

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

VOLUME 20, NO. 2

FALL 2014

The Mission of TWREC

Our mission is to help Pennsylvania wildlife by

- Caring for injured, orphaned or ill wildlife in order to enable their return to the wild
- Promote appreciation and understanding of wildlife through education.

Admissions

At present time Tamarack is able to admit birds of prey, adult seed eating small birds, opossums and turtles. This is subject to change depending on case load. For more information, call 814-763-2574.

Hours

September to May
By Appointment

Newsletter Now Available by Email

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically rather than get a paper copy? Contact the center by mail or phone to let us know your preference and we will add you to our electronic mailing list. This preference can also be noted on your membership form.



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Official registration and financial information of T.W.R.E.C. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within PA: 1.800.732.0999

Registration does not imply endorsement.

AN OWL'S STORY

by Laryssa Rote, summer intern from Edinboro University, Photos by Larry Slomski

From the time the female great-horned owl arrived at the center, she already had a story to tell. Rescued by Madeline Miles, an avid birder, the large owl with intense yellow eyes was found tangled in fishing line hanging from a tree at Willow Bay, near Bradford PA. Miles, assisted by friends Linda Ordiway, a bird bander, and Don Watts, a Tamarack volunteer, got the bird disentangled and transported to Tamarack for treatment. The owl's plight highlights how dangerous discarded fishing line can be to wildlife.



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Upon examination, it was evident the owl suffered extensive strain to muscles, tendons and ligaments in its right wing, which was tangled in the line, and also strain in the left wing from flapping in an attempt to get free. Swelling in the right wing was so extensive that it showed up on an X-ray two weeks after the injury. Soft tissue injuries can take longer to heal than bone fractures and do not heal predictably. Everyone hoped the beautiful golden-eyed bird would be able to go free, but the end of her story was not certain.

The owl's treatment had three phases. First the bird was stabilized medically: she was hydrated, given medication for pain, swelling, and stress, and eventually food, until she was stable. Then, several weeks into her treatment, she began passive physical therapy, undergoing stretching exercises performed with human assistance to help her wings regain full movement. When she was ready to build strength, she was moved to a flight building where it took several weeks before she could fly to a low perch. When her meals were delivered, she would stand her ground, fluff to the size of a pumpkin, and hiss. Eventually she flew to high perches, but would not fly in the building enough to build enough stamina – stamina she would need to survive on her own.



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The solution was to use a technique called creance, a technique developed by falconers that can also be used for a raptor's physical therapy. It involves the use of temporary anklets secured around the bird's legs; the anklets are then attached to a 200 foot line and held by the person creancing. The bird is released and able to fly unimpeded until being slowed down with the application of friction as it nears the end of the line. The technique is a valuable rehabilitation tool. It allowed Tamarack rehabilitators to incrementally exercise the owl and carefully analyze her flight pattern, making sure she was using her wings equally and documenting her stamina.

Almost three months after admission and following three weeks of creance, the magnificent owl was ready to go free. On an evening in late June, those who initially found her, gathered again at Willow Bay for the bird's release. As Madeline Miles related to a Bradford Era reporter, "It was an exhilarating experience. ...When we opened the box to look in...she just looked up at us with those big golden eyes, the eyes I remembered looking down at me when she was in desperate need of help." The bird flew straight out and into the trees.

In the owl's time at Tamarack, she went from puffing up on the ground of her aviary to watching with confidence from a high perch. And, eventually, the aviary became empty; but it was an emptiness that bespoke a job well done: success for the owl, her rescuers, and the rehabilitation team.

PIERRE, THE PEREGRINE FALCON, HAS LOTS TO SAY



Photo by Larry Slomski

Greetings everybody! I hope you stopped by during open house to see where I live at the education center. Of course, I'm not alone. I'm one of eight education birds who all have some disability and can't go back to the wild. But we get great care, lots of visitors and have our meals catered every day. Ladyhawk, Sophia, Willow, Jasper, Alice, Jedi and I were excited to welcome Kiakiak, our newest education bird, to Tamarack Wildlife Center.



