The American Bald Eagle Foundation staff is in process of creating an emergency action plan so that our staff, interns and volunteers have an immediate plan in case of an emergency. The emergency action plan should have natural disaster or manmade phenomena occur. It has been a rough start to the year with fire, earthquake, snowstorm and medical emergencies. In case of such an emergency, it is good to be prepared and have an idea as to the steps we can take to ensure all humans and birds swiftly and safely, or how to be prepared to shelter in place. A complete list of the emergency action plan is in its written rough draft phase. We hope to work with the staff and volunteers to finalize plans to hold a drill with interns and staff this summer. We are working hard to get all plans organized and all necessary equipment in place should we need to implement a plan. Part of this includes gathering necessary items for such an event. As the list is entirely too expensive for us to purchase all of the items, we are reaching out to our members and supporters to ask for help in purchasing the needed equipment.

We’ve created an Amazon Wish List with items we need for the emergency action plan as well as enrichment for our birds and every day necessities here at the Foundation. If you’re able to help us out by purchasing and donating an item or two, your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Staff appreciates any support in helping us get to the next steps of the emergency action plan so that our staff, interns and volunteers are prepared for any type of event.

On Monday, April 27 the Foundation received the newest member of our feathered flock from Bird Treatment and Learning Center in Anchorage.

"Arden, an approximately four year old bird, is the newest member of our education team. As for enrichment for our birds and every day necessities here at the Foundation. If you’re able to help us out by purchasing and donating an item or two, your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Staff appreciates any support in helping us get to the next steps of the emergency action plan so that our staff, interns and volunteers are prepared for any type of event."

Photo by Leia Minch

Arden, an approximately four year old bird, is the newest member of our education team.

Photo courtesy of Bird Treatment and Learning Center

Five injured birds in the first quarter of 2015

Since the beginning of year staff at the American Bald Eagle Foundation has had five birds come into our hands already. It’s been a rough start to the year, however we hope to have better results, sooner and fewer. In January a herring gull came in with a broken wing. It was sent to Juneau Raptor Center where unfortunately it was euthanized as the break didn’t heal properly.

In early February a Haines resident called about a disabled raven in her driveway. The bird had an unusually mellow disposition, a broken beak that was bleeding profusely and did not have full function of its wing. The bird was also sent to Juneau where it was unable to recover.

On Easter Sunday staff was notified by the Haines Police Department of a bald eagle with a broken wing. Staff thought the eagle down on the ground. The bird was not moving its wings and was throwing up green bile. Staff brought the eagle back to the Foundation to do an initial intake exam where it died in the middle of receiving fluids. Our veterinarian Michelle Oakley performed a necropsy where she found blood in the intestines and the bile was abnormally bright green. Specimens were taken, however at the time of this article results had not yet been received. Rodenticide, or rodent poison such as D-CON is suspected. Rodenticide kills not only the rodents that ingest the poison, but also the animals that eat rodents, such as eagles, hawks and owls. Snap Traps are a good alternative and run about eight dollars each.

A grandma and an urban farmer, Carly left her greenhouse and her plants (albeit two violets) in Tumwater, Washington when her husband, Bill became the Haines Director of Community and Economic Development. Carly said she had an interest in animals, so when she came to the ABEF for the Haines Sportsman’s yard sale she decided volunteering here seemed like a good fit for her. Since her start in mid-March, Carly has been volunteering faithfully at the Foundation Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Like the rest of our staff, she wears many different hats when she volunteers and helps with everything from food preparation for our birds, to greeting guests and taking inventory on a daily basis. She also loves to care for our birds’ aviaries.

“arden has given me a list of all the new and every day necessities here at the Foundation. If you’re able to help us out by purchasing and donating an item or two, your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Staff appreciates any support in helping us get to the next steps of the emergency action plan so that our staff, interns and volunteers are prepared for any type of event.

Photo by Cheryl Wilkens

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In mid-April we had two consecutive weeks where surf scoter came in. The first was found underneath fuel tanks in Haines Harbor. Staff created a makeshift habitat for the scoter and upon intake exam the bird was a catatonic demeanor and blood coming from the nares. It was later sent to Juneau Raptor Center (Bird TLC) in Anchorage where it was examined and though nothing notably was found, the bird was not in good condition. The second surf scoter was brought in by a Canadian couple on holiday from Yukon. The bird was rolling around in the waves and unable to swim. The bird died before staff was able to examine it.

As we do not have a full-time vet or a wildlife rehabilitation in Haines, the ABEF can only perform an initial intake exam. Currently the rehabilitation, and facilities like Bird TLC & Juneau Raptor Center to any patients which come into our care. We are proud to work with rehabilitation centers such as that at TLC and at the Alaska Raptor Center to get Alaska’s birds healthy and back out into the wild.

Facilities like Bird TLC & Juneau Raptor Center who practice rehabilitation, and facilities like ours who can administer fluids and bandage wraps receive no federal or state funding for our work. We do the work or do so to the chips of the bird out of the Haines area.

We’d like to extend our gratitude to Wings of Alaska and Alaska Airlines who have generously donated the flights for these birds to get the proper care they need.

The American Bald Eagle Foundation warmly welcomes our newest volunteer, Carly Mandiville. A grandma and an urban farmer, Carly left her greenhouse and her plants (albeit two violets) in Tumwater, Washington when her husband, Bill became the Haines Director of Community and Economic Development. Carly said she had an interest in animals, so when she came to the ABEF for the Haines Sportsman’s yard sale she decided volunteering here seemed like a good fit for her. Since her start in mid-March, Carly has been volunteering faithfully at the Foundation Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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