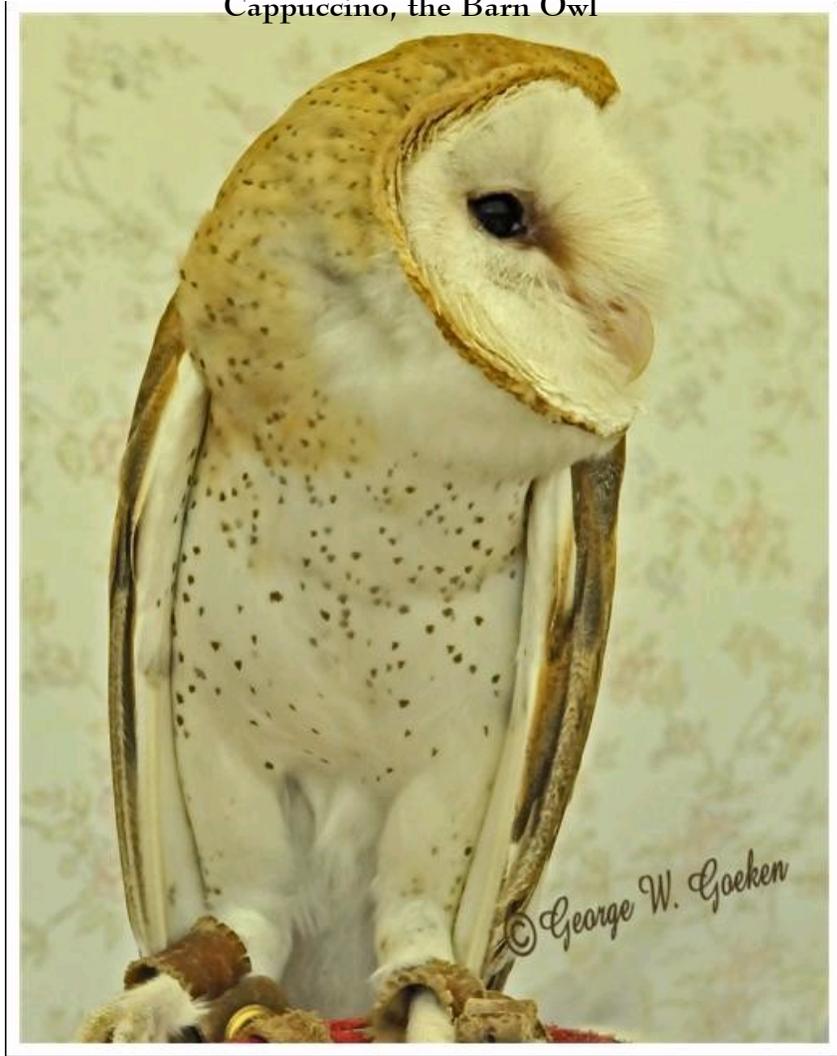


Spring 2008

Volume 28, #1

# TreeHouse Droppings

Cappuccino, the Barn Owl



This issue: TreeHouse Update; NWRA; Sponsorship Brochure Info; Trivia Night; *Twilight Hunter*; Appreciations & Memorials; Rehab Ramblings; Anatomy of a Rescue; Spring Orphans, Bald Eagles, Turtle, Goose and Coyote Updates; 2007 Patient Census & Financial Statement; Aerie; Support Letter Excerpts

Over 25 years of giving back to the wild

### Volunteer Staff

Judy Neiman, Clinic Coordinator  
Marti Stone, Mammal Specialist  
Dr. Paul Myer, Veterinarian  
Melvin McCann, Maintenance Super.  
Deana Browne, Fundraising  
Adele Moore, Newsletter Editor &  
Photographer (unless otherwise indicated)  
Martha Edwards, Web Master

### Board of Directors

Lynn Schreiber, President  
Pam Lippert, Vice-President  
Andrea Crabtree, Secretary  
Adele Moore, Treasurer  
Judy Neiman  
Melvin McCann  
Marti Stone  
Roger Murphy  
Paul Myer, DVM  
Eric Bloemker  
Kathy Border  
Sherri Medley

### TreeHouse Staff \*

Pam Lippert, Clinic Supervisor  
Andrea Crabtree, Executive Director  
Lynn Schreiber, President

\*TreeHouse Wildlife Center has one full-time & two part-time staff members paid through a grant. All other staff are volunteers.

