

# On the Horizon

Horizon Wings Newsletter – Summer 2012

[www.horizonwings.org](http://www.horizonwings.org)



Welcome to Horizon Wings' quarterly newsletter – On the Horizon. We would like to keep you informed of happenings, events, and news going on at Horizon Wings.

Our mission at Horizon Wings is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild, in order to maintain their population and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is our hopes by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

## Join Us for a hOWLing Good Time



### “Owl Prowl”

Saturday , October 20th

6:30 pm-8:30pm

Adults \$5 Children \$2

Heavy rain cancels event. No rain date.

Horizon Wings

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What better way to kick off the Fall season than with our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Owl Prowl**. Following the overwhelming success of last year, we have even more activities and surprises planned for you and your family, on this evening devoted to the celebration of one of nature's most mysterious creatures! This is your chance to be up close and personal with 4 amazing species of owls, learn cool facts and get all your questions answered--- all in a setting designed to surprise and delight. Enjoy complimentary coffee, hot cider, and baked goods, participate in a variety of fun and informative activities and crafts, and take a chance on some of our unique (owl related, of course) raffle items. We look forward to seeing you!

*Written by Patrica Cebrelli*

## Dante's Progress

We are happy to report that Dante the Turkey Vulture is now on glove! We spent several weeks working with Dante to gain his trust. This meant spending several hours in his aviary with him talking and singing or just sitting with him. Slowly he started to feel comfortable with us and let us approach him and place his food at his feet. One day we decided to try to attempt to touch his feet and he let us. He just sat on the perch calmly and let us stroke his feet. This is important because the next step would be to put on his anklets and jesses which means having your hands at his feet for a few minutes. We spent a few days just putting on his anklets and jesses and removing them. Dante got into a nice routine of flying to a specific perch when approached with a glove. He would go sit in a certain spot on the perch and wait to be jessed up. The next step was to get him to step up on the glove. This took another couple of days for him to feel comfortable with us to do it. Finally we were ready to try it and Dante did great. He stepped right up

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# “Name the Screech Contest” Winner

Congratulations to **Isabella Deep**, of Griswold Elementary School, for winning our “Name the Screech Contest”. Her entry, “Jasper”, was chosen from among approximately two hundred entries to be the forever name of our little gray Eastern Screech Owl. We think, “Jasper”, which is a kind of gemstone, fits nicely with “Herkimer”, also a gemstone, and the name of the red Eastern Screech with whom Jasper shares an aviary. As winner of the contest, Isabella won an educational program for her entire grade at Griswold Elementary School; Mrs. Johnson’s class and the other fourth grade classes were treated to an hour-long program about the exciting world of raptors.



Horizon Wings presented Isabella with an adoption certificate and photograph of Jasper, and photos were taken of Isabella standing next to little Jasper. Thank you to all of the children who participated in our contest.



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and we took him for a walk while on glove. We went out of his aviary to a nice sunny spot in the yard. For the first few times on glove we only spent short periods of time outside. Slowly we are building up the amount of time on glove. Now when Dante comes out and we stand in the sun the first thing he will do is spread his wings to get the full effect of the sun. Our next step with Dante will be go get him used to seeing his travel box. We will start to put it in his aviary and place food into it. Once he is comfortable with it, the last step will be

to start putting him in the travel box from the glove and taking him out. Then when Dante is 100% comfortable with it, he’ll be ready to start coming out on programs as an ambassador to teach everyone about Turkey Vultures and how important they are.

While we are continuing to work with Dante, he is doing a very important job for us at Horizon Wings. He is being a foster parent to a young Black Vulture. This Black Vulture was found in someone’s barn which was probably his nest area. Once discovered by the people they didn’t want him back in the barn and he needed to go to a rehabilitation center for a few weeks. Even though Dante and this little bird are two different species, they are both vultures and in the wild they would spend time together. It’s important to get this little Black Vulture with another vulture and not just with humans so he doesn’t get habituated to people. In the wild Turkey Vultures have a great sense of smell to find carrion. Turkey Vultures don’t have the greatest eyesight though. Black Vultures have little sense of smell but have good eyesight. So in the wild you will often find the Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture together helping each other locate food.

*Written by Jeanne Wadsworth*



## Water & Electricity

In June, Horizon Wings achieved the goal of getting water and electricity closer to the aviaries. This enables us to provide extra heat to those birds that need it during the winter months, as well as being able to add heated water bowls to some of the aviaries. We were also able to add floodlights to increase visibility when we return with the birds from our evening programs.

We wish to thank Al D'Amico of D'Amico Electric Inc. in Stafford Springs for generously donating his labor, and to Vaughn and Sheila Numrych for their generous monetary donation. Without them, this project would not have been possible.

## Wish List

- Lumber (Plywood, 2x4s, 2x6s)
- Hardware (deck screws, rafter hangers, hinges, hasps)
- Pea stone for aviary flooring
- Zip-Loc freezer bags
- Cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, Simple Green)
- Office supplies (Postage stamps, paper, envelopes, card stock)
- Gift cards for building supplies
- Hardware cloth
- Disposable vinyl cleaning gloves

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE**

## Aviary Expansion

The summer of 2012 certainly brought many new experiences, and one for which we will be forever grateful is the ability to expand our resources. Horizon Wings would like to give a sincere Thank You to everyone involved in building our newest aviary.

Tony Fantoli Sr. and Tony Fantoli Jr. built this amazing new aviary. Tony Fantoli Jr. is a student at EO Smith, and for his Vo-Ag project he built the aviary. He and his father supplied the labor while Horizon Wings supplied the materials. Alan Nordell laid the foundation upon which the whole thing was built. The aviary went up quickly and efficiently. It looks amazing!



The aviary is now home to Chico, our Broad-Winged hawk. It sits nestled in a quiet corner right in between Corbin our Crow and Dakota and Patrick our Red-Tailed hawks. One of our rehab hawks shared this new aviary with Chico for a while and we were lucky enough to release that rehabilitated hawk back into the wild. This added space just enhances the work that can be done, and we thank everyone involved for creating another home for our raptors here at Horizon Wings.

*Written by Colleen Backman*

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