



Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education
Habitat and Species Conservation

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation™ *Wildlife Tales*

Volume II, Issue I

March 2007

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is the largest privately funded wildlife rehabilitation center in the Chicago area having helped over 2,000 animals during 2006. Flint Creek operates locations in Barrington and in downtown Chicago at Northerly Island. Flint Creek Wildlife receives no government funding and relies strictly on private donations and fundraising efforts to support its ongoing work. Please help support Flint Creek Wildlife through our fundraising events and our sponsorship drive.

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Flight chamber drawings courtesy of Phillip Blecker of Design 5340.

All photos courtesy of Phil Hampel of Game Time Images.

Flint Creek Wildlife Launches Capital Campaign

Every bird that spends more than 48 hours at Flint Creek Wildlife must recondition its breast muscles in an outdoor flight chamber prior to release. As you can imagine, just like if your leg is in a cast, birds' muscles atrophy while on restricted activity during critical care.

Birds must be in top condition when they are released back into the wild—it's truly a matter of their survival. Birds must be agile and have good stamina in order to find food, evade predators, migrate and raise young.

Flight chambers not only allow birds to recondition their muscles, but also allow birds to re-acclimate to outdoor temperatures and conditions. Because the flight chamber is the last step in the rehabilitation process, flight chambers are often referred to as "pre-release."

In order to increase our overall capacity, we must add flight chambers. Provided that we have enough flight chamber capacity, birds can transition

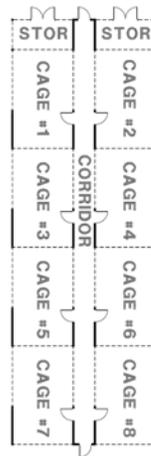
from inside critical care to intermediate care to pre-release as soon as their physical condition and weather conditions permit. Birds, therefore, move through rehabilitation as quickly as possible, thus reducing the animals' time in a stressful rehabilitation environment, getting them back out where they can breed, migrate or otherwise get on with their lives.

Reducing the time spent in rehabilitation also effectively increases our overall capacity by freeing up intermediate care space that can then be used for other animals.

We are excited to be launching a capital campaign that will help us respond to the needs of a rapidly growing number of animals. Our flight chamber plan, shown left and below, provides maximum flexibility. The chamber will allow us to rehabilitate everything from small songbirds to Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.

Our flight chamber, which we estimate will cost \$100,000, will consist of two parallel 100 foot chambers, each that can be easily adapted to a maximum of 4-25 foot chambers. This design will provide us with enough flight chamber capacity to help birds for years to come.

Flight chamber donations should be marked "flight chamber" and may be made by check or online by visiting our website.





Birds from just one day's intake at Northerly Island following initial care and stabilization at Northerly are now being unloaded from Dawn's car after arriving back at the Barrington facility. Those not ready for release that day will require further medical care, food and housing.

Many baby animals, like fawns and bunnies, are left alone for long periods by their mothers. Don't assume that they need help just because you don't see Mom. Check out our website for additional information or call us before picking up an uninjured baby.



The filming of Backyard Habitat.

Work Continues to Improve Northerly Island Location

Thanks to two very generous donations, our Northerly Island satellite location (fondly referred to as the "bird hospital") will go from drab and bare bones to functional over the next couple of months.

As many of you know, we've been operating our satellite location out of two modest rooms at the old Meig's Field Terminal Building in space kindly donated by the Chicago Park District. We've had quite a few items donated over the last

months, all of which have helped us with operations, but even with everyone's generosity we've still been doing without many essentials.

Well that's all about to change!

One of our veterinarians, Dr. Steve Sisler at Eye Care for Animals in Wheeling, donated approximately 50 linear feet of upper and lower cabinets, along with corresponding countertops and under-cabinet lighting.

Once installed, we will have enough storage space and workspace to function efficiently. This sure will make triaging up to 80 or 100 birds in a day much easier!

We have also been fortunate to receive an extremely generous cash donation from a private party that will allow us to paint, replace badly worn flooring and light fixtures, and purchase much needed medical supplies and equipment.

THANK YOU!