### Volunteers

Judy & Jack Neiman, Deana Browne,  
Lois & Christy DuMey, Julie Keffer,  
Melvin McCann, Kathy Conley,  
Bud Grzeskowiak, Emily Deitz,  
Marti & Don Stone, Phil Challandes,  
Stephanie Bland, Brian Willis,  
Sandie Konopelski, Penny Sarandis,  
Kelly & M.J. Austin, Ambur Schwartz,  
Petra Squires, Dorothy Fabry,  
Brad Blumenstock, Dillon Dean,  
Shawna & Brittany Thomas,  
Drs. Craig & Kim Staehle,  
Rick & Carly Bohn

If you have a few hours a week to spare,  
and you would like to  
become a volunteer,  
please contact TreeHouse  
for more information.  
(The only requirement is that you are  
at least 16 years of age,  
unless accompanied by an adult)

**Inquire about volunteering at our two  
biggest fundraisers: Italian Fest,  
prepping or selling salads; or Open  
House, staffing our raffle/sales tables.**

For more information:  
**(618) 372-8092**

**TreeHouse Wildlife Center, Inc.  
1825 Fosterburg Road  
Brighton, Illinois 62012**

**[www.treehousewildlifecenter.com](http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com)**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT** by Lynn Schreiber

It's spring as usual: warm temperatures, plenty of rain, and new growth. At TreeHouse the atmosphere appears to be normal for this time of year, with increased activity due to the influx of late spring orphans and injured raptors. Volunteers rise to the usual challenges of the season by directing extra time to the care and treatment of new patients.

To the general public, it would seem that things are the same as always. We remain available to assist in situations where people encounter wildlife in need, giving advice, getting involved when necessary, and admitting the sick, injured and the young for treatment and rehabilitation so they may return to the wild. People see us at booths, tour our facility, and benefit from our education programs.

Yet since TreeHouse faces an uncertain future, it is not the same. With increased competition against countless non-profits such as our own, TreeHouse has not been able to secure all the funding it needs to move and build a new facility. While we constantly continue to pursue new prospects for the funding of this project, the realization is that we may not be able to continue.

TreeHouse staff and volunteers are hopeful that funding will still come before it is too late. We will do everything we can to help our situation and we ask for the continued support of our friends and members who have been so generous throughout the years, and helped to make TreeHouse what it is today.

It is hard to imagine that TreeHouse may have to close its doors. With no other facility in the area to provide the care and services available through our center, we must ask ourselves, where will the animals go? How many more spring seasons will TreeHouse have?

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure entitled ***"We're Moving — Community Sponsorship Opportunities"***. Please share this brochure with any individual, business owner, or service organization who might want to show their support for wildlife by sponsoring an outdoor cage or a room in the new hospital building. Please contact TreeHouse if you would like more brochures to distribute.

We are very proud that the community has literally kept us in operation for nearly 30 years. There are not many wildlife rehabilitation centers of our size that can make that claim. We hope this trend will continue.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR by Andrea Crabtree

It has been an eventful year at TreeHouse already. Several of us were able to attend the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, in early March. Through strategic planning, we were able to maximize our four-day learning experience by individually attending as many of the 75-plus sessions as possible, then sharing notes with one another. The conference is always a good way to recharge our batteries and learn new techniques in wildlife care by sharing and networking with hundreds of other rehabbers from across North America.

As soon as we returned from New Jersey, we held our first-ever Trivia Night fundraiser at Pere Marquette State Park on Saturday, March 15. The evening was a great success and a lot of fun, and we owe a huge debt to Amy DiStefano, Events Coordinator for the Lodge. It was Amy who spearheaded the effort and encouraged us to try our hand at such an event. Many thanks to her and to the lodge, who donated the use of the ballroom and assisted us with advertising. Also, a special thanks to emcee Chris Fincher and to all who donated items for the raffles. Thanks to all who attended for their support of our cause. We hope to do it again next year!!