Photo by Larry Slomski

Did you know that sometimes we get to go for car rides and visit other people and places? So far this year, my feathered friends and I have done 68 programs and seen 4,782 people. People of all ages from toddlers to senior citizens have learned about owls, hawks and falcons with our help. Aren't we great ambassadors? We've been to preschools, nursing homes, public schools, sportsman clubs, church groups, festivals and colleges. We even met the folks in a motorcycle club! We would like to visit your group too. You can find out about programs and see great pictures of me at our website.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Sarah Sargent



CAPTION

The year is winding down and we are all preparing for winter. We have had a big year for treating patients, as well as a big year for educational programs. We have already exceeded the number of patients we accepted in all of 2013, and we still have two months of 2014 to go (although the last two months of the year tend to be slow). Also, by the end of the year we will have given 68 educational presentations to 4782 participants! You may not realize it, but we have to document each patient and each presentation for our annual reports to state and federal agencies. Each of our resident birds has



CAPTION

its own record of program dates and number of audience members.

Financially we have been able to keep up with our needs this year, thanks to all of you, our donors. Erie Gives Day was a tremendous help again this year, giving us a cash infusion in August, a time in the season by which we typically have depleted the reserves built up in the off season. Lots of people came to our Open House in October -the most ever!- and many of you brought supplies to donate. Thanks to all of you for helping us help the wildlife! It is truly humbling to know there are so many supporters out there who care. Your membership dollars are the core of our budget, and we couldn't do this work without you. And yes, it is that time of year again. Please consider a year-end donation to Tamarack to help us cover expenses through the winter and start next year on a strong financial footing. Thank you!

The best way to keep up with us is to like us on Facebook. We try to post pictures of most of the patients that come in. Or check our website at www.tamarackwildlife.org and click on "News from the Center". Have a happy holiday season!

HELP WILDLIFE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME (OR WHEREVER YOU TRAVEL!)

Do you have good skills in talking with people? Are you a problem solver? Do you have a cell phone? Would you like to assist people and wildlife in need, from the comfort of your location? Consider becoming a Wildlife Dispatcher!

Tamarack relies on a wonderful team of skilled volunteers who return phone calls about wildlife emergencies hourly during a four-hour shift each week. This can be done with a cell phone from any location, even while traveling, though a substitute can be arranged on occasion. Volunteers are trained, have a manual, and a resource person they can contact with questions. At present several weekday morning shifts and a Saturday morning shift are available. This can be ideal for a retired professional looking for a way to help. Dependability and a minimum one-year commitment are required.

A current dispatcher, Lynne Martin, shares that she gets a deep personal satisfaction in:

-being part of an outstanding and talented TEAM that cares about getting wildlife the help they need.
-finding solutions for people who are trying to do the right thing when helping rescue wildlife.
-developing public awareness of conservation issues for wildlife.
-feeling the TRUE JOY when an animal can be released back into the wild!
-helping one creature at a time!

And she looks forward to the mystery of what calls will come in on her weekly shift.

Leave a message at the Center 814-763-2574 to learn more about this opportunity.



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YOU ARE WHAT HOPE LOOKS LIKE TO A BIRD BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

by Carol Holmgren



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"You are what hope looks like to a bird" could be a great motto for Tamarack. Our members make a life-saving difference for birds and other wildlife. The phrase is currently being touted by Audubon, as the national organization shares daunting results of recent research examining the likely impact of climate change on North American bird populations in coming years.

According to Audubon's rigorous analysis, roughly half of North America's bird species will be seriously threatened or endangered by the effects of climate change by 2080. It is likely the Common Loon will no longer be found in Minnesota. And the Roughted Grouse will abandon Pennsylvania, as the state's climate and habitat will no longer be suitable for the bird. Of 588 North American species, 314 are at serious risk.

Each of us, though, can help create a better future for birds. Sometimes actions that help reduce our climate changing carbon emissions, also help our pocket book. In my home, we recently cut our energy bills in half by installing a programmable thermostat, improving insulation, and getting a more efficient furnace. Our house is more comfortable, we're saving money and we're contributing fewer greenhouse gases. Last year we purchased a Prius. It's a thrill to get 50 mpg on the highway and we have had to purchase 400 fewer gallons of gas in one year as a result. Again, we appreciate the savings to our pocket book while doing something good for birds and the planet.

The president of Audubon, David Yarnold, writes, "I want to be able to tell



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my kids...that I did everything I could to save

their future and the future of birds." He encourages each of us to take personal actions, consistent with our own values, on behalf of birds. Some of us may choose to support Tamarack, cultivate native plants in our yards, install a programmable thermostat, help protect key habitats, or work on issues of water use or renewable energy at the local or federal level. In whatever way we feel called to respond, now is the time to act. Because you are what hope looks like to a bird.

