

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

VOLUME 20, NO. I

SPRING 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
- Promotion 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

June 10 - August 15:
Weekdays 10am - 3pm
Please call before coming.
August 16 - June 9
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.

SPIRIT HAWK

by Carol Holmgren



On a cool, rainy Sunday morning, we got a call that a Red-tailed Hawk had been caught in a double leg hold trap intended for a raccoon and had extensive injuries. Thankfully the trapper promptly brought the bird for medical attention. As he handed over the box containing the injured bird he mentioned, "By the way, this hawk is white." We've admitted birds that people said were white hawks that turned out to be white pigeons, so we were skeptical, but a look at the bird revealed a mud-caked white Red-tailed hawk. So began our odyssey to treat a very special bird.

White hawks have spiritual meaning in many religious traditions and are often seen as a message of God, or blessing of the spirit. Treating this bird was humbling and felt like a special privilege. All who assisted in his care were deeply touched. It seemed this bird had a blessing to give the people of northwest Pennsylvania.

Examination showed the bird had a few feathers that were of muted color. The rest were snowy white, once the mud was washed off. Even his talons were white, though his eyes were dark. Experts from Sia, a Comanche organization studying white hawks, explained that this bird is considered a partial albino and partial leucistic hawk. The genetic mutation of leucism results in lack of melanin in some feathers, creating pale or white feathers, but affects only feathers. The genetic mutation of albinism creates inability to produce all pigments, resulting in white



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white feathers, and other parts of the body as well. This bird had characteristics of both albinism and leucism.

Medically the bird was in critical shape: crushing injuries and cuts on multiple toes from the trap, and a potentially fatal condition called "capture myopathy" stemming from chemical changes in the body following intense struggle and stress. For weeks the bird required hydrotherapy on its toes three times daily to try to save his damaged digits, but also had to be handled quietly to minimize stress. Medication was needed for two full months to combat infection and promote healing. In the end, the bird lost two digits and had three surgeries on his feet, donated by Dr. Ramey and Dr. Lindstrom. Ultimately it was determined that the bird could not survive in the wild due to his damaged feet, but could be an excellent educational ambassador.

We grieved that he would not go free, but also recognized that birds lacking melanin typically only live a couple of years in the wild as melanin helps feathers be structurally strong. Feathers without melanin are weak and become worn down quickly.

White birds can also suffer from cold in harsh climates because their feathers do not absorb radiant heat. It appeared this bird was young, probably two years old. Perhaps it was a blessing to him as well, to come into our care.

Federal and state permits have been approved for this bird to be an education bird for Tamarack. He is still very much a wild bird, but has adjusted quickly to stepping onto the glove and being in the presence of humans and will gradually be introduced in education programs.

Recognizing the spiritual significance of white birds, a native elder was asked to gift this bird with a name. In the Shawnee language his name is "Umbe Wabi Peshabon Manito Kiakiak" meaning "Brings White Light Spirit Hawk." He will be called "Kiakiak" for short. We hope you will meet him in an upcoming program and be touched by his spirit.