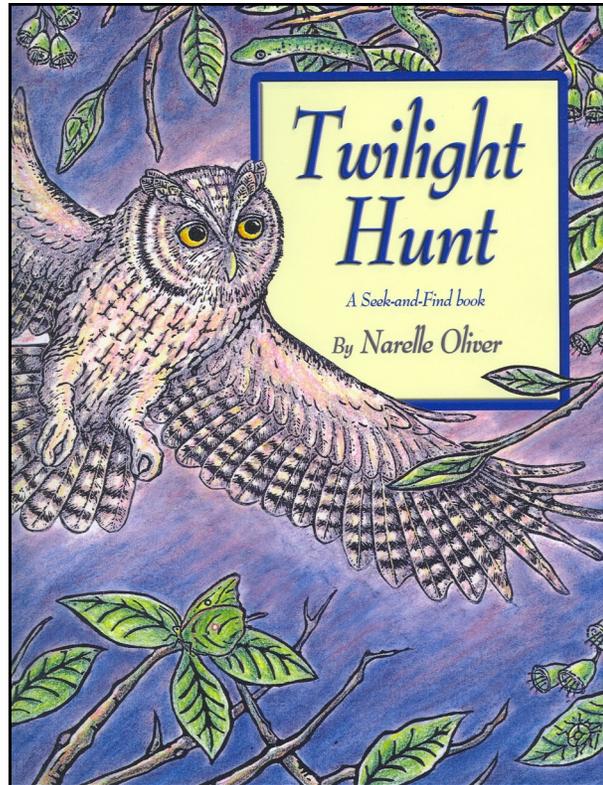
### TRIVIA NIGHT THANK YOU TO

Pere Marquette State Park  
 Amy Di Stefano  
 Pepsi Company, Jerseyville  
 Hawthorne Animal Hospital  
 Wild Birds Unlimited, Swansea  
 B&B Custom T's, Alton  
 Melvin and Shirley McCann  
 TreeHouse volunteers

Eric Bloemker  
 Pam Lippert  
 Marti Stone  
 Jim Moore  
 Kathy Conley  
 Nancy Sabaj  
 Chris Fincher, MC

*From the Director continued*

A new book for children ages 5 – 8 has TreeHouse as its inspiration: *Twilight Hunt*, by Narelle Oliver, is a beautifully-illustrated tale of a screech owl's search for a meal for its young. I distinctly remember a very dark and rainy June afternoon two or three years ago when Narelle, of Brisbane, Australia, dropped in at TreeHouse with her friend (and Pam's friend) Debbie Newman of Illinois. Little did I know that Narelle was an award-winning author and illustrator who would take memories of her visit back with her and acknowledge TreeHouse in the opening pages of the seek-and-find book. *Twilight Hunt* is published by Star Bright Books of New York [www.starbrightbooks.com](http://www.starbrightbooks.com).



Most of you reading this have been by our side for years. I know this merely by the fact that when I help Adele prepare the *Droppings* mailings, I see the same familiar names over and over, and even though I may not have met you, I feel as though I know you. It is very heartening to sense your support, and I thank you. You “old-timers” know that we’ve been actively, constantly, thoroughly searching for funding for our new building for four years now. We carefully research funding opportunities to locate foundations sympathetic to wildlife rehabilitation (a rarity themselves), and have contacted approximately **200** of them!!! We have been invited to submit large-scale grant applications to a handful of these. Despite meticulous preparation of these applications and pointers from area grant-writing professionals, we haven’t met with any success thus far. All this time, the building fund account has steadily grown, but now it needs exponential growth, and fast!! We keep on “keeping on,” not knowing how much longer we can, and praying for a miracle.