For more information about Audubon's groundbreaking science, go to www.birds.audubon.org and click on the link for Birds and Climate Change.

2014 WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS COURSE

Have you ever wished you'd known how to handle a wildlife emergency? A hawk hit by a car on a roadside? Ducklings stranded away from their mother? Back by popular demand, a Wildlife First Responder course will be held in February.

This course will teach you when to intervene and when not to, and how to capture, stabilize and transport injured birds. Participants have gone on to become dispatchers, transporters, onsite volunteers and board members, in addition to learning how to respond when they find wildlife in need. The class will run for three weeks: Tuesdays February 10, 17, and 24 (with a snow date of March 4) from 6:30-8:30pm in Edinboro. Plan to attend all three classes. Cost is \$25 and includes handouts. Registration information will be available on the website, or call the center (814-763-2574). Previous participants are welcome to attend for review at no cost, but should register.

BABIES, BABIES, BABIES!!!

SUMMER INTO FALL AT THE CENTER



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At the time of this writing, snow is predicted and it is clear the seasons are turning. The busy summer season is in the rear-view mirror. Summer brings a flood of baby wildlife patients. When they cannot be reunited with their parents, they are raised at the Center. This year eleven young Screech Owls, eleven nestling American Kestrels, sixty eight orphaned Virginia Opossums, four nestling Cooper's Hawks, and one injured fledgling Bald Eagle were among the patients treated at the center. Happily, most of these youngsters survived their rough start in life and have been released!

Typically Tamarack is not able to raise baby songbirds as they need to be fed every 20 minutes for 14 hours each day. Thanks to a dedicated small bird specialist volunteer, Gina Kron, 48 nestling small birds were raised this summer, encompassing birds from 15 species such as Robins, Hummingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Nighthawk, and Downey Woodpeckers. Many other young animals were reunited with their parents through the advice of our dedicated phone dispatchers.

With the increased population of Bald Eagles, Tamarack continues to admit 8-10 Eagles a year. So far in 2014, 9 Bald Eagles have been admitted. Being hit by cars and lead poisoning remain the leading causes. If you see an eagle or hawk feeding in the road, please slow down if you can do so safely. And if you hunt, be smart. Know if your ammunition contains lead. If so, bury the remains so wildlife do not ingest the lead and become poisoned. Many hunters have chosen to switch to non-lead ammunition, which is safer for both wildlife and humans. The release of two Eagle patients, a four year female Bald Eagle in Warren and a fledgling Eagle in Pymatuning, were a big thrill this summer.

Thank you to all our members who make this possible.

Thank you to all our onsite volunteers, dispatchers and medics for your outstanding service to wildlife.

Thank you to our summer and fall helpers: summer supervisor Christian Hrinda; volunteer weekend supervisor Amanda DiCola; Allegheny College Bonner leaders Lee Ann Streshenkoff and Meric Islam, summer interns Laryssa Rote, Erin Balser; volunteers Martha Consola, Matthew Conrad, Chris, Jesse and Sam Green, Mary Haines, Joel Laird,



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Melanie McClearn, Cathy Meigel, Bonnie and Hallie Prenatt, Melyssa Rea, Larry and Linda Slomski, Martha and Bob Sterba, Russ Sundy, Reilly Walsh, Rick Wyman, and college students Katie Burgert, Lauren Erdman, Courtney James, Blake Johnson, Kevin McDowell, Allysa Nelson, Jessica Schombert, Lee Ann Streshenkoff, Maegan Stump, Dan Swann, Danielle Thieman, and Stephanie Wunderly.

Thank you to our wildlife medics: Joe Goertz, Janelle Harrawood, Gina Kron, Sue Pratt, Sarah Sargent and Jessica Williams.

Our fabulous Wildlife Emergency Dispatchers, coordinated by Bob Hartman are: Joe Goertz, Jim Fitch, Mary Halko, Bill Herlihy, Julie Hirt, Denise Hudson, Marc John, Jane Levin, Ginger Martin, Lynn Martin, Roberta McCall, Barb Mitchell-Stull, and Sharon Wesoky.