Flint Creek Wildlife Receives Awards

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation has been honored with three prestigious awards recognizing our work in the field of wildlife rehabilitation. First, Dawn Keller, our founder, was named by Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn as one of Illinois' 2006 Environmental Heroes.

Lieutenant Governor Quinn recognized 24 Illinois' residents, cities and organizations for their work in the fields of environmental awareness and conservation. The award was given to Dawn for her hard work and perseverance that resulted in

the establishment and operation of our Northerly Island "bird hospital."



Flint Creek Wildlife also received an Advocacy Award from Friends of the Parks for our work in rehabilitating and releasing injured birds in the Chicago area. Our co-recipient, Chi-

cago Bird Collision Monitors, was recognized for their part in rescuing these birds that are later brought to federally licensed facilities for medical treatment.

Last but not least, Citizens for Conservation, a wonderful Barrington-area group that preserves and restores open spaces, honored Dawn with a Thank You Award at their recent annual meeting.

Our sincere appreciation to everyone for acknowledging our work!

Flint Creek Wildlife in the Media

University of Illinois Alumni Magazine—look for a feature in the next issue
Quintessential Barrington—March/April 2007 ("Fawns, Fledglings and First Aid: A Guide to Backyard Wildlife Care")

Chicago Tribune February 21, 2007 ("Birders' wish: Find feathered friends")

National Geographic TV The Animal Extractors January 2007

Coyote Saved from Brink of Death Gets Second Chance

In our last newsletter we told you the story of the coyote that was picked up as road kill from the middle of Route 72. Her would-be salvager turned rescuer, realizing that the coyote was still barely alive, brought her to us where she received emergency care.

With around-the-clock medical care the coyote pulled through, her only longer-term injury being a broken leg that required time and cage rest to heal.

Her leg healed perfectly, leaving

no outward indication that she'd almost died. With coyote breeding season upon us, we anxiously waited out the bitter cold temperatures and ensuing bouts of snow and sleet. Finally, in early March, we were able to return her to the wild.



She was nervous at first, perhaps wondering if she would really see freedom at last. She intermittently looked at me and the surroundings. Finally, she mustered enough courage and took off running, her beauty framed only by the snow.



We wish her good luck and long life as she makes her way back to freedom.

Great Horned Owl and American Kestrel Find Permanent Home

We are excited to report that a non-releasable Great Horned Owl and a non-releasable American Kestrel will go to their permanent home in mid-March. The Association to Rescue Kritters (ARK) in St. Helen, Michigan has added these birds to their federal educational permit, thus allowing them to use these birds in programs where they will teach children and adults about the species' natural history and about raptor conservation.

The Great Horned Owl arrived at Flint Creek Wildlife in January 2006 after she was found in a Kane County Forest Preserve by an employee of Fox Valley Wildlife. Since Fox Valley does not treat birds of prey, she brought the bird to us for treatment. The owl arrived cold and drenched and in low condition, but she quickly rebounded. Although the owl now appears in perfect physical condition, she cannot gain altitude when she flies and, there-

fore, would be unable to survive in the wild.

The female American Kestrel came to us from Chicago Animal Care and Control when she was a fledgling. She had sustained an injury to her left eye and, despite supportive care, lost vision in that eye.

We are happy that these birds will live out "phase two" of their lives at the ARK.



Threatened Blanding's Turtle Continues Recovery

The 20-year old Blanding's Turtle probably had only one thing on her mind as she crossed Route 22 in Barrington last June. Focused on laying eggs in a safe location, she was instead run over by a car.

Fortunately her shell took the brunt of the damage. As a fairly small turtle, however, even a shell couldn't adequately protect her from the weight of a vehicle.

In the middle of the road and bleeding with her shell frac-

tured into five pieces, she was fortunate that a kind motorist stopped to save her. The motorist then brought her to Flint Creek Wildlife, where she patiently awaits her full recovery and eventual release.



It's been a long road for this beautiful turtle who also happens to be a threatened species. Her shell is healing—albeit slowly. The fractures were so bad that we expect to have her one more year before she'll be ready for freedom. Even then, we'll release her with "added protection" to her shell that will eventually come off after the shell is completely healed.

