ABEF takes in a record breaking five injured eagles

Within the last month, the American Bald Eagle Foundation has rescued five bald eagles from the Haines Borough. It is unprecedented for the ABEF to have five adult birds in such a short period of time.

This was the first bird picked up from Chilkoot Lake and called in by Alaska State parks personnel. The bird was found with a broken wing and the campfire pits looking for food. After staff picked him up, the wings were extensively eviscerated with loads of broken feather. He was taken for bird of prey and shot a few hours after being found.

The second bird was rescued on June 5 when it collided with a truck as it was flying down from a tree. The gentleman driving the truck saw the bird, but unfortunately didn't do anything to avoid the collision.

Raptor curator Chloe Goodson and education and outreach traits for the ABEF rescued the bird after the gentleman called the collision into the Alaska Raptor Center (SERC). The bird found on the right shoulder girdle. The bird was well fleshed, though its tail feathers were ratty and broken, which leads us to believe the bird may have been on the ground for an extended period of time. The bird was sent out early the next morning to ABEF where at the time of print, its fate was unknown.

Staff at the ABEF are unsure of what could be causing the increase in eagle injuries though there is some speculation. One thought is the community of Haines has become more aware of the ABEF’s ability to rescue and track injured eagles and has led to an increase in community members reporting injured birds.

Another thought is that because it has been such a dry, summer and the salmon runs are not as high as normal, the eagles may be feeding on quite a small amount of food to feed all of the birds in the area. Since only three of the five birds we got injured birds.

In the past two months, the ABEF has seen a marked increase in eagle injuries though there is no clear reason as to why this is occurring. While it is not uncommon for eagles to collide with trucks, it is uncommon to have so many birds in such a short period of time.

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In the next 12 months, the American Bald Eagle Foundation will give five birds an increase in their quality of life, the raptors will get to fly and will have an increase in their ability to take care of themselves.

What to do in a wildlife emergency:

What to do:

- If you can pick up the animal, make sure you’re wearing gloves or protective glasses or cover your hand. If an animal tries to attack you, a suit of mail or a hard hat is recommended. If the source isn’t listed as licensed, you should think twice before picking up the animal yourself.

- If you cannot pick the animal up, call local wildlife conservation personnel. They may have to kill the animal yourself.

- If you know the animal and it was picked up by you, you should keep the animal in a crate, and get it to a licensed location.

What not to do:

- Do not attempt to pick up the animal yourself.
- Do not attempt to keep the animal in an open container.
- Do not attempt to feed the animal any food.

What to do:

- Call local wildlife conservation personnel.
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