



# Peregram

Velma Morrison Interpretive Center News

Fall 2008

## Wings Over the High Desert

By Trish Nixon, Raptor Specialist

**T**he swing of a lure, the strong beat of falcon wings, a hawk gliding gracefully. These are images visitors experience during October weekends at the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center in Boise. Expanding on the success of the first *Frequent Flyers* program in February, we provide guests with a new opportunity to witness hawks and falcons on the wing and discover for themselves details of hunting and aerodynamics in birds of prey, and the sport of falconry.

Throughout the summer, Jim Willmarth and Trish Nixon have worked daily with our Gyrfalcon, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel and Swainson's Hawk to acclimate them to flying outdoors, coming to the lure, and the sights and sounds of visitors, other birds, and aircraft, all using routines that are integral components of falconry. The birds have been fitted with tracking telemetry, equipped with jesses and anklets, and are weighed daily to find the optimal weight at which they are focused on the task at hand. Some are familiarized to wearing a hood for transport or trained to travel calmly in a kennel. All training is accomplished via positive reinforcement, using

tried and true techniques employed by falconers for centuries.



Jack Cafferty

According to the old adage, "seeing is believing," *observing* a falcon stooping at a lure leaves a more memorable impression than just reading or hearing about the same behavior. While gazing at birds in flight, visitors learn about 'all things raptor.' Every behavior our education birds display is natural and relates directly to vital skills needed for survival in the wild. The difference is that our birds display these behaviors and skills in close proximity to the audience, something that rarely occurs in wild, open spaces. While beautiful and compelling when shown on the glove, falcons and hawks are more fully appreciated when seen on the wing, doing what they do best – stooping, soaring, flying with grace, and maneuvering with precision.

Jim Willmarth has worked in a variety of exotic locations for The Peregrine Fund, like Pakistan, Greenland, and the Cape Verde Islands. Most recently, Jim helped with the research and release of California Condors in Arizona's Grand Canyon. Now he contributes his experience and expertise to the educational bird programs at the Interpretive Center in Boise and has trained our hawks and falcons for the October outdoor flight demonstrations.

Trish Nixon has worked with raptors in the education program for nearly 10 years and presents and interprets daily indoor flight demonstrations of our resident Turkey Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, and Swainson's Hawk. Visitors watch the flights during morning and afternoon sessions, then have the option of following up with a more in-depth look at falconry during a tour of the Archives of Falconry. There they can see age-old artifacts and manuscripts that bring history into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They also learn how, in the words of Bill Burnham, President of The Peregrine Fund for over two decades, "The falconer's love for birds has been the most significant factor contributing to raptor conservation in North America."



All images by Jack Cafferty

### Training Birds for Flight Demonstrations

These photographs show Trish Nixon, Raptor Specialist, and Jim Willmarth, Curator of Birds, training Griffin, an immature Swainson's Hawk to fly from "A to B." They also show how birds of prey are masters of the forces of *thrust* and *drag*.

**T**he series of images below illustrate how Griffin utilizes the force of drag to make a controlled landing.



Griffin in full flight just entering image at the right.



Griffin flares her tail wide open with legs straight down. Both actions have the effect of increasing drag to slow down her speed.



As she touches down, Griffin uses her remaining momentum to rock her body forward to an upright position.

**I**n the series of images below, notice the level head and abso-



Griffin arches and raises her wings to increase thrust for the take off.



Even though her body is at an angle, note the level head and the complete focus.



### Harpy Eagle Returns from Panama to the World Center for Birds of Prey

As many people may recall, in 2001 The Peregrine Fund established a satellite facility in Panama to breed Harpy Eagles in their natural environment. Prior to the facility in Panama, captive propagation efforts for the Harpy Eagle were based here in Boise and the eagles were raised in the Tropical Raptor Building. These days the Tropical Raptor Building is adjoined to the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center and used to house raptors for the education program; it is commonly referred to as the "dark hallway" by staff and volunteers.



Angel Muela with Luigi.

With the captive propagation efforts of the Harpy Eagle project successfully completed, all the eagles have been released and are being tracked in the wild.

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A male Harpy Eagle, the last one hatched in Boise in April of 2001, became part of the environmental education program in Panama and will now return to Boise to become the Harpy Eagle Ambassador to the world! Named "Luigi," this bird is extremely comfortable with traveling and being handled in classrooms full of students. In recent years, Luigi was the star of the Harpy Eagle Festival in Panama and would fly across a large field in front of hundreds of young students dressed as Harpy Eagles.