RECORD BREAKING WILDLIFE FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS



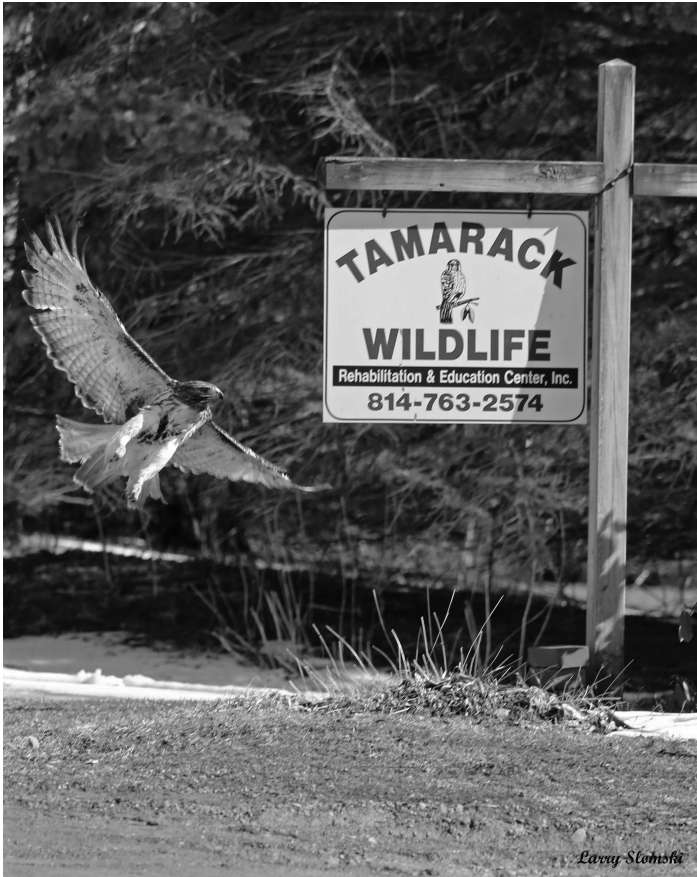
The spring Wildlife First Responders Class had a record breaking 36 participants. Response to the course was enthusiastic: "The powerpoints, personal experience examples and demonstrations/scenarios were all effective." "I learned more than I expected to from this class!" "Seeing the live (education) birds was my favorite part." "The class gave me a working knowledge of what requires rescue and what doesn't. Also what to do if a capture is needed."

Participants are equipped to understand when a wild animal needs assistance and can identify the best way to help. Many are now fulfilling their desire to help the center by volunteering in various capacities: dispatchers, building maintenance, medics, fundraising, education, and rehabilitation assistants.

You can be in the next class! It will be offered in February 2015. Watch the website and our facebook page for more information.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Sarah Sargent



Finally spring has arrived! It sure took long enough. This has been a difficult winter for wildlife as well as humans, and we have seen a number of cases of starving hawks, and waterfowl that normally can find open water through the winter getting frozen out. But that is behind us now, and spring has sprung!

We are so thankful for the many ways in which so many people assist with our mission to help wildlife. Our large group of recent trainees from February's Wildlife First Responders class is already giving us a big boost of volunteer time. Thank you!

Our spring shower fundraising effort (we sent a postcard, you are sending donations) is going well, and truly helps us prepare for the heavy months ahead. For all those who support Tamarack financially, thank you! We can't do this without you, and every little bit helps.

I also want to mention a special board member who went above and beyond recently and made "the rat run" for us. One of our most expensive budget items is the food we need for feeding our permanent residents as well as our patients. Our mainstay is (grossness warning!) frozen rodents, and we have developed a connection that allows us to save quite a bit of money, but requires driving many hours. Thank you so much, Bob Hartman, for taking on this job and bringing home lots and lots of delicious, er, hawk food!

If you want to keep up with our patients, the best way is to follow 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 great spring and summer!



RARE OWLS MAKE LASTING IMPACT THROUGH TAMARACK

by Jason Fidorra



This past winter brought us three unusual patients: a Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, and a Snowy Owl. These species are more common in PA during the winter when northern birds move south, but like many things about them, their migration and movements are poorly understood.

Named for the size of their “ear tufts”, the Short-eared and Long-eared Owl are two of the rarest breeding birds in Pennsylvania. The purpose of this unique and little understood attribute is not related to hearing at all, and may instead aid in camouflaging resting birds in trees, helping them look like broken branches. Long-eared Owls live in deep forests, while Short-eared Owls, endangered in Pennsylvania, frequent grasslands and reclaimed strip mines and often nest on the ground.

Tamarack received the Long-eared Owl in February after it was found on a road in Crawford County. The bird was treated for a concussion, recovered fully and was set free in a beautiful release two weeks later. A Short-eared Owl was admitted in early March. The bird was found near Edinboro, PA and despite treatment for a wing injury, the bird will not gain full mobility and is not releasable. Arrangements are being made for transfer to a Pittsburgh area rehabilitation center where the bird will be an educational ambassador.



