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Clarification:

What to do in a wildlife emergency:

In our last month’s newsletter, we printed “What to do in a Wildlife Emergen-

cy” column. After publication, staff wanted to make a few clarifications to the
column. First, before doing anything with any wild animal, make sure you know
of states do not permit mammal rehabilitation and it is illegal under some
state regulations to even touch an animal. If you’re in Canada, please check
appropriate laws by territory or province. Second, if it is a baby animal that is not
vicious and do not attempt to take the animal thinking it is “orphaned.” Often
the parents will leave the baby in a specific spot then come back when they’re
back. Many “orphaned” animals get brought into wildlife rehabilitation
because of this misconception. It’s always best for the parents to raise the animal
rather than a human.

If you have questions or need clarifications, contact your state wildlife agency or
United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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first open house event in four years.
The ABEF staff coordinated the event
to try to get more community involve-
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The American Bald Eagle Foundation welcomes 20-year-old Natalie Helms who studies science and natural journalism at the University of Missouri. Helms became involved with raptors her fresh-
man year in college when she was looking for a
way to get involved in extracurricular activities
while working with wildlife. She found the Raptor Rehabilitation Project through the University of Missouri, “went to a meeting and now here I am a half-years later” she said. “I fell in love with it immediately.”

Currently, Helms is a volunteer manager at the ABEF’s Facebook page, manages bird “adoptions.” The Raptor Rehabilitation Project, Helms said, dovetails with her career goals. She is a native Missourian, a red-tailed hawk and a red-headed woodpecker.

In addition, she is a junior caretaker for one of the great horned owls. This means she is responsible for making sure the great horned owl gets proper day-to-day care and socialization, as well as keep-
ing in touch with the bird’s senior caretaker (a university veterinary student). Since Helms began working for the Raptor Rehabilitation Project in 2013, she has put in over 600 volunteer hours. According to Helms, the project allows her to share her love for raptors in education for a different reason.

“I love that each bird has its own personality, which can be either species related or individu-
ally speaking. It’s special to form such a strong relationship with the birds… I always jokingly say that owl breath is not a thing many people get to experience in their life she said with a grin.

Helms also said she enjoys sharing the information she’s learned about raptors with others.

“Seeing a person’s face light up when you show them a red-tailed hawk or an eagle or a Northern Harrier… that’s why I do this” she said.

While interning at the ABEF, Helms has learned different training techniques

A DEAF NEWSLETTER

The American Bald Eagle Foundation is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of our national bird and its habitat throughout North America.

Eagle Newsletters

Thursday, August 13 2015

907.766.3094

For more information about our new monthly e-newsletter to subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact our education & outreach coordinator at Leia@baldeagles.org

www.baldeagles.org

113 Haines Highway Haines, Alaska 99827

Bills in congress threaten birds

The American Bald Eagle Foundation would like all of our members and readers to know about two bills attacking our federally protected, mi-

gratory birds. The first HR 493 will allow for incidental and accidental “take, killing or other harm” to any migratory bird. In addition, HR 493 would fast track the authorization of taking or killing of any bald or golden eagles.

There is also a rider to bill HR 2922 which would prohibit the Department of Interior from using funds for enforcing protection of migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Because part of the American Bald Eagle Foundation’s mission is dedicated to the “conservation of our national bird and its habitat throughout North America,” we see both of these bills as extremely regressive as they would threaten birds such as the bald eagle pictured above are currently protected under two federal laws. Two proposed bills could take away funding for the enforcement of these two important laws and make migratory birds easier to take f down.

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A BEF open house

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ABEF intern Katelyn Martin spending time outside with our great horned owl, Hans. Photos by Chloe Goodson