## THANK YOU

Petco  
Mary Tober  
Carly Maurer  
Roger Barber  
Virginia Smith  
Eric Bloemker  
Ron Strohbeck  
Elm City Center  
Angela Aderhold  
Elizabeth Woods  
Mary Ann Magac  
Charles Clements  
Alton Leathernecks  
Mildred Willoughby  
Dyney, Wood River  
Happy Tails Thrift Shop  
Lowell & Phyllis Downing  
Jack and Carolyn McCann  
Ann Robertson & Tom Foster  
Duane and Kathleen Schrage  
The Pautler Family Foundation  
Boeing Matching Grant Program  
South Roxana 3rd grades T.R.E.A.T. Sale  
Anheuser-Busch Matching Grant Program  
Secret Santa for the \$200 gift card to Petsmart  
Veolia Environmental Services and their employees  
Hawthorne Animal Hospital, Easter egg roll proceeds

### Thank you

Kelsey Lox  
Maggie Pauk  
Annabeth Carlson  
Adriana Reppell  
Kara Klaustermeier

### In Memory of

Mike Sack  
Aaron Hiller  
Maxwell Owen Eyer  
Mary Dennis  
Josephine Hobson

### Christmas greetings went to

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Myer and Andrew  
Rod and Maggi Vaught

## REHAB RAMBLINGS by Pam Lippert

Spring is here, finally! I know we all thought we would never see it. Winter just didn't want to let go this year with all the snow and cold temperatures. Normal activity has definitely been pushed back in the animal world with regard to orphans.

Some years we start admitting orphaned squirrels in February. Not this year! In 2007 it was the middle of March before we start getting any calls, the majority not showing up until April. We have admitted two Red Fox kits, one each in April and May, and one young Groundhog in early May.

As far as orphaned raptors in 2007 are concerned, we normally take in young Great Horned Owls from late February through the end of March. We have only admitted one so far, brought to us in late April with a fractured wing, by a mushroom hunter (even the mushrooms were late). We have also received two Barred Owlets (both in late April).



The ducklings are definitely late this year. Judy just started getting calls within the last week (one month later than usual.).



Other animals admitted since the first of the year: Two adult bald eagles, both from Greene County. The first was found January 15 south of Rockbridge, north of Macoupin Creek Bridge along Route 267. The caller noticed some roadkill and a pile of feathers nearby. Out of the corner of his eye, he spotted the eagle running along the side of the road. We presume the bird may have been sitting on the roadkill and was struck. Luckily it had no fractures, but had damage to the outer primaries (flight feathers) of the right wing. The five outermost feathers were broken-off and next to those was a space where two or three feathers were missing. A complete molt for eagles takes two years, so we are especially happy to report that new feathers are already coming in. Even the broken-off feathers are falling out and being replaced by new ones. Once that happens and the bird is flying well again, we can think about releasing the patient.

The second eagle, admitted in early March, was found along a gravel road south of Eldred near the Eldred blacktop. It was thin, unable to fly and had total vision loss, possibly from head trauma. Unfortunately, this bird had to be euthanized.



A recent rescue was a Trumpeter Swan, called in on March 28 by George Goeken of Alton, an avid wildlife watcher and photographer.

### ANATOMY OF A RESCUE

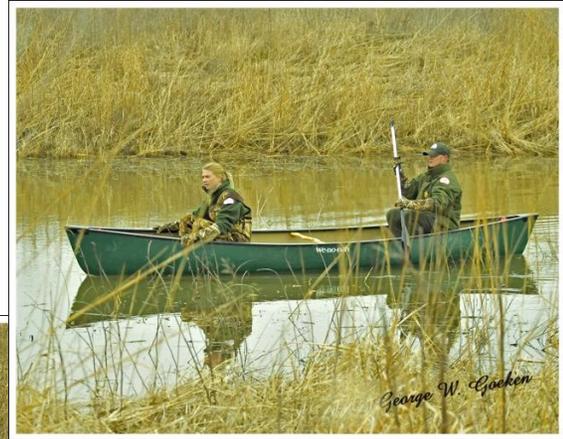


George had been watching this captive-bred swan (band #99U), along with its family and others since their arrival at Riverlands in West Alton this winter. Swan 99U was hatched last spring in Wisconsin. Its father was found dead at Riverlands sometime this winter, probably from striking a power line. When George noticed that 99U was all alone in mid-March, he contacted the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and found that its mother and the rest of the swans were back on the breeding grounds in WI.





