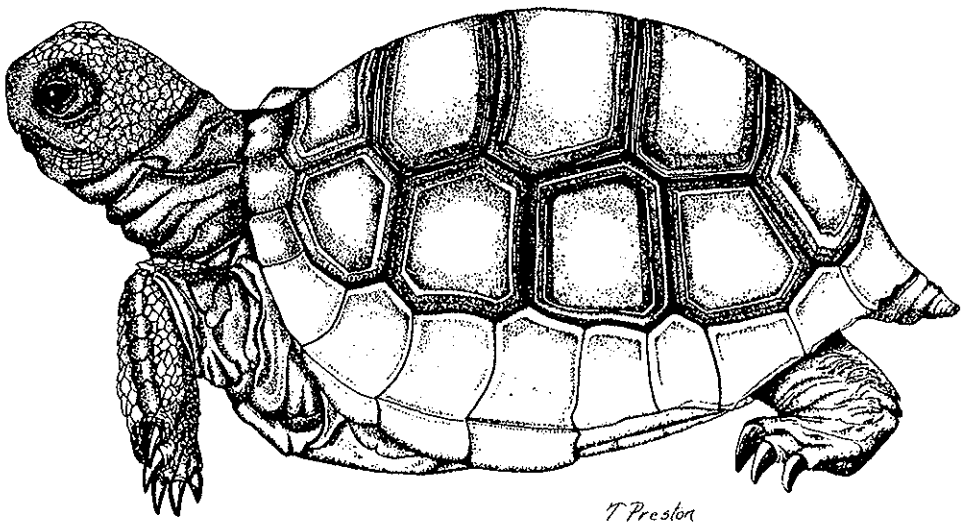
Como Zoo Docent Association
1621 Niles Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

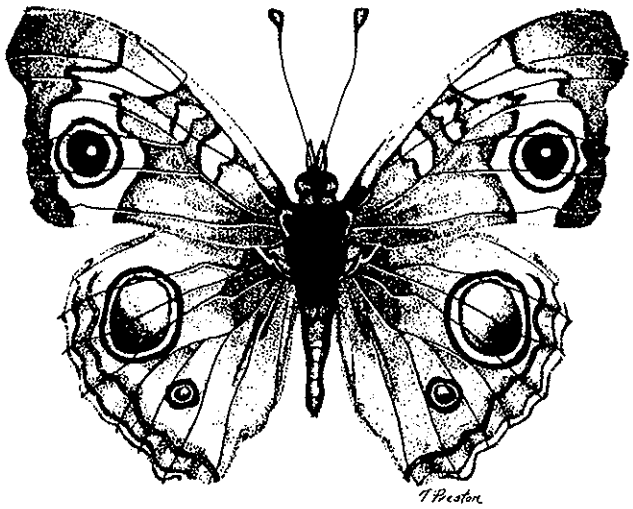
Native Animal Rescue
2200 Seventh Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95073

Warrick County Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center
8270 Highway 66
Newburgh, IN 47630

Whidbey Island Wild Animal Clinic
2416 E. Goodell Rd.
Langley, WA 98260

Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center
P.O. Box 4327
Audubon Park Zoo
New Orleans, LA 70178





WILDLIFE JOURNAL Editorial Staff:

Gary Bogue
Wildlife Systems
Ann Brice
WRC
Susan Kelly
Peninsula Humane Society
Tina Papenhause
WRC
Carter Schleicher
Coyote Point Museum

Informational Literature

Copies may be ordered at a cost of 50¢ each unless otherwise noted. There is also a postage and handling fee of 50¢ for 1-5 papers, 75¢ for 6-10 papers, and $1.00 for more than 10 papers.

"Care and Feeding of Orphaned Birds"
"Emergency Care of Birds and Squirrels"
"Vector Borne Disease Potential in California Mammals"
"Care of Sick and Injured Birds"
"Gardening to Discourage Deer Damage"
"Care and Feeding of Bushtit Babies"
"Necropsy Precautions and Procedures"
"Cliff Swallows"
"Substitute Diets for Orphaned Birds"
"Substitute Diets for Orphaned Mammals"
"Care and Feeding of Orphaned or Abandoned Tree Squirrels"
"Fluid Therapy in Birds"
"Raptor Care"
"Water Turtle Care Sheet"
"Initial Care of Injured or Oiled Water Birds" Revised 1981. ($2.00)
"Raptor Care and Rehabilitation" Unbound ($10.00)
"Avian Drugs and Dosages" ($4.00)
"Opossum Rehabilitation" ($2.50)
"Raccoon Rehabilitation" ($3.50)
"Goldfinches" ($2.50)
"Immobilization of Simple and Compound Fractures in Songbirds and Raptors" ($2.00)

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL APPLICATION (please print): Date:_____

Name:_____ Occupation:_____ Phone (with area code)
Home:_____
Work:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Organization:_____ Your Position:_____

Membership: Associate ($7.50)___ Professional ($15)___ Organization ($20)___ Renewal_____

Mail to: WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL, P.O. BOX 3007, Walnut Creek, CA, USA 94598

I suggest the following individuals as potential WRC members:

Name:_____ Address:_____

Name:_____ Address:_____