Luigi will now become the star of the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center and will become part of the team of raptors within the Education Program. With the new video, "To the Rescue of the Last Harpy Eagles," showing daily in the Tropical Room and featuring Luigi, it will no doubt be impressive to show him to visitors on our stage after having seen the video. We expect Luigi to arrive during the first part of October and are anxiously awaiting his arrival!

### Still Making a Difference at 88 Years Old

**O**n Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, we helped celebrate the 88<sup>th</sup> birthday of our long-time Board member, Velma Morrison. The event was truly a celebration with Idaho's Governor, Butch Otter, The Peregrine Fund's Vice-President, Rick Watson, and others speaking on behalf of Velma's tremendous commitment to not only our community, but also The Peregrine Fund. The event was held in a brand-new environmentally friendly building, which is appropriately called "The Falcon Building" as a result of her involvement with The Peregrine Fund. The building features bronzes of Peregrine Falcons on a fountain on the front steps and mention of the World Center for Birds of Prey on a plaque by the entry stairs and on the back patio. Trish Nixon and Jim Willmarth were on hand for the event, along with a live Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, and Gyrfalcon.



Rick Watson, Director of International Programs, Velma Morrison, and Jim Willmarth, Curator of Birds, with a juvenile Gyrfalcon

Velma first joined The Peregrine Fund's Board of Directors in 1992 and has remained an active member of the Board ever since. During the early 1990s she played a major role in the creation of the organization's first facility dedicated to public education at the World Center for Birds of Prey. As a result of her tremendous commitment, the facility was named in her honor, the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center. Velma continues to support the organization's education activities at the facility, ensuring the youth of our community are provided an educational opportunity to learn about birds of prey and the importance of conservation.

Over the years Velma has left quite a lasting impression on the greater Boise community. She remains the Chairman of The Harry W. Morrison Foundation and is actively involved in the arts through the Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts. From the Distinguished Citizen of Idaho Award to a listing in the Who's Who of American Women, there's no doubt of her distinguishing marks on the community. Each day we are thankful of the mark she has made here at the World Center for Birds of Prey. From the birds and all of the staff, Happy Birthday Velma!

# U p c o m i n g E v e n t s

## **October – Saturdays and Sundays – Flight Demonstrations**

11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (weather permitting) - Trish Nixon, Raptor Specialist, and Jim Willmarth, Curator of Birds, will be flying birds every weekend in October. See article in this issue for details.

## **October 12, Sunday – Open House**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Half-price admission, flight demonstrations, Archives of Falconry tours, children’s activities, and drawing for the quilt “Fire and Ice.” See article in this issue for details.

## **November 1st, Saturday — Winter Hours Begin**

Open Tuesday—Sunday 10:00 a.m.— 4:00 pm, closed Mondays until February.

## **November 7th, Friday — Volunteer Training**

6:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m. This training will focus on the future of the Interpretive Center and our Interpretive Goals. All volunteers are encouraged to attend.

## **November 27th, Thursday — Thanksgiving**

The Interpretive Center will be closed.

## **December 6th, Saturday — Volunteer Holiday Party**

Details will follow.

## **December 25th, Thursday — Christmas**

The Interpretive Center will be closed.

## **January 1st, Thursday — New Years Day**

The Interpretive Center will be closed.



### **Contact Us**

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Interpretive Center

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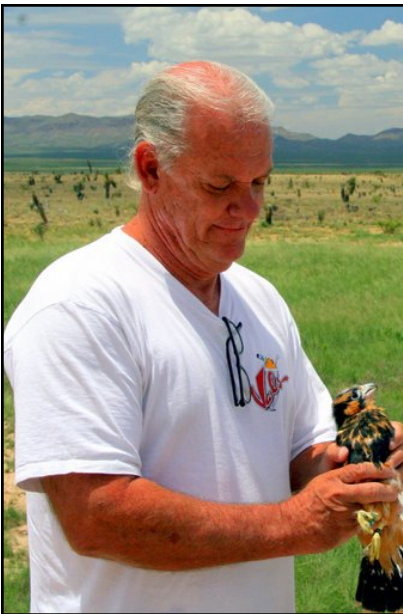
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Idaho National Laboratory  
Wal Mart Foundation  
Sam’s Club Foundation**

The next two articles show the extraordinary commitment of volunteers at the Interpretive Center to the conservation of birds of prey.