Larry Slomski

In early December, a beautiful Snowy Owl was admitted to the center after a car strike. Snowy Owls are arctic breeders that, even in a typical winter, prefer to stay far north of Pennsylvania. This winter, we experienced the largest Snowy Owl “irruption” in 50 years, with large numbers invading the Northeastern states in response to unusually high reproduction last summer. These irruptions have been poorly studied, and thus a collaborative research effort called Project SNOWstorm was undertaken using cell phone towers to track Snowy Owls marked with GPS transmitters. How many owls survive these irruptions and why some do not is unknown. Vehicle injury is a factor, and despite our staff’s hopes and effort, our Snowy Owl patient suffered a deteriorating spinal cord injury and was humanely euthanized.

But none of these birds’ stories end here. Perhaps owls are associated with wisdom and luck for good reason. These three patients, despite very different outcomes, are all making a continuing impact on the center and community education. Happily, the Long-eared Owl was released once healthy. The thoughtful family that rescued the Long-eared Owl has become valuable volunteers at Tamarack, helping us achieve our rehab and education goals. The Short-eared Owl, as an educational bird, will play an important role in conservation as an inspiring representative of a rarely seen endangered species. Finally, the Snowy Owl was later given to researchers who used the bird to design the transmitters now being used to study Snowy Owls.



Larry Slomski

THE WINTER THAT WOULD NOT END: WINTER INTO SPRING AT THE CENTER



We are grateful as the snow recedes and the trees begin to bud. Spring is coming after a winter that seemed to never end.

The winter brought us unusual patients: uncommon owls (Snowy, Long-eared, Short-eared) and an albino/leucistic Red-tailed Hawk. Several patients that were not releasable moved to permanent education homes: a lovely Turkey Vulture and brown phase Screech Owl. With the cold and heavy snow fall, hunting was difficult for raptors and many patients were admitted severely underweight. Water birds were also forced south in search of open water and sometimes got into trouble. We assisted those species as we were able.

As the seasons turn, this is a fun time of year when patients that were held over the winter are released. Baby season has come a little bit later this year, but is upon us already. Thank you to everyone who contributes to Tamarack. You are part of the Tamarack family and make this all possible.

This summer we welcome Christian Hrinda as our summer supervisor. He will oversee volunteers for weekday care of our patients. Our licensed rehabilitators Carol Holmgren and Kris Steiner will direct medical care.



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

Thank you to our winter and spring helpers: volunteer weekend supervisors Amanda DiCola and Jodi Sipos; volunteers Anthony Dinch, Martha Consola, Chris, Jesse and Sam Green, Mary Haines, Jordan and Salem Sipos; Allegheny College students Sarah Durrer, Mary Eddins, Abby Hileman, Kasey Hinkle, Blake Johnson, Julia Scherer, Julia Schock, Jessica Schombert, Kathleen Macie, Leeann Streshenkoff, and Danielle Thieman. Raptor educators in training are: Cathy Meigel, Richard Wyman and Lynn Martin.

Thank you to our wildlife medics: Joe Goertz, Gina Kron, Sarah Sargent and Jessica Williams. Medics in training are Cinda Murray and Janelle Harrawood

Our Wildlife Emergency Dispatchers, coordinated by Bob Hartman are: Jean Beach, Jim Fitch, Joe Goertz, Mary Halko, Rhonda Hinrichs, Julie Hirt, Denise Hudson, Melissa Huff, Marc John, Jane Levin, Ginger Martin, Lynn Martin, Roberta McCall, Barb Mitchell-Stull, Lila Sweeny, and Sharon Wesoky.

Thank you to volunteers caring for our buildings and enclosures: Larry and Linda Slomski, Russ Sundy, Greg Brinker, Cinda Murray, Christine Scherrer, and Brittany Davis.