We can only hope that development won't eliminate her precious habitat before she's ready to return to the wild.



Animals are accepted by appointment only at both our Barrington and Northerly Island locations. Call (847)602-0628 if you've found an injured or orphaned animal.

If you find an injured or orphaned animal, place it in a box, cover the box and place the box in a quiet, dark location. Do not feed or give the animal water. Call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for further instructions.

Once Starving Great Horned Owl Free Again

In early October, we recovered a small, male Great Horned Owl from the side of a busy road during rush hour following a barrage of calls from Barrington area residents and commuters who saw the bird on their way to work. It is infrequent that we receive so many calls on one bird, but he clearly tugged at the heart strings of many people that morning.

As it turned out, the Great Horned had probably been hit by a car several days prior resulting in a broken wing and, unable to hunt for food, had finally come to the side of the road, near star-

vation, to eat road kill. That's when he was sighted.

We tube fed the bird for about two weeks before we could offer him small pieces of solid food. Due to his severe emaciation, feeding him normal food would have actually killed him. Gradually, with intensive care, he regained strength and made a complete recovery.

We took him back to his old territory in late January, hopefully in time to still find a mate and raise young this year. As I removed him from the box, he looked at

me and then, realizing that he was home, flew away - never looking back.

Good luck, my friend.



Game Time Images has graciously donated a limited number of copies of this photo to Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation so that we can offer you an opportunity to own it.



Great Horned Owl released in Barrington in January 2007.

All profit from these items will benefit Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation. You may also order and pay for these items on our website www.flintcreekwildlife.org.

___ \$5 Notecard (handmade with actual framed 3"X5" photo)

___ \$45 8" X 10" matted photo ___ \$65 11" X 14" matted photo

___ \$100 13" X 19" matted photo

For orders less than \$40, add \$5 shipping and handling, for orders totaling \$41—\$99, add \$10

shipping and handling, for orders totaling \$100 or more, add \$15 shipping and handling

Enclosed is my check for \$___.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sponsorship Drive

Reaffirm your commitment to help wildlife by becoming an annual Flint Creek Wildlife sponsor. Sponsorship benefits are listed below. **Welcome to our new sponsors through December 2006.**

Fawn Level

Heatheranne Campbell
 Carol Cohen
 Sharon Potsch
 Samia Raja
 Mike Rigoli
 Sharon Potsch

Squirrel Level

Carol Fitzgerald
 Sandra Reyes
Fox Level
 Ron Burzynski
 Juan Geracaris

Fox Level, continued

Lisa Rybicki
 David Sandelin

Hawk Level

Jill Kernan

Sponsorships may be purchased on our website or by completing the form on this page.

Individual Sponsorship Levels

Fawn Level —\$25 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter



Squirrel Level —\$50 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
 Bi-weekly Email Update
 Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet



Fox Level —\$100 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
 Bi-weekly Email Update
 Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
 Flint Creek Wildlife T-shirt



Hawk Level —\$250 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
 Bi-weekly Email Update
 Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
 Flint Creek Wildlife Hooded Sweatshirt or Golf Shirt



Loon Level —\$500 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
 Bi-weekly Email Update
 Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
 Flint Creek Wildlife Hooded Sweatshirt or Golf Shirt
 Individual Invitation to Attend a Release



Falcon Level —\$1,000 Annually Benefits

Quarterly Newsletter
 Bi-weekly Email Update
 Flint Creek Wildlife Magnet
 Flint Creek Wildlife Hooded Sweatshirt or Golf Shirt
 Family Invitation to Attend a Release (up to six people)



To become a sponsor, complete the order form below and mail completed form, along with your check or money order to: Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation; 117 S. Cook Street, #145; Barrington, Illinois 60010 or purchase on-line at www.flintcreekwildlife.org.

I want to become a Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation sponsor at the indicated level.

Fawn \$25 Squirrel \$50 Fox \$100
 Loon \$500 Hawk \$250 Falcon \$1,000

Enclosed is my check for \$____. For Fox and above please indicate shirt size ____.

For Hawk and above please select sweatshirt ____ or golf shirt ____.