Mike Garets(above) and Steve Lewis (below) help place Aplomado Falcons in the hack box.



## Steve and Mike's Excellent Adventure

By Steve Lewis

A few months ago during a casual conversation with fellow volunteer Mike Garets, Mike expressed an interest in someday transporting young Aplomado Falcons down to their release site in Texas or New Mexico. Mike was telling me how he thought the trip would be a very informative and rewarding experience. We both felt this would be valuable as docents. Intrigued by this idea and figuring this might be a two person operation, I quickly told Mike I would be very interested in partnering with him on such a venture. So it was agreed that Mike would volunteer our services to The Peregrine Fund for this purpose. After a few months we were approached by Jack Cafferty, asking if we were still interested in transporting birds, and we both responded with an enthusiastic yes!

So, at 6:00 AM on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July (my birthday) we met Bill Heinrich at the World Center for Birds of Prey (WCBP). There we received the keys to a Ford Expedition and were escorted back to the breeding barns. Twenty-six young Aplomados in eight cardboard boxes were awaiting us. We were soon on our way to New Mexico, after loading the precious cargo and receiving the good wishes of Bill.

We spent twelve uneventful hours on the 24<sup>th</sup> sharing the drive from Boise to Durango, Colorado. Mike and I spent most of this time discussing and developing solutions for the world's problems. Every once in a while the chicks did get their opinions in with their cacking. By the way, if any of you would like to be informed of the solutions Mike, the birds, and I developed, just let us know we'll be happy to educate you.

Upon arriving at the Durango Best Western Motel, Mike, the birds, and I checked in. Upon settling in the room, the birds were a little talkative regarding the day's events, but they went to bed as soon as the lights went out.

At 5:30 AM on Friday, Mike and I were up and ready to go. The birds were sleeping in, so, thankfully they were very quiet. The drive from Durango to the release site, on Ted Turner's Armendaris Ranch in Engle, New Mexico, was just over six hours. We could have done it a few minutes quicker but one of our birds read the map wrong causing us to miss a turn in Farmington. If you wish to find Engle on the map, just follow I-25 South out of Albuquerque to Truth or Consequences, then turn East and go about eleven miles to Engle.

Angel Montoya, Paul Juergens and hack site attendants Lydia Moore and Daniel Kobar were waiting for us at the Armendaris Ranch Office, when we arrived. We were off to the release site after our

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meet and greet and signing waivers promising not to sue the ranches socks off should we get injured while on the ranch. After traveling on dirt roads a short distance through the desert, we arrived at the hack site. There we were greeted by two more hack site attendants, Scott Townsend and Jason Cade.

The hack box is about seven feet off the ground on a tower. After taking the boxes up the tower, the first order of business was for Angel to very carefully remove one bird at a time from a box. While gently holding the bird, Angel read aloud the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service tag number and The Peregrine Fund tag number. These numbers were checked off against the documentation that Mike and I brought from the WCBP. While still holding the bird, Angel performed a quick inspection to determine and record the bird's condition. Much to Mike's and my relief, all twenty six birds arrived in very good condition. During this procedure, Angel offered to let Mike and I place a bird in a hack box. We both eagerly accepted this offer, after all, how many people can say they actually held an Aplomado Falcon?

After all the birds had been recorded, inspected and safely placed in the hack boxes, Angel provided a guided tour of the Armendaris Ranch. I would describe the ranch as 320,000 acres of undeveloped desert habitat with plenty of yucca plants, which we hope the Aplomado will put to good use. Angel said the ranch has a bison herd, but we did not see any. However, we did see several Oryx which is a type of antelope native to Africa. They are about the size of a cow elk with very long straight horns. They were difficult to photograph because they are so skittish. On this tour, Angel proved to be an outstanding tour guide because he knew every plant and bird we saw and was very informative about the general ecology of the area. Besides his expertise, Angel was very personable and made us feel welcome.

After spending about three hours on the ranch and convinced that we were leaving "our" birds in capable hands, Mike and I reluctantly said our goodbyes and headed back for Durango. It was a long day but one of the more memorable of my life and a great birthday present.

Mike and I feel very honored and proud to have been entrusted with the transport of these precious birds. We want to thank Jack Cafferty and Bill Heinrich for giving us the opportunity to serve in this way. The Peregrine Fund's cause is so important for our planet and generations of people following us. Thanks again to Angel Montoya for making our visit so informative. We know this experience will help us as tour guides at the WCBP. Finally, thanks Mike, I count you as a great friend after this experience.