New Members and Contributors

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

GOLDEN EAGLE \$1000+

- DeArment, William – Meadville, PA

PEREGRINE \$500+

- Ridge Road Taxidermy – Meadville, PA
- Slomski, Larry and Linda – Saegertown, PA
- Wright, Scott – Erie, PA

GREAT HORNED OWL \$100+

- Candela, Brian – Erie, PA
- Lundberg, Christopher – Meadville, PA
- Corry Companion Animal Hospital – Corry, PA
- Black, Nathan P – Bellefonte, PA

KESTREL/FAMILY \$30+

- Barr, Frank and Annette – Corry, PA
- Handy, Rich and Connie – Meadville, PA
- Lehosky, Joe and Patty – Oil City, PA
- Leonhard, Cindy – Conneaut Lake, PA
- O'Keefe, Terry and Diane – Erie, PA
- Snyder, Josie – Titusville, PA
- Wheeler, Linda – Wattsburg, PA
- Wyman, Richard – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Black, Grace and Glenn – Albion, PA
- Stevens, Bonnie – Albion, PA
- Green, Samuel and Christine – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Jack Anon – Erie, PA
- Nonnenmacher, Tomas – Meadville, PA
- Nordstrom, Linnea – Conneautville, PA
- Pittsburgh Glass Works – Pittsburgh, PA
- Scholz, Susan – Erie, PA
- Pellegrino, Mark and Kylie – Erie, PA

CHICKADEE/INDIVIDUAL \$20+

- Atwood, David R. – Erie, PA
- Barkman, Alan L. – Edinboro, PA
- Berlinski, Matthew – Forked River, NJ
- Bricker, Greg – Fairview, PA
- Bush, Joelyn – Lake City, PA
- Couse, Karen & Mike – North East, PA
- Cowell, Lynn – Meadville, PA
- Davis, Brittany – Corry, PA
- Don, Weyel – Conneaut Lake, PA
- Engell, Bill – Erie, PA
- Fitch, Jim – Meadville, PA
- Ford, Rebecah – East Springfield, PA
- Giesler, Sally – Erie, PA
- Gould, Julie A. – Edinboro, PA
- The Green Family – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Hailwood, Ellen – Erie, PA
- Harper, Marie – Saegertown, PA

- Harrawood, Janelle – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Hayes, Madeline – Erie, PA
- Hemme, Mr. & Mrs. Allen – Fairview, PA
- Herring, Susan – North East, PA
- Hesch, Kristen – Erie, PA
- Hetrick, Gerald and Lisa – Erie, PA
- Hrinda, Christian – Erie, PA
- Huff, Melissa L. – Edinboro, PA
- Hulings, Debra – Albion, PA
- Keil, Charles – Erie, PA
- Klaar, Lew and Nancy – Erie, PA
- Kutz, Jackie – Edinboro, PA
- Kutz, Jerry – Edinboro, PA
- Locke, Colleen – Erie, PA
- Macho, Diana – Edinboro, PA
- Macho, Joseph – Edinboro, PA
- Macie, Michelle – Moon Township, PA
- Marendt, Stacey – Saegertown, PA
- Martin, Ginger – Greenville, PA
- Martin, Lynne E. – Erie, PA
- Meigel, Catherine – Edinboro, PA
- MiCase, Frank – East Springfield, PA
- Mongera, Mark Andrew – Union City, PA
- Monteith, Barbara – Erie, PA
- Mumford, Joyce A – Girard, PA
- Murray, Cinda – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Paulus, Taylor – Edinboro, PA
- Pratt, Chuck and Suzanne (Sue) – W. Springfield, PA
- Raynor, Alec – Erie, PA
- Roney, Janine – Fairview, PA
- Russo, Jesse – Greenville, PA
- Scherrer, Christine M. – Erie, PA
- Schreckengost, Dennis and Barb – Erie, PA
- Semrad, Denise – Conneaut Lake, PA
- Simko, Toni – Erie, PA
- Smith, Taylor – Cambridge Springs, PA
- Staab, Carole – Espyville, PA
- Staudt, Marsha – Erie, PA
- Streshenkoff, Lee Ann – Pittsburgh, PA
- Sundry, Russ – Edinboro, PA
- Urraro, Laurie – Erie, PA
- Wagner, Diane – Erie, PA
- Wallace, Debra – Erie, PA
- Wesoley, Sharon – Meadville, PA
- West, Angela – Lake City, PA
- Whitaker, Susan – Lake City, PA
- Wisnom, William – Baltimore, MD
- Wyman, Richard – Cambridge Springs, PA