I do not want to become a sponsor at this time, but please find my enclosed donation in the amount of \$____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone Number (____) _____ **Email** _____

Watch our website for information on our two new sponsorship levels— American Bittern and Bald Eagle.

Upcoming Events:

Earth Day Wine Tasting—Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm—Taste our favorite organic wines and meet our educational birds of prey at Kelley Cellars; 100 E. Station St., Barrington, Illinois. 10% of all purchases will be donated to Flint Creek Wildlife.

Cuba Road Clean-up—Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm

Furry and Feathered Baby Shower—Saturday, May 26, 2007 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm at the Barrington Area Library—see details on back page of newsletter

Run for Wildlife in the Chicago Marathon—Sunday, October 7, 2007

Annual Banquet—Date and Location to Be Announced

Watch our website for details

Please consider donating items for our silent auction at our annual banquet—visit our website for details.

Donations of \$100 or More (October—December 2006)

In order to control the cost of producing our newsletter and to bring you as much content as possible, we have decided to only print the names of persons and organizations with cash donations of \$100 or more during the quarter. We hope that you will understand and support our decision. Please know that each and every donation is important to us and to our survival. Our sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported us.

Anne Abramson
Ermoné Adam
Andrzej Baklazec
Barbereux School (Bake Sale)
Terry Brumfield
Basil Chaltas
Citizens for Conservation
Marcia Coburn
Community High School District 128 (Feast for the Beast)
Richard Crane
Bryan & Christina Cressey
Theresa & Robert Davis
C. Dircks & E. Wisniewski
Valerie Evans Miotek

Sue Galler
J. Seidita & G. Gand
Anne Grimes
Joann Heilmann
Aimee Hendrickson
Illinois Shotokan Karate
Robert Kewer
Laura Kramer
Hattie Leiss
Dr. Emily Lindner
Mistie Lucht
Margaret Martini
Cathy McCarthy
Paul & Tami McCarthy
Barbara & Sid Overbey

Steve & Christine Pak
Gloria Ranelli
J. Riley & J. Goodridge
Suzanne Shaw
K. Simonsen & L. Sherline
Don Shupe
Mark Slezak
Dawn Smith
David Stagman
B. Beile and L. Stamp
Robert and Audrae Stephen
Kerstin Von Der Heide
J. Elniski and F. Whitehead
Pamela Zadenetz

Wish List (visit our website for a full list)

Fleece blankets
White paper towels
Antibacterial wipes
KMR or Esbilac Powder
Eukanuba or Iams (dry) Kitten Chow
Chicken baby food
Pet carriers, all sizes
Stainless steel veterinary-style cages
Gazebos
Multimedia projector
Printing and copy services
X-ray machine
Otoscope

Lead testing machine
Autoclave
Incubators
Sports utility vehicle
Horse trailer
Cash
Building in the Barrington area and/or property on which we can build
Used ink-jet and laser-jet cartridges
Used cell phones
Used automobiles
Items for silent auction

Volunteering

Flint Creek Wildlife has adopted a section of Cuba Road in Barrington for which we pick up litter from the roadside two times each year. We currently need volunteers to help us with highway cleanup on Saturday, May 5th.

We are also looking for marathon runners for our Run for Wildlife team in the Chicago Marathon. Call (847)602-0628 if you are interested.



“At moments like this, I can tell you why we do what we do.”

Dawn Keller, Founder and President of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation

Great Horned Owl returns to the wild. See full story on page 4.

Flint Creek Wildlife Expands Educational Programming

We are pleased to announce a series of educational programs that are now available for organizations, schools and youth groups. Please call us at (847)602-0628 or email us at education@flintcreekwildlife.org for more information. Program durations may be adjusted to meet your group's needs and content may be adjusted to target specific age groups. In addition to our standard programs we also offer programs tailored to specific interests, so don't hesitate to contact us if you don't see a program that exactly meets your needs.

Remember to book early for best availability.

Illinois Raptors —Do you know about the birds of prey that live in our area? Learn about hawks, owls, falcons and vultures that are indigenous to Illinois. Get an up close look at live birds of prey.