We will be forever grateful for the opportunity to participate in this worthy cause.



Steve and Mike at the hack site.



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## Looking for a great time? Check out the BLM's Education Opportunities

By Maryon Evans

**E**very year the BLM hosts several education opportunities in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) for anyone interested. These programs vary from oral presentations and hikes to work projects and banding opportunities. Thanks to fellow volunteer Mags Shaw, I was alerted to a vacant spot banding Ferruginous Hawk nestlings. And **Oh My Gosh**, what a fun day I had.

The weather was perfect, sunny with a slight breeze and mid 60s—ideal for traipsing over the desert building nesting platforms and banding juvenile hawks. Two projects had been combined so we had quite a long caravan heading out to the NCA. Good luck put me in the truck with John Doremus (retired BLM management biologist) and Matt (BSU student doing his field work on burrowing owls), they were most patient answering questions and pointing out things of interest.

First stop was a large stand of Big Sage to collect deadwood for the nesting platforms. Ferruginous Hawks build large stick nests preferably on an elevated site, but they will even nest on the ground if necessary. Once we had collected enough branches, John loaded us all up and off we went into the flats above Swan Falls.

The first nest we visited contained four young about 38 – 40 days old, almost ready to fledge. I was surprised to see so many healthy chicks in a single nest, but John explained that Ferruginous Hawks have been observed with clutches as large as eight young in an excellent food year, although the average is three or four in a nest. They are beautiful birds, and the opportunity to work with them one on one was cool beyond words.

I must admit I was kind of concerned when I found out we were going to be digging post holes and erecting platforms in the NCA. I thought that we would be grubbing rocks & pounding thru lava just to get a hole deep enough to hold a platform upright. But John had a trick or two up his sleeve—he made sure to choose sites that were mostly dirt and take advantage of pre-existing badger excavations. Turns out digging the hole was the easiest part. The mesh wire was used to create a large shallow nest basket lined with a few wired on sage branches and then bolted to the platform. The areas that we placed the nests were pretty devoid of sage and John explained that someone with the NCA would bring out sage branches closer to breeding so that the adults could complete their nests.

Our day wasn't just limited to building and banding. John knows the area like the back of his hand and took us to see a lava tunnel that "breathes." The site also happens to be a winter snake den and we were fortunate to see a young rattlesnake still lingering in the area. Then Matt took us by one of his burrowing owl dens and allowed us to observe the young owls at that site--cute, but very flea infested. In the course of the day we built five platforms and banded three nests of juveniles, saw several badgers, Prairie Falcons, Golden Eagles, visited a lava crater in the desert, and made our way home just before 8 PM.

Like I said—if you are looking for a great time, Call 208-384-3485. . . NCA Education Specialist Barbara Forderhase, or visit the BLM site for a schedule.

[www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/four\\_rivers/special\\_areas/snake\\_river\\_birds/education.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/four_rivers/special_areas/snake_river_birds/education.html)



Interpretive Center volunteers Maryon Evans (left) and Christa Braun (right) with juvenile Ferruginous Hawks.

## An Appreciation by Katie Warner—Summer Intern



**H**ello everyone, my name is Katie Warner and this summer I was an intern at the World Center for Birds of Prey. I recently graduated from Boise High School where I played Varsity Lacrosse and was involved in the theater program. I love the outdoors, animals, and adventure. I recently went skydiving for the first time, which was amazing. I'm headed off to Washington State University in August to major in Neuroscience, the study of the brain and nervous system. Upon receiving my undergraduate degree, I hope to enroll in the College of Veterinary Medicine on campus.



My grandfather, Peter Davidson, had helped to fly Aplomado Falcons down to Texas for release and suggested I get involved with the organization. I took his advice and signed up to volunteer. It was some of the best advice I would ever receive. Learning about the care of birds of prey and being trained to handle them that first summer are some of my favorite memories. Unfortunately, school started back up in the fall and I didn't have the time to volunteer during the school year. I returned this summer and was delighted to be offered an intern position. Working with Jim Willmarth and Trish Nixon has been such a blessing and I can't thank them enough for their help and instruction. My most loved duties are feeding the birds, helping with West Nile vaccinations, and showing Jess, the peregrine falcon, to visitors outside in the courtyard.

Katie helps Jim Willmarth vaccinate a Northern Harrier.