IN HONOR OF

- "Bob & Martha Sterba" by Bonnie Heiges
- "Glen & Grace Black" by Nathan P. Black,
- "Jack & Care Kerlin" by Susie & Jerry Dorn
- "Jim Sekerak's 60th Birthday" by Linda Travis,

- "Jim Sekerak's 60th Birthday" by Deborah M. Marti
- "Jim Sekerak's 60th Birthday" by Barbara Valimont & Jeffrey O'Melian,
- "Jim Sekerak's 60th Birthday" by Michael Williams,
- "Jim Sekerak's 60th Birthday" by Jill & Richard Lutton
- "Jim Sekerak's 60th Birthday" by Denny & Judy Bogert
- "Kelly Madigan's Birthday" by Mark & Kylie Pellegrino
- "Laurie Hirt" by Mark Christi,
- "David W. Hoge" by John & Cindy Hoge
- "Tarzan Booth" by Lisa Booth
- "Jason Bryant Family" by Linda Williams
- "Joanne Otis Hulings" by Bonnie Stevens

IN MEMORY OF

- "Aunt Marion (Daisy) Chalmers" by Rick & Donna Coburn
- "Bob Hartman & Bill Behmke's dog, Jane" by Maura Jobs
- "Great & wonderful Aunt Marion Chalmers" by Roger & Pat Hueston
- "Sister, Alice Lancaster" by Nelda Knobloch
- "Marie Chalmers (Mamie)" by Judith & Pat Wallace
- "Marion Chalmers" by J. Eric & Edith Baum
- "Marion Chalmers" by Bob & Cheryl Peterson
- "Marion Chalmers" by Seco/Warwick
- "Marion Chalmers" by Donna O'Brien
- "Martha Shaffer Campbell in honor of her granddaughter, Anita Marie Sundean" by AnneMarie Sundean
- "Robert Michel" by Myrie Michel



In-Kind Contributors:

Animal Friends Cremation • Darry and Ginny Buttrey • Christian's Critter Kids • Erie Zoo • Chris, Sam and Jesse Green
Greener Pastures Veterinary Clinic • Jamestown Elementary Outdoor Club • Drs. Lindstrom of Animal Clinic Northview
Dr. Erica Miller DVM • Dr. Muth DVM • National Aviary • Photoholics • Dr. Ramey of Animal Kingdom Pet Hospital
Earl Schriver • Denise Semrad • Jodi, Jordan and Salem Sipos • Larry and Linda Slomski • Russ Sundy
The Home Depot • Bob and Diane Voegel • Pam Wheeler

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

Dawn dish soap

Liquid laundry detergent for High Efficiency Machines (HE)

Black Oil Sunflower Seeds

Mixed Bird Seed

Thistle Seed for finches

Wood Pine Shavings for bedding

10 gallon tanks/aquariums for small mammals (used is fine)
and screen lids

Water bottles for small mammals

Forever stamps

Old pillow cases and flat sheets

Cardboard boxes (esp. computer print size) for temporarily housing birds

Vetwrap, Coflex or similar product: 2" and 1/2" widths

Frozen pure venison (not ground) to feed hawks and owls or eagles

Sterline Saline or Lactated Ringers (up to 2.5 dextrose) IV bags

Aluminum extension ladder

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	_____



Name of Sponsor: _____ Gift Recipient's Name: _____

Address of Sponsor: _____ Gift Recipient's Address: _____

**Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation
and Education Center**

21601 Stull Road
Saegertown, PA 16433
Phone: 814.763.2574

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Spring 2014 Newsletter



Join us on Facebook!

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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