New Members and Contributors

Note: Membership levels have been renamed to celebrate the species we treat.



caption

GOLDEN EAGLE \$1000+

- DeArment, Bill and Linda – Meadville, PA

PEREGRINE/ERMINE \$500+

- Moser, Tom and Billie – Murrysburg, PA
- Person, Dr. and Mrs. – Erie, PA
- Presque Isle Audubon Society – Erie, PA
- Scott, Robert and Penelope – Fairfax, VA
- Tavares, Joao – Fairview, PA
- Wright, Scott and Picardo, Carla – Erie, PA

GREAT HORNED OWL /SILVER FOX \$100+

- Baker, Belinda and Craig – Meadville PA
- Carla, Orlando – Erie, PA
- Chapman, Jeanne – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Coy, Richard – Graceton, PA
- DiAngi, Yumi – Meadville, PA
- Dorfman, Beverley – Thousand Oaks, CA
- Flowers, Emily – Titusville, PA
- Hartzell, Sean – McAlisterville, PA
- McNally, Jim and Jane – Erie, PA
- Mt. Hope Methodist Church Bible Club – Guys Mills, PA
- Pennsylvania Insurance Department – Harrisburg, PA
- Robertson, Valerie – Erie, PA
- Starlight Foundation – Coconut Creek, FL
- Stephens, Elizabeth – Conneaut Lake, PA
- Vanzanten, Henry and Susan – Sharpsville, PA

KESTREL/FAMILY \$30+

- Allen, Brent – Edinboro, PA
- Balser, Erin – Harpers Ferry, WV
- Byers, Erin – Enterprise, AL
- Chiles, LeeAnne – Greenville, PA
- Curtze, Steven – Waterford, PA
- Daugherty, Amy – Erie, PA
- Dunn, David and MJ – Melbourne, FL
- Flatley, Kevin – Findley Lake, NY
- Gamble, Theresa – Erie, PA
- Gentile, Barbara – Erie, PA
- Groves, Jennifer – Erie, PA

- Hart, Darren and Rebecca – Erie, PA
- Hirsch, Mike – Erie, PA
- Hodgson, Shanna – Meadville, PA
- Huston, Shelley – Jamestown, PA
- Lobdell, Bev – Centerville, PA
- Long, Charlene – Erie, PA
- Marshall, Jim – Oil City, PA
- McCright, Hugh – Greenville, PA
- McKenzie, James and Connie – New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Meigel, Donna – Butler, PA
- Palmiero Toyota – Meadville, PA
- Pittsburgh Glass Works – Pittsburgh, PA
- Saverino, Linda and Rusty – Greenville, PA
- Schneider Family – North East, PA
- Scholz, Susan – Erie, PA
- Scully, Kevin – Erie, PA
- Shrock, Crystal – Titusville, PA
- Smargiasso, Kim – Greenville, PA
- Snyder, Robert – Springboro, PA
- Zakusilo, Fedor and Lori – Erie, PA

CHICKADEE/INDIVIDUAL \$20+

- Ball, Sara – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Barnes, Marion – Erie, PA
- Beckman, Harriet – Erie, PA
- Boemmel, Elizabeth and Zachary – Pleasantville, PA
- Brewer, Trish – Saegertown, PA
- Burns, Karen and Mike – Erie, PA
- Carroll, Betsy – Oil City, PA
- Cassano, Jennifer – Erie, PA
- Cook, Ryan – Edinboro, PA
- Denial, Cindy – Union City, PA
- Erdman, Robert – Bloomsburg, PA
- Flasher, Janice – Pittsfield, PA
- Hayes, Craig and Karen – Edinboro, PA
- Heberle, Karen – Erie, PA
- Heckman, Shannon – Meadville, PA
- Heesch Hill Family – Pittsburgh, PA
- Henry, James and Margaret – Meadville, PA
- Honhart Family – Russell, PA
- Hunt, Jennifer – Erie, PA
- Kalicky, Christine – Fairview, PA
- Koloskee, Pat – Edinboro, PA
- Lebowitz, Matthew – Erie, PA
- Marielle, Lafaro – Girard, PA
- McClelland, Amy – Erie, PA
- Mershon, Clemence and Homer – Conneautville, PA
- Myers, Patrick and Alison – Meadville, PA
- Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. – Erie, PA
- Patton, Amanda – Erie, PA
- Pennsy, Robin – Erie, PA
- Petak, Cindy – Erie, PA
- Radecki, Linda – Titusville, PA