I was born and raised in Boise and have grown up with animals my entire life. Some kids want to be astronauts or ballerinas, and some kids change their minds daily, but I have always known that I want to be a veterinarian. We always had at least two dogs running around our house and I learned to love animals at a young age. That love continued to grow as I began showing horses in the American Paint Horse circuit. And now, after working with birds of prey, my desire to become a veterinarian is even stronger. Someday, I wish to work with these birds as my full-time career. In the mean time, I enjoyed every minute spent out at the World Center for Birds of Prey!

### We are a Nickelodeon 2008 Parents' Picks Winner!



The Velma Morrison Interpretive Center has received a Nickelodeon Parent's Pick Award as a favorite Boise family resource. Nickelodeon is a cable TV channel that focuses on children. They have a web site called goCityKids which is a city guide for parenting resources, kids' events, and family-friendly places to go - all over the US. Boise parents using this web site voted the interpretive center as the Best Enviro-friendly Place in Boise for 2008. To quote the letter we received from Nickelodeon, "We're thrilled for you, and delighted that your Parents' Picks win will alert other parents to your outstanding service."

The Archives of Falconry was founded at the World Center for Birds of Prey in 1986. The mission of the Archives is to collect and conserve evidence of the history of falconry worldwide and document the role of falconers in raptor conservation.

## Decorative Features of the Arab Falconry Heritage Wing

By David Wells, Administrator of The Archives of Falconry

Upon entering The Archives of Falconry the visitor's eye is drawn to many attractive displays. Prominent among these is the entryway to the Arab Falconry Heritage Wing, with its decorative arch and spotlighted view of the hunting tent. The interactive exhibits in that wing present the ancient heritage of Arab falconry, with particular focus on the sport as practiced in the United Arab Emirates. The wing further associates falconers' efforts with the UAE's overall program to promote conservation of threatened and endangered species.

Sheikh Zayed (pronounced "ZAY-ed") is credited as a world leader whose vision was decades ahead of others in the region in promoting conservation and funding breeding programs for birds such as the Houbara Bustard and animals such as the Arabian Oryx. He was born in 1918 into the royal family (al Nahyan) which governed Abu Dhabi. In 1927 at age 9, when his father died as ruler and Zayed's older brother then became ruler, Zayed moved inland to the oasis at Al Ain, where his family had a fort. Al Ain is part of the Abu Dhabi emirate and the fort was used to protect the wells which irrigate the date palm orchards from marauders. He spent his youth and young adulthood there and became its governor, appointed by his brother in 1946 and again in 1953. At that time, the Al Ain that Zayed grew up in had no paved roads, no electricity, no schools and no hospital. Incredibly, Zayed developed into a cosmopolitan, modern-thinking leader.

In 1966, Zayed was appointed Crown Prince of the entire emirate of Abu Dhabi. In late 1971/early 1972, Zayed unified seven independent emirates into one country, the United Arab Emirates, and was "elected" president by the council of elders. At the same time, the head of the royal family (al Maktoum) of Dubai, the other large emirate, assumed the office of Vice-President. After Zayed died in 2004, his eldest son, Khalifah, succeeded him and his youngest son, Sheikh Mohamed, became Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. The Arab wing in its entirety is a gift from Mohamed in honor of his father.

Why is this brief history lesson important? Because the Arab wing showcases Zayed and his efforts to promote sustainable hunting, including falconry, and to promote conservation of scarce resources. Besides the large painting of him by Roland Van Merbeck and historical photos by Wilfred Thesiger on the exhibit walls, Zayed is depicted on the screen (scrim) hanging behind the Saluki dog and in the slideshow in the theater. Mohamed is also pictured on the kiosk by the mural and on the screen hanging nearby.

In 1985 American veterinarian Dr. Ken Riddle was invited by Zayed to design the world's first falcon hospital, a testament to the importance of the sport of falconry in the Middle East. Riddle built and then



Interior of Bedu hunting tent at The Archives of Falconry.

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directed the hospital until 1998. In 2003 when the North American Falconers Association was scheduled to meet in Amarillo, Texas, Riddle was asked by the conference organizers to obtain an authentic, traditional Bedu hunting tent for display in the hotel. Through the generosity of his former employer, the Environmental Agency in Abu Dhabi (EAD), Riddle was able to purchase a new goat-hair tent, made by a Syrian family, along with the oriental rugs, cushions with tribal designs, and the accoutrements for roasting, grinding, brewing, and serving traditional Bedu coffee. At the conclusion of the falconry meet, Riddle donated the tent and all these other objects to The Archives of Falconry, a gift valued at \$35,000. The tent measures 12' wide x 20' long x 8' in height and is extremely heavy.