He noticed 99U's wing was drooping and called TreeHouse. I knew the swan was on one of the small ponds at Riverlands and that we would need some type of watercraft in order to catch him.

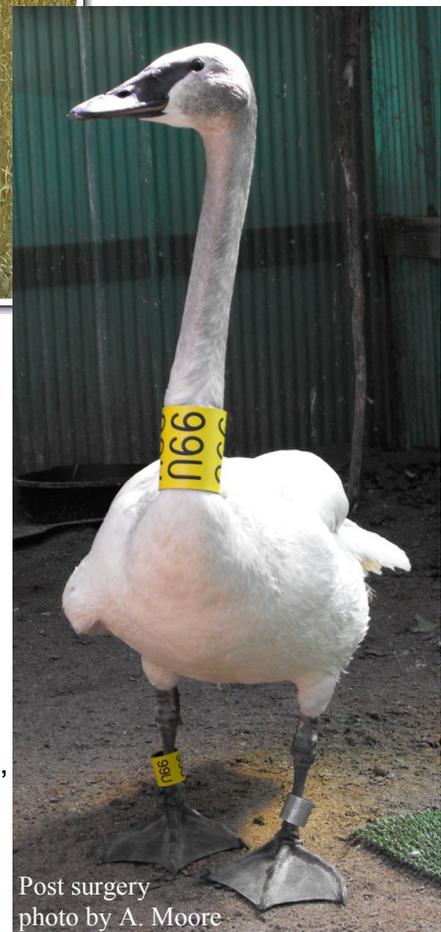


Army Corps of Engineers employees, Katie, Sara and James met us out at Two Pecan Pond. Katie and James launched a canoe and were able to head the swan toward shore where I netted him.



Examination revealed an old compound fracture near the elbow joint. Dr. Myer amputated part of the wing and 99U will be returned to Wisconsin to be used in captive breeding.

Text by Pam Lippert, photos by George Goeken unless otherwise noted.



Post surgery photo by A. Moore

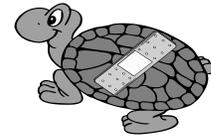
## UPDATES by Marti Stone

### Tune In Next Time...

TreeHouse received a female red eared slider from Brighton, IL on May 3 that appeared to be hit by a car. The injury seems only to be a cracked carapace (top part of a turtle's shell) and it does not appear to have any internal injuries. Internal injuries are a common problem when a turtle's shell has been damaged.

The wound is being cleaned, flushed and medicated until surgery can be performed. Dr. Craig Staehle from **Best Friends Animal Hospital and Resort**, located in Swansea, IL, will perform the necessary surgery to repair the damaged shell. Thanks, Dr. Craig!

Tune in next newsletter for an update on the turtle's progress.



### GOOSE HERDING??

The first week of April, I received a call from a woman named Gerri, who works at a company in a large strip-mall located on the west end of Belleville. Gerri explained the situation: Evidently, a pair of Canada Geese decided that the median in the parking lot was a good place to nest and hatch their eggs. The problem was that there is a K-Mart located in part of the complex as well. Not a good spot, considering the traffic in the vicinity.



Photo by M. Stone

When the pair landed, it was during the rainy days and the parking lot looked like a lake. The raised dirt median was fairly dry, so I guess it appeared to be the perfect spot. –NOT!



There wasn't much we could do at the time. You see, Canada Geese are federally protected birds. If you try to relocate a nest with eggs, the geese will not accept the move and will abandon the nest. Since the whole of our purpose is to 'do no harm', all we could do was to wait until the eggs hatched and hopefully they would relocate the goslings themselves (which is what most geese do).

*continued on page 9*

*continued from page 8*

For the next 3 weeks the pair of geese, with their nest of seven eggs, became very popular. The **Belleville Police** and **Target Security Departments** even got involved and kept the tormentors away. So did the male goose, who stayed by his mate's side the whole time. (Canada Geese mate for life). Gerri made sure they had food and water and checked on them several times a day.