- Rogers, Frances – Meadville, PA
- Sheehan, Heidi – Erie, PA
- Simpson, Karen – Waterford, PA
- Staudt, Marsha – Erie, PA
- Thomas, Tacie Lynn – Waterford, PA
- Toth, Sigma – Erie, PA
- Wehrle, Deana – Guys Mills, PA
- West, Angela – Lake City, PA
- Williams, Melanie
- Wisinski, Rita – Erie, PA

IN HONOR OF

- “Imogene Yetman” by Hugh McCright
- “Imogene Yetman” by William Yetman
- “Mr. Bob Hartman and Mr. Bill Behmke” by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Palmer
- “Celebrating the marriage of Bob Hartman and Bill Behmke” by the Holmgren Family

IN MEMORY OF

- “Dr. Amy Renshaw” by Lisa Booth
- “Frank G. Leonhart” by Joan Leonheart
- “Glenn O. Weber” by Pennsylvania Insurance Department
- “Glenn O. Weber” by Palmiero Toyota
- “Glenn O. Weber” by Robert and Sandra Bazylak
- “Glenn O. Weber” by David and MJ Dunn
- “Glenn O. Weber” by James and Margaret Henry
- “Glenn O. Weber” by James and Connie McKenzie
- “Lucille Martin” by Sue Douglas
- “Mike Koricich” by Craig and Karen Hayes
- “Tiggy, her 20 year old cat” by Joanne Wagner



caption

In-Kind Contributors:

Animal Friends Cremation • Greg Brinker • Mary Capoferri • Christian's Critter Kids • Jamie Ferry and Bible Club
 Giant Eagle • Chris, Sam and Jesse Green • Greener Pastures Veterinary Clinic • H & H Grocery • Dr. Helgert of
 Crawford Co. Humane Society Veterinary Hospital • Herbs for Healthful Living • Marc Johns • Lechefskey Farm
 Drs. Lindstrom of Animal Clinic Northview • Van Jay McClearn • Mary Meade • Dr. Erica Miller DVM • Peggy Mogush
 Dr. Muth DVM • Dr. Ramey of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital • Scotland Yard Nursery • Jodi, Jordan, Salem and Jude Sipos
 Larry and Linda Slomski • Russ Sundry • The Home Depot • Norma Thompson • Susan Vanzanten
 Rick Weaver • Pam Wheeler • Eve, Hannah and Olivia Wyman

If we neglected to include you - please let us know! We appreciate all our supporters and do our best to remember you all.

Wish List

Bleach

Paper Towels

Dawn Dish Detergent

Liquid laundry detergent for High Efficiency Machines (HE)

Duct Tape

Mixed Bird Seed

Black Oil Sunflower Seed

Old Pillow Cases, Flat Sheets

Sterile Saline or Lactated Ringers (up to 2.5 dextrose) IV Bags

Cardboard Boxes (esp. computer printer size) for temporarily housing birds

Frozen archery hunted pure venison to feed hawks, owls and eagles

Laminator and lamination sheets

Laptop computer and computer projector

Bald Eagle release photo and Goldfinch shortly before release.



SPONSORSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

You can give a sponsorship of our educational animals for \$25.00 per year. Sponsors receive a certificate of sponsorship, a 5x7 photograph and a brochure about the bird they are sponsoring. Additionally, sponsors' names are displayed by the bird's enclosure and sponsors may arrange to visit the Center for a personal encounter. Indicate which animal(s) you would like to sponsor. Send this form, along with a check for \$25 per animal per year to TWREC, 21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433.

Lady Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk	_____	Sophia, Barred Owl	_____
Jasper, Eastern Screech-Owl	_____	Alice, Cooper's Hawk	_____
Pierre, Peregrine Falcon	_____	Willow, Eastern Screech-Owl	_____
Jedi, Merlin Falcon	_____	Peshabon Kiakiak, Red-Tailed Hawk	_____



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Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center

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Yes! I want to help wildlife!

Become a member of TWREC and help wildlife. You will receive two newsletters each membership year and be invited to our annual open house. Your donations are tax deductible and you will have the satisfaction of helping our native wildlife. If your membership is not up for renewal, but you want to help further financially, your additional donation or memorial contribution is always welcomed. Send contributions to:

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, Inc.
21601 Stull Road, Saegertown, PA 16433

Annual Membership:

Individual/Chickadee - \$20
Family/Kestrel - \$30
Great Horned Owl - \$100+
Peregrine - \$500+
Golden Eagle - \$1000+

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(If e-mail, please list below)

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All Contributions are
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