In 2005 Kent Carnie, who is the founder of The Archives of Falconry and was its curator at that time, made a proposal to Crown Prince Mohamed through his representative, Mr. Mohamed Al Bowardi, the managing director of the EAD, for an exhibit which would properly display the tent and depict the legacy of Arab falconry. As a result, The Archives was granted funds to construct a facility and to support it through our endowment.

Many of the decorative features of the Arab wing may be found in the original fort at Al Ain. The entryway itself is a replica of the main entrance. The roofline with its jutting breastworks or defensive parapet is reproduced accurately. The walls of our fort provide convenient space for the interpretive displays and exhibits. The fort's walls have nooks and the exhibit designers filled these with small knickknacks, like figurines and coffee pots. The fort has pierced decorative screens made out of plaster and our fort employs wood panels on the kiosks and throughout the wing to create the same visual effect. These panels are called mashrabiah and were hand-carved by Egyptian artisans. The fort has a façade with false windows which is artistically reproduced here as exhibits in alcoves behind glass. The original fort at Al Ain is now a historical and natural history museum housing archaeological antiquities excavated in that area and it also has a hunting tent on display which stands up against the fort walls similar to the one in the Archives.

The models of the houbara, falcons, Saluki dog, and three Bedu men were hand-carved and painted by the modelers in Seattle, working from photographs, illustrations, and life models in the case of the three Emirati students at the University of Oregon who "volunteered" their time and travelled to Seattle to pose. We do not know, as yet, what the men are discussing inside the tent as they drink coffee, but you may well use your imagination.

### **New Idaho Watchable Wildlife Signs Installed**

Thanks to an Idaho Watchable Wildlife Site Grant from the Idaho Fish and Game, three interpretive signs have been installed with information on identification of the birds of prey, song birds, and various mammals found within the property at the World Center for Birds of Prey. The habitat in and around the Visitor Center is recognized by Idaho Fish and Game as a prime viewing site for wildlife. The Visitor Center property is listed as a birding site in the Idaho Birding Trail guide and a wildlife viewing site in the Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide.

Our facility is sited in a unique outdoor sage-steppe habitat with numerous song birds, birds of prey, mammals, and native plants with fantastic viewing opportunities. In the past, many visitors viewing the wildlife and plants often had many questions and left with some of them unanswered. Our goal for the signs is to provide factual



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information that answer visitor questions about the unique species found in our region of the State, specifically those species native to the sage-steppe ecosystem. While the majority of our visitors may not be birding enthusiasts, all of our visitors will leave with a new appreciation of the vital role wildlife play in our environment. The special habitat coupled with the native and migratory birds often seen on the property provide an experience that leaves a lasting impression.

## **Open House Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **Visitor Center will open at 9am**

**Reduced Admission** Cost: \$3 Adults, \$2 Seniors, \$1 Kids

**Flight Demonstrations** will be held at 11am & 2pm Weather Permitting

**Falconry Archives Tours** will be given all day from 9am- 5pm

### **Ongoing Activities and Presentations**

**Kids Activities:** Bird of Build-a-bird, Prey Toss Game, Bird Biology Game, and Scavenger Hunts.

**Quilt Raffle** tickets will be sold for \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00 until 4pm when the winning ticket will be drawn.

**Guided Tours and Films** will be provided throughout the day.

**Food:** Yankee Dog, a local vendor, will be onsite selling food and refreshments.

## **Beyond the Bazaar**

By Sue Bello

As leaves begin to change color, some volunteers have asked about the Fall Bazaar. In an effort to keep you informed, I need to let you know that we will not hold a bazaar this year.

Last year's bazaar was very successful and fun but it required a lot of staff and volunteer time. As part of our efforts to focus staff time updating and expanding our interpretive programs, we will not be working on a bazaar this year. We hope these changes will bring progress.

Raffles that were a part of the Fall Bazaar will still bring in funds for education programs. Ruth Kasens' quilt has been a successful part of the Bazaar. And, this year her quilt is bringing in even more funds! The lucky ticket will be drawn on Open House Sunday.

Velma Morrison has donated her box seats to the primo December 13<sup>th</sup> Nutcracker Ballet performance at the Morrison Center again this year. We will begin selling raffle tickets to the evening performance after the October Open House and end that raffle during our busy Thanksgiving Weekend.