



Feather & Talon

South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls Newsletter



Winter 2011

Message from the Chair:

It Was a Long Fall!

Dear SORCO Members and Volunteers:

It has been a long time since we have been in contact with you via a newsletter! We have been busy at SORCO and have had several delays in putting our newsletter together. My apologies for the delay. First of all, our thanks have to go out to Charles and Judith Gurr who have gone above and beyond in their volunteerism at SORCO. Ken Fujino, our Site Manager, has been receiving medical treatment for a serious condition. Judith and Charles have been coming in almost daily to feed and care for our birds. As Ken has indicated, their help has kept SORCO running smoothly since he has been ill. We wish Ken all the best in his recovery.

Secondly, as you are all aware, last year our funding was cut from B.C. Lotteries. Several Board members and volunteers went to work raising awareness through the media about the funding shortfall and its implications for SORCO. Their hard work has paid off. Several individuals and groups have come forward with donations. We have received these donations at releases, information booths and from mailings. We thank Fortis for their recent \$3,000 donation which will be used towards new cages in our clinic. Although we made it through this year, we know that each and every year will be a challenge for raising funds. Keep up the hard work!

SORCO had several great release events over the summer and fall. These were well attended and helped raise the awareness of the work we do at SORCO. It is a thrill for most people to see a bird, which would have had very little chance to survive injured in the wild, treated and released back to their home turf! Our thanks go to those who have helped us out.

Our Board has started work on some very special projects for SORCO. One of these is the construction of a new treatment clinic. Our existing facility is in need of some major upgrading. We will keep you posted on our progress!

All the best,

Sheila Gamble
Chair

Message From Site Manager:

I must apologize for getting behind in some areas. I have been, and still am fighting a medical problem.

SORCO has been fortunate in that our wish for a set of stainless steel cages has come to be a reality thanks to the generosity of Fortis and a Penticton Community Foundation Grant. The cages have been something we have been wishing for and planning for a long time. The six cages will make a great improvement in our work rehabilitating all our patients.

SORCO took in 53 injured and orphaned birds of prey in 2010. We've continued to have a 95 % success rate with the orphaned raptors that we receive and a slightly lower rate with the injured ones.

SORCO is planning to hold a coloring contest for students in grades 1 to 3 and grades 4 to 6 with prizes in each category. The coloring picture was drawn by Hanna Ellis, a student in Oliver. The prizes will be awarded at SORCO's Annual Open House in April, 2011.

SORCO is again asking for donations for our annual Garage Sale held during our Open House.

SORCO would like to thank all the generous people and organizations who have donated to our organization. Without your support we would not be able to continue the good work that we do.

Ken Fujino
Site Manager

Volunteer Judy Gurr Holds Houdini at SORCO Site



SORCO OPEN HOUSE & GARAGE SALE

April 17, 2011

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Donations for the Garage Sale will
be greatly appreciated. Call
SORCO at 250 498-4251**

Rough Legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)

Written by Greg Byron - Owner/Operator Great Horned Owl Eco-Tours

This transient visitor spends the winter months in the southern portion of the North American continent. In the spring this medium sized hawk returns to the far north to rear its family above the tree line to the tundra in the Arctic. The Rough-legged Hawk is so named because of the feathering that extends down the legs to the base of the toes, an adaptation to the cold environments this species prefers. A curious observation has been made about the Rough Legged, which is no doubt linked to its primary environment. In the winter range, he is often seen hunting from a perch on a fence post. In the arctic on the tundra his only option is to hunt from rock outcroppings.

The primary food source during the breeding season is lemmings; voles, mice and rats in the winter season. During periods where the lemming population is high larger clutches will be laid; typically 4 eggs are laid. During the Christmas Bird count on December 28, 2008 in the Osoyoos region a total of 9 Rough Legged Hawks were reported.



Cages donated by Fortis & Penticton Comm Foundatio

Supporters of SORCO Leave Legacies

SORCO has been extremely fortunate to receive bequeaths from two separate estates this year. The individuals who have left us this funding were not only supporters of our birds during their lifetimes, but will also continue to support us through the legacies they have bequeathed. These funds will be used to improve or expand our existing care facilities. We thank them and their families.

Leaving a legacy is a simple act. You can either include the legacy in a new will or attach a simple codicil to an existing one. What may seem like a small amount in an estate can make a huge difference in running our facility.

If you would like to discuss this option, please contact Ken Fujino, our Executive Director, @250 498 4251. He has all of the information. We welcome your inquiries.

Please Give a Hoot and Help Us!

1. Become a SORCO member!
 - a) Donate \$20 and you will (a) receive an semi-annual newsletter (b) receive advance invitations to bird releases and (c) receive an invitation to the annual Open House.
 - b) Make a donation as a gift (Christmas, Birthday, Graduation).
 - c) Include SORCO in your will.
2. Visit our website to sign up for automatic withdrawals in support of SORCO.
3. Visit our website to Adopt-A-Raptor.
4. Donate Canadian Tire Cash – we use these coupons to purchase hardware and cleaning supplies for SORCO.
5. Save SORCO \$\$\$ - To receive Newsletters by email – please send us your address.

NOTE: All donations are tax-deductible.

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