



## Concert Crasher

In late April, I received a call from my birder friend, Joe Brin, who told me that while he and his friends from the Onondaga Audubon had been bird watching near the Saint Joseph's Amphitheater, they noticed a large female great horned owl flying in and out. Upon closer inspection, they realized she was delivering food to a nest in the steel girders just over the right part of the stage. Joe had checked the concert schedule and found that the Jason Aldean concert was to be held on May 16th. In 2018, the first concert wasn't until mid-June so this concert was one month earlier. Of course, Jason Aldean would be playing to a sellout crowd. It was a certain thing that regardless of how many eggs she had laid, there would be at least one owlet that by concert time would be out of the nest and perching just above the stage with owl mom not being happy. The thought of great horned owls swooping over a crowd of thousands of people concerned us for both the owl's welfare and the concert goers. We knew they had to be removed. I called Bonnie Parton, a biologist with the New York DEC and alerted her to the situation. She went to the site, and convinced the county to get a vertical lift in there to see how many owlets there

were and to get them moved. When she went up in the lift she found there had only been one egg and it had hatched into a beautiful big female owlet. I had a great horned owl nest box that I had given her a few days before and she, along with Ted Fox from the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, and amphitheater workers, hung the box in a tree outside the theater. They removed the baby and put her in the box and waited to see if the mother would come. Bonnie played owlet sounds on her cell phone to attract the mother, but after two days, the mother did not appear at the box. On the third day, we decided the owlet must come to us to be fed and raised. She grew to be a beautiful big girl. After prey testing her to be sure she could hunt, and allowing her to fly in our flight cage, she was released to the wild where she could live free and next spring choose a mate of her own.



## Little Bird

Our first Rufous Hummingbird arrived in the fall of 2018. Since it had missed the migration, we knew he had to spend the winter. When spring finally arrived, we released him in a beautiful garden full of flowers in bloom.

## Big Bird

This is the impressive foot of our national bird, the Bald Eagle. When an eagle is ready for release, a DEC biologist comes to place bands on each leg. A blue band signifies New York State and a silver one, our federal government



## A Pelican?

On September 27th we received a call from Conservation Officer David Thomas. He said he had just picked up a, "very large bird with a really long beak" on Owens Road in Fulton. We thought it would be a heron or an egret but to my surprise he soon arrived carrying a huge box with an American White Pelican in it. The beak and feet were both pink and there were many brown spots on the wings indicating a juvenile. I realized it was totally emaciated and too weak to stand so I placed it on pads in a large cage and administered fluids. After it was rehydrated, I mixed up liquid Piscivore Diet for fish eating birds and tube fed it down its throat. I treated him for both ectoparasites



and internal parasites and continued fluids and a liquid diet for several days. I also noticed an eye injury to the left eye, so when it was strong enough to make the trip to the vets, I called Drs. Hoerner and Jin at Liverpool Animal Health Center and they took it right in. After a thorough physical, they tested for lead toxicity and did blood work. His radiographs showed no fractures or internal injuries but the lab results indicated the uric acid levels were high so we started it on an antibiotic. We knew that the eye needed to be examined by the Ophthalmologists at Cornell, so we made an appointment and got it to Ithaca. Their diagnosis was that the bird was totally visual in the right eye and even though impaired in the left it was probably going to be a good candidate for release back to the wild. Each day the pelican got stronger and was finally able to stand and eat on its own. It soon became a bottomless pit and was wolfing down huge bowls of fish daily. Now we were faced with a dilemma. What do you do with a pelican in Upstate New York in the fall? Dr. Sara Childs, at Cornell, suggested that I call the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife on Sanibel Island in Florida. After several phone conversations they agreed to take it. On Friday, November 1st, Delta Airlines flew the pelican to Florida. We all waited with bated breath until we heard that it was safe and sound at its destination. Around 11 PM we received a message and picture that it was out of the crate and inspecting its new accommodations. Thanks to all the vets, techs, airline personal, and volunteers who made this happen. Together, we all made a great team.

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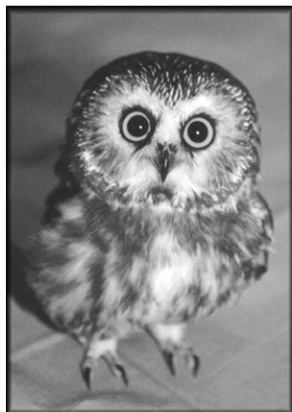
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*Thanks*