### **Fast-forward to the end of April. . .**

Finally the day came. All the eggs hatched and there were 7 little balls of yellow fuzz on the nest! I told Gerri to give the parents 24 hours after all the eggs hatch and they should relocate by themselves. But this pair didn't do the '*normal goose thing*.' They didn't leave. The whole family proudly paraded all around the huge parking lot and stopped to rest at several store entrances. Maybe they were showing off, or *maybe they were confused and couldn't find a way out. Probably the latter.* At any rate, the situation was not good. Something had to be done.

Gerri and I hatched a plan to meet that evening to *herd* the family to safety. About a quarter of a mile away was a small stand of trees with a creek running through it. We hoped they would accept this as their new home.

With the help of a fellow rehabber and Gerri's family, we formed a half circle behind the geese and started walking them in the right direction. It was a long walk for the newborn goslings, but 2 hours and several 'rest stops' later we finally reached our destination.

Gerri periodically checks on them now. As of last week all 7 goslings and their parents are still there and doing well. Thanks to Gerri's never-ending concern and persistence, the plight of these beautiful creatures would have ended on a much less cheerful note.

**A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL INVOLVED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### **CORNERED COYOTE RELEASED**

Thanks to the employees at Veolia Environmental Services in Sauget who assisted in the rescue of the injured, emaciated and frightened coyote, we can report that the now healthy coyote was recently released.



Photo by M. Stone

## 2007 PATIENT CENSUS — 426 (497 in 2006)

### Mammals

- 75 Gray Squirrels
- 41 Opossums
- 22 Fawns
- 11 Red Foxes
- 3 Woodchucks
- 3 Fox Squirrels
- 1 Chipmunk

### 5 Turtles

### Waterfowl

- 51 Mallards
- 23 Wood Ducks
- 10 Canada Geese
- 2 Mute Swans
- 1 Tundra Swan

### Raptors

- 29 Red-tailed Hawks
- 23 Great Horned Owls
- 20 Barred Owls
- 18 Cooper's Hawks
- 15 Kestrels
- 14 Screech Owls
- 3 Turkey Vultures
- 2 Red-shouldered Hawks
- 1 Barn Owl
- 1 Osprey
- 1 Peregrine Falcon
- 1 Snowy Owl

### Songbirds

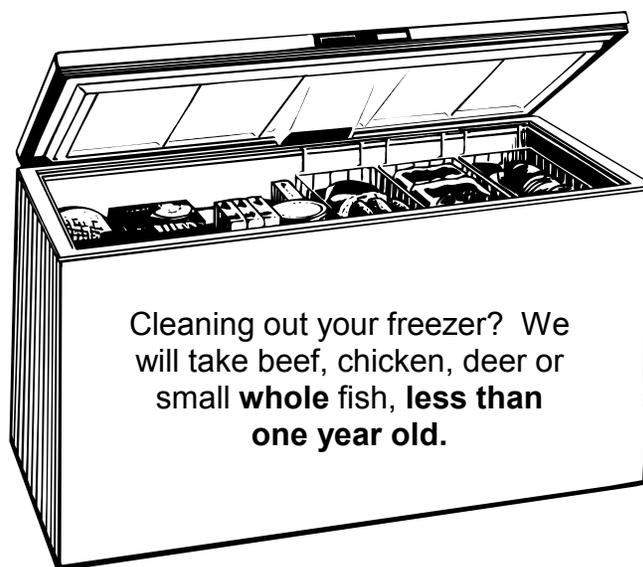
- 10 Mourning Doves
- 4 Pigeons
- 3 Cardinals
- 3 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds
- 2 Northern Flicker
- 2 Dark-eyed Juncos
- 2 Goldfinches

### Songbirds continued

- 1 Belted Kingfisher
- 1 Carolina Chickadee
- 1 Pine Warbler
- 1 Blue Jay
- 1 Robin
- 1 Purple Martin
- 1 Nighthawk
- 1 Downy Woodpecker
- 1 Red-Winged Blackbird

