

Chintimini Wildlife Center

Education Birds Quick Reference

SPARKY, Bald Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Admission Date: August 2005

History: Sparky was rescued from drowning by a courageous man who saw him floating in the Willamette River, jumped after him and pulled him out of the water. Sparky was less than a year old at the time and had the mottled brown feathers of a juvenile bald eagle.

Sparky has a peculiar condition: his primary feathers do not develop fully but fall out prematurely. He cannot fly. Multiple tests have not revealed the cause of this condition.

The students at Mountain View Elementary School adopted him and named him "Sparky".

We began training Sparky to take food from the glove in the summer of 2006. In November 2008 we accelerated his training to have him step up on the glove for food.

He can be very talkative and he loves to bathe and play in water.

ACBADADEA, Red-tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*

Admission Date: June 2006

History: We call her "Dea" for short. First, she arrived at the Cascade Raptor Center with an injured right wrist, injured right toe and a fixed pupil in the right eye (cannot dilate). After she healed, she was trained by a falconer who subsequently tried to release her. But, several days later she was found on someone's porch, begging for food, emaciated and with a ruptured crop. She was treated again at CRC and after recuperation transferred to Chintimini to join the education bird program.

She is a dynamic bird with high energy. Her handlers absolutely adore her.

The name "Acbadadea" means "Great Creator".

OQWAPI, Red-tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*

Admission Date: January 2009

History: This bird was hit by four cars on a road before someone could get him out of harm's way and bring him to Chintimini.

Amazingly, he survived with relatively minor damage: his tail is broken in two places and he is unable to fan his tail or steer with it, which means, he cannot soar. He can fly but would not be able to navigate in windy conditions and is therefore non-releasable. He was in home-care for over a month and had to be force-fed. After that, he was placed in a flight cage with another red-tailed hawk, one of our patients who ate like a champ but would not fly. Oqwapi taught the patient to fly and the patient taught Oqwapi to eat on his own. The patient was released and Oqwapi is now a well-trained education bird.

The name "Oqwapi" means "One Who resembles a Red Cloud" in a Native American language.

AZJNII, Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus*

Admission Date: March 2005

History: Azjnii was found as a fluffy fledgling on the ground after a windstorm. She was raised together with another young great horned owl by Tskili, one of our resident adult great horned owls. This practice minimizes the danger of young owls imprinting on humans and increases their chances for survival in the wild.

However, at the end of the summer it was discovered that Azjnii had cataracts in both eyes and was unable to see well enough to hunt. She was therefore non-releasable and joined the education bird program.

In June 2010 we placed a baby great horned owl in Azjnii's mew, so Azjnii could be a role model for the baby. It worked extremely well – Azjnii even brought food to the baby and hooted a lot. A winning solution for both.

Azjnii is a very vocal owl and at times hoots up a storm. She is at her best at presentations and works wonderfully well with the handlers she likes.

The name "Azjnii" means "True Sight"

TSKILI, Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus*

Admission Date: Spring of 1999

History: Tskili and a sibling arrived as fuzzy fledglings who had fallen from their nesting tree probably while climbing around. At the end of summer, the sibling was released but Tskili was non-releasable and joined the education bird program. His left shoulder area is permanently injured from the fall. He can fly level from perch to perch and down, but he cannot fly from the ground up.

Over the years, Tskili has been foster father to many young great horned owls, including Azjnii, one of our current education birds. He is providing a very important service, because it helps the young owls to learn to be owls instead of imprinting on humans.

Tskili is a veteran of the education bird program and well liked by all.

The name "Tskili" means "Mysterious One" in a Native American language.

RHETT, Barn Owl - *Tyto alba*

Admission Date: September 1998

History: Rhett was probably hit by a car as a fledgling because he had an old wing injury when he arrived at Chintimini. His left wing was broken at the wrist and had healed, but rotated slightly inward, limiting his ability to fly silently or long distances. A barn owl who does not have silent flight cannot hunt successfully. He was non-releasable.

Rhett's easy temperament made him a good candidate for the education bird program. His handlers love him dearly.

Originally, Logan (Jeff's son) named him "Marietta" after his cousin. When a DNA test revealed that he was a male owl, the name was shortened to "Rhett" (like Rhett Butler).