Raptor Adaptations—Do you know why American Kestrels bob their heads during flight? Learn lots of cool facts about the physical characteristics that help hawks, owls, falcons and vultures survive in the wild. Get an up close look at live birds of prey.

Hunters of the Night—What makes owls have silent flight? How do they hunt so accurately at night? Which owl makes what sound? Learn

all about the owls that are indigenous to Illinois, including some less common species that pass through the area. Get an up close look at live birds of prey.

Illinois Mammals—What are the most common mammals in our area? Where do they sleep? What do they eat? Learn all about mammals that are indigenous to Illinois.

Flint Creek Wildlife 911™—What is wildlife rehabilitation? Learn about the animals in our care, including what types of species and injuries we see. Experience the joy of releasing fully rehabilitated animals back to the wild through beautiful slide shows of actual releases.

Meet Our Educational Animals



Volo, a Red-tailed Hawk, came to us imprinted on humans and with a medical condition called Metabolic Bone Disease. Volo was being raised illegally, with improper diet and with inappropriate contact with humans. When he arrived at Flint Creek, he was not able to stand and he was in significant pain due to calcium depletion in his joints and bones.

Although we were able to save Volo's life, his feather condition is still poor due to his past nutritional issues and he cannot ever be released back into the wild because he is imprinted on humans.

Fluff, an American Kestrel, arrived at Flint Creek Wildlife as a nestling. She suffered from West Nile Virus (WNV) and aspergillosis (a fungal infection that invades lungs and air sacs). Due to neurological issues, Fluff couldn't stand or hold her head steady enough to take food from a pair of tweezers.

Fluff required intensive care for many months and, after being poked and prodded multiple times a day, she recovered from WNV. She still suffers from diminished lung capacity that impacts her endurance during flight and she could not survive in the wild.

Bridge, a Great Horned Owl, had been seen down on the ground for several days before we were contacted. The property owners, upon advice from a nature center, incorrectly assumed that she was a healthy fledgling that should be left alone. When we recovered her, we found a severely emaciated bird with both eyes swollen shut due to severe head trauma.

Intensive care that included tube feeding every four hours around the clock saved Bridge's life, but she suffers some vision loss in both eyes, rendering her non-releasable.

Our sincere thanks to our corporate sponsors and donors:

Barrington Animal Hospital

Eye Care for Animals

Fusion Idea Lab

Game Time Images

Niles Animal Hospital

Shedd Aquarium

Tin Man's Pub

Wild Bird Center
-Fox River Grove



Monkey is a Monk Parakeet that arrived at Flint Creek Wildlife with West Nile Virus. Now recovered to the fullest extent possible, Monkey appears perfectly normal, but she can only fly sideways.

FURRY & FEATHERED Baby Shower

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is holding a baby shower for tiny orphaned birds and mammals.

Date: Saturday, May 26, 2007
 Time: 10:00 am — 5:00 pm

Location: Barrington Public Library

~Live owls, hawks and falcons~
 ~Animal craft projects~
 ~Games for the kids~
 ~Face painting~
 ~Animal education / slide shows of babies~
 No need to RSVP
 Everyone must bring a gift or gifts!

Please Choose Gifts from the Following:

Powdered KMR or Esbilac	Bird Seed
lams or Eukanuba Dry Kitten Food	Unflavored Pedialyte
lams Canned Kitten Food	Freeze Dried Blood Worms or Flies
Shelled (raw, unsalted) Walnuts or Peas	Fleece Blankets
Chickens Baby Food	Kleenex (no lotion) Q-tips
Gift Cards to Pet Stores or Grocery	Paper Towels (plain white)

Donations are tax deductible as allowed under IRS regulations
 Join us for a great time and help us care for this year's orphaned wildlife!

Thank you for helping us help the animal babies!

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education
 Habitat and Species Conservation

117 S. Cook Street, #145
 Barrington, Illinois 60010
www.flintcreekwildlife.org
 (847)602-0628

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning fully rehabilitated wildlife to its natural habitat. Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation that relies strictly on public donations to support its life-saving work. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed under IRS regulations.

Please take a moment to read this newsletter and learn more about our organization and the animals we help.

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