### Miscellaneous Birds

- 4 Great Blue Heron
- 2 American Coot
- 2 Green Herons
- 2 Bobwhite
- 1 Turkey
- 1 White Pelican
- 1 Wilson's (Common) Snipe
- 1 Great Egret
- 1 Common Crow



Cleaning out your freezer? We  
will take beef, chicken, deer or  
small **whole** fish, **less than**  
**one year old.**

## TreeHouse Wildlife Center Financial Statement for 2007 2-10-08

<b>2006 Balance Forwarded</b>	<b>Checking</b>		<b>\$ 30,334.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Earned Revenue</b>			
Memberships		\$ 2,445.00	
Program Fees		\$ 1,495.00	
Donations <\$250		\$ 9,745.00	
Sales		\$ 978.00	
Miscellaneous		\$ 8.00	
Fundraisers			
Summer Solstice	\$ 830.00		
Italianfest	\$ 4,549.00		
Open House	\$ 769.00		
	\$ 6,148.00	<u>\$ 6,148.00</u>	
Subtotal		\$20,819.00	\$ 20,819.00
<b>Contributed Revenue</b>			
Foundation Grants		\$39,000.00	
Corporate Contributions		\$ 3,756.00	
Individual Gifts >\$250		\$ 4,184.00	
Events		\$ -	
School fundraisers		\$ 228.00	
Subtotal		\$47,168.00	<u>\$ 47,168.00</u>
<b>Earned &amp; Contributed Total</b>		\$ 67,987.00	\$ 67,987.00
<b>Restricted Revenue</b>			
Building Fund		\$ 3,775.00	<u>\$ 3,775.00</u>
<b>Total Funds Available for use</b>		\$102,096.00	\$ 102,089.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Payroll	\$ 34,919.00		
Feed	\$ 12,814.00		
Utilities	\$ 8,386.00		
Fundraising	\$ 4,974.00		
Other	\$ 5,457.00		
Insurance	\$ 2,373.00		
Professional Services	\$ 1,760.00		
Member Services (newsletter)	\$ 1,073.00		
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 71,756.00</b>		<u>\$ 71,756.00</u>
<b>DECEMBER 31, 2007 BALANCE (Checking)</b>			
Building Investment Account (Money Market)			<b>\$ 31,471.00</b>
Building Investment Account (CD's)			<b>\$ 1,261.00</b>
			<b>\$ 6,298.00</b>
			<b>\$ 39,030.00</b>

### **Aerie (air-ee) n.**

- 1. bird of prey nest, like eagle or hawk.**
- 2. dwelling built high on cliffs**

The Riverbend area is rich in aeries this year. The famous Alton eagle pair have again nested off the Berm Highway near the Alton Locks & Dam; however, their newest nest is set back from the highway, affording them privacy. Although close observation of the nest is not possible without disturbing them, it is wonderful to know that this pair is back and breeding locally once again, and they are not alone!

This winter, immature eagles were abundant along the river. More eagles were counted than in any other recent year. The early arrival of immature eagles to the rivers was the first sign of a growing breeding population in the area. Other eagle nests began popping up in late winter all along the great rivers. This is great news. We'll never know if one of the rehabilitated eagles released from TreeHouse Wildlife Center mated and bred in the area or headed back north to mate, but we all have played a role in helping the eagle and hawk populations soar for many years. We hope we can continue keeping them soaring for years to come, too.

The American Bald Eagle builds the largest nest of any bird. Typically 5-7 feet across, the aerie grows continually as the pair adds branches and grasses even during the nesting season. They will often re-use and enlarge the aerie each year. Some aeries measure more than 10 feet across and weigh up to two tons! The aerie sometimes outgrows the tree where they are built. If the tree can no longer support the aerie, an eagle pair will quickly build another nest in the area.