KISKA, Barn Owl - *Tyto alba*

Admission Date: May 2009

History: Kiska arrived at Chintimini as fluffy baby and was transferred soon after her arrival to CRC in Eugene to be raised together with other young barn owls. There, it was discovered that she had severe calcium deficiency and developed several hairline breaks in her wings and legs. During treatment and recovery she became imprinted on humans. There is also the possibility of recurrence of bone fractures. For these reasons she is non-releasable. After her bones had healed, she returned to Chintimini in July 2009 and joined the education bird program.

She is exceptionally friendly and very trusting. Kiska loves interaction with people.

MORGAN, Spurred Owl - *Strix varia/occidentalis (barred owl/spotted owl hybrid)*

Admission Date: December 25, 2005

History: Morgan arrived as a young adult. She was probably born in the spring of 2005. When she came to us she had an injury to her right wrist and right eye, most likely from a collision with a vehicle. The wrist healed and she could fly very well, but the collapsed lens in her right eye made her non-releasable. She joined our education bird program.

Morgan is very easy-going, flies to the glove for food and is a joy to work with. She is a favorite with many handlers. Because she is so popular we must make sure she gets a well deserved rest every once in a while.

ANDRE, Northern Pygmy Owl - *Glaucidium gnoma*

Admission Date: December 2007

History: Andre arrived with an injured and infected right wing. The bone infection lingered on and Andre spent the next 22 months in home-care with one of our volunteers, undergoing extensive medical procedures to save his wing while incurring tremendous medical bills during that time. He is non-releasable and joined the education bird program in October 2009. Andre will step up on the glove and take food from the hand. He can be aggressive but also gets frightened easily because, after all, everyone is bigger than he.

His name, "Andre" implies that he is VERY BIG, named after the actor who plays the giant in "The Princess Bride".

JUNIOR, Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

Admission Date: Fall of 1997

History: A farmer called about a lone turkey vulture in his field and one of our volunteers went to catch the bird. The chase took more than an hour because the bird could run quite fast and would stop just out of reach as soon as the volunteer rested. He was finally caught. He was emaciated and probably near starvation.

On examination it was found that his right wing cannot extend fully. It is fused at the wrist either due to a birth defect or an injury. Apparently, his parents raised him and provided food for him until it was time for them to migrate south. He could fly a little, but not soar and so he was left behind.

Over the years, Junior has developed arthritis in his right wing and he is on medication since November 2006. His winter quarters are heated.

Junior has definite opinions about people and will work with some but not others. He is extremely intelligent and likes to get the better of his handlers. He has a long memory.

FERDINAND, Turkey Vulture - *Cathartes aura*

Admission Date: October 2009

History: Ferdinand was still a young bird when he arrived – his head had not yet turned red. Because he arrived after the turkey vultures had migrated south, Ferdinand stayed at Chintimini for the winter. We housed him together with Junior, our resident turkey vulture and education bird, for a while, but they did not get along too well. They had some issues about sharing food. In the spring of 2010 we let Ferdinand practice flying in the big flight cage and finally released him on the premises in April 2010, after all the turkey vultures had returned. But Ferdinand did not leave. It was a very cold and rainy spring and we started leaving food for him, hoping he would join other vultures and learn from them to fend for himself. But Ferdinand did not leave. Whenever Junior was outside with his handler, Ferdinand would join them. We recaptured him in May 2010 and, after another thorough examination determined that he has an anomaly with his left leg and left wing and probably could not soar. He moved back in with Junior. Ferdinand stepped up on the glove of Junior's handlers without any training – he probably learned by watching Junior. As for the food issues, they just have to work them out between them.

FLYNN, American Kestrel - *Falco sparverius*

Admission Date: August 2009

History: Flynn was found in someone's garden on the ground and brought to Chintimini. He was emaciated, had balance problems, fractured radius and ulna in his left wing and damaged talons on both feet. While recuperating it became evident that he was non-releasable, and he joined the education bird program. He received intensive in-house training for several weeks from one of our volunteers. He adapted well to the program and has a cute personality.

The name "Flynn" means "Irish Ruddy Warrior".

KELLER, Red-winged Blackbird - *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Admission Date: February 2010

History: Keller was almost eaten by a hawk. A kind lady rescued him and brought him to Chintimini. He was treated for an infection and impaired eyesight. The infection was cured but he never regained his sight. From the beginning, he was an extremely cheerful bird, singing up a storm, readily stepping on peoples' finger to be carried around. Eventually he evolved into a mascot, getting set up in the clinic with water and food during the day, greeting people with his songs. Many people have commented how nice it is to have such a cheerful bird around, especially people calling on the phone, when they hear him singing.

His name, "Keller", was given to him in honor of Helen Keller.