TreeHouse Wildlife Center has outgrown its original tree. We are building a new aerie, but we'll need your help to do so. Our aerie cannot be built with broken limbs stacked in a tree overhanging the river. Our aerie requires construction and professional labor, and this means money. We appreciate our member's contributions, whether great or small. A sustained budget is how TreeHouse survives year-to-year, but construction costs far exceed that small budget. Please help TreeHouse Wildlife Center build a much needed new aerie facility. Information is enclosed. Whether a little or a lot, the nest grows one branch at a time. We need the support of strong limbs from all our generous sponsors to make our new aerie secure for generations to come.



**Text and photo of local eagles  
by Eric Bloemker**

**Thank you for the many letters of support. Some excerpts are listed below**

*“ . . . St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals, “True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice.” — from a veterinarian*

*“ . . .Your outreach program to the schools is truly your greatest asset. Keep up the fine work.” — an IL State Representative*

*“I take comfort in knowing they (TreeHouse) are there when I need their service and hope they will continue to be of service to this area.” — a member*

*“TreeHouse has not only touched the lives of over 600 5th grade students in Wood River, IL, since the early ‘80’s but also the lives of the friends, family and neighbors of these students. . . The educational outreach TreeHouse has provided for this entire region is boundless in its scope. We are so fortunate to have such a group of dedicated, selfless people working for wildlife and I certainly hope they will be able to continue for years and years to come.” — a teacher*

*“I look forward to seeing the (permanent) residents at your open house. It’s like visiting old friends.” — a member*

*“The survival of the (injured) swan is directly attributed to the knowledge, expertise, resources and dedication of the TreeHouse staff and volunteers. . .” — a member*

*“I always found them (TreeHouse outreach programs) to be age appropriate with a wealth of information for the children.” — a school teacher*

*“We are most fortunate to have an organization like TreeHouse in our community. What a valuable resource it is — even though it is very much ‘behind the scenes’. It just goes on day by day doing the job of helping wildlife and educating the community.” — a member*

*“The TreeHouse Wildlife Center has been a quiet fixture in our community for such a long time that I’m afraid sometimes we just take it for granted that they will always be there for us.” — a member*

*“TreeHouse. . . one of the most efficient, as well as dedicated, wildlife rehabilitation organizations in the United States. . . and serves a huge region and has received the strong support of the community over the years because of their success and their efficient use of money.” — an IL State Senator*

*“ . . .suffice it to say that without the TreeHouse many people would be saddened and burdened by the fact that there would be nowhere to find professional care of injured wildlife.” — National Wildlife Refuge Manager*

*“ . . .my husband and I were able to attend the release of an injured Bald Eagle that had been rehabilitated. We all met on the Mississippi River. . .to watch the release of this beautiful and inspiring, now healthy bird. It was a very moving experience to watch it soar out over the water. . .” — a member*

*“My granddaughter and I took a baby squirrel to TreeHouse because she said she knew they would make him live”. — a member*

## TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER MEMBERSHIP

TreeHouse receives **NO** state, federal or county funding.  
Our only funding comes through you, the concerned public.

One way of helping TreeHouse operate is through purchasing a membership.  
You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped us  
give something back to the wild.

**TreeHouse Membership** fee consists of a minimum donation of **\$15.00** annually.  
**Lifetime TreeHouse Membership** fee consists of a **one-time** minimum donation of **\$1,000.00**.

TreeHouse is registered as a non-profit corporation 501 C (3).  
All contributions are tax deductible.  
Please make checks payable to **TreeHouse Wildlife Center**.

**(Any Boeing employee who contributes to the Employee Charity Fund  
can now designate TreeHouse as the specific recipient of donations.)**

- I would like to **renew** my membership to Treehouse Wildlife Inc.  
(A renewal sticker will appear when your membership fee is due.)
- I would like to **become** a member of TreeHouse.
- I would like to make an **additional contribution** to TreeHouse.
- I would like to make a **donation** to the **TreeHouse Building Fund**.

**Please check the appropriate box and mail this form with your donation.**

\$15.00    \$25.00    \$50.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

- I would like information on becoming a **volunteer**.
- I would like information on **volunteering to staff a TreeHouse booth at fundraisers**

Send to:

**TreeHouse Wildlife Center  
1825 Fosterburg Road  
Brighton, Il. 62012**