



Photo: Broad-winged Hawk before release by John Stuart

Bird Spotlight

BROAD-WINGED HAWK

Broad-winged Hawks summer and breed throughout the Eastern United States and into Canada but the majority of the population heads for warmer wintering grounds on a migratory path that leads down to Central and South America via Mexico during the early Fall. A fraction of Broad-wings, particularly Juveniles, winter in South Florida, and the Florida Keys.

These shy, almost docile raptors are only slightly larger than crows measuring 13.5"- 19" in length. Broad-winged Hawks relish cold-blooded prey. They perch, waiting for careless lizards or water snakes and then swiftly attack.

Broad-wing Females nest in a mass of twigs and lay eggs with brown and purple markings.

Heroic Hawk Rescue at Sea

FKWBC's Wildlife Hospital only works because of folks like you who are out in the field, reporting birds that are in trouble. Rescuers are not only folks who live in the Keys, but also folks who visit the Keys. Every once in a while, we name an "animal hero," a rescuer who takes extraordinary measures to help an animal on the verge of catastrophe. This issue's Animal Hero is Kevin Burkhardt. He was visiting the Keys with his family from New Market, Maryland, aboard one of Captain Sterling's Everglades Tours on December 21st. While boating through Adams Cut, he spotted a waterlogged Broad-winged Hawk clinging desperately to a ledge at the waterline and being buffeted by waves. "She was incredibly camouflaged. Even looking directly at the bird she was hard to spot," commented Captain Dave Eaton, who was heading the eco-tour that day. The family entreated the Captain to ease the boat towards the ledge. Then Kevin volunteered to lie down on the boat deck and reach for the bird with the Captain's sweatshirt. He swaddled the bird in a bundle and gently brought her aboard. The boat then headed for shore. FKWBC's

staff hurried to the scene to retrieve the hawk; she was rushed to FKWBC's Wildlife Hospital where she was slowly warmed by a heat lamp and then rehydrated. The weak hawk was in advanced hypothermia and likely within minutes of dying had she not been scooped up out of the water. Fortunately she hadn't inhaled any sea water – a testament to Kevin's gentle rescue. While in care at FKWBC's Wildlife Hospital, the hawk regained over 10% of her body weight on a diet including mice, quail, chicks, and vitamins. She was joined in the ICU by a second Broad-wing clipped by a car on the Overseas Highway. After about a week in FKWBC's ICU, the birds were advanced to pre-release caging for flight conditioning, where they recovered together and were released back to the wild!

Broad-wings are a great example of how investing in FKWBC and protecting habitat in the Keys are an investment in wildlife throughout the US; these two birds could summer in your neighborhood, or as far away as Thunder Bay, Canada. FKWBC wishes to express thanks to the entire Burkhardt family for their heroic efforts! Though this was their first rescue in the Keys, we understand they have performed many similar rescues on Chesapeake Bay!



Virginia Bowen, left, and Lela Larned, right work together on an Immature Brown Pelican within FKWBC's Hospital

From the Director's perch

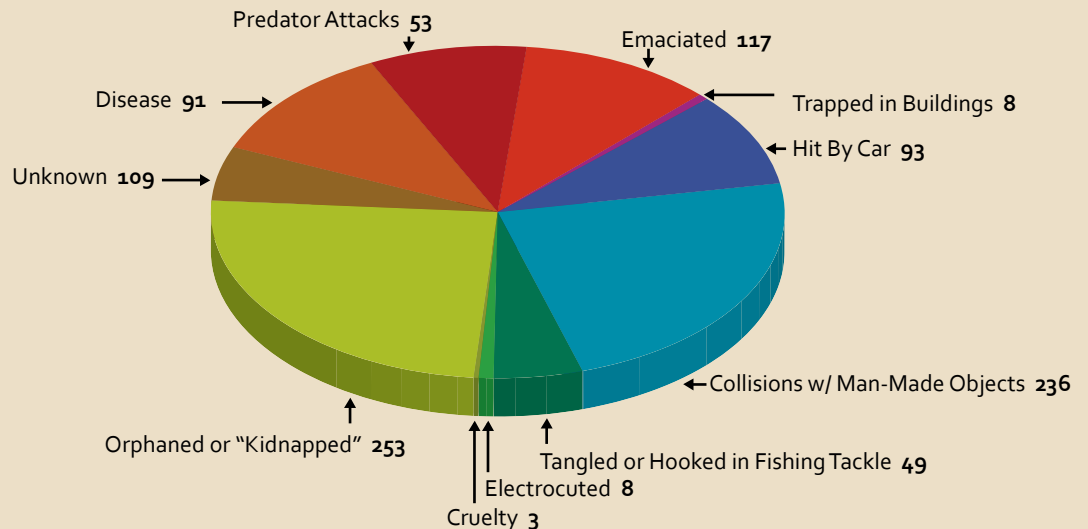
By **LELA LARNED**, Executive Director & Wildlife Rehabilitator

As I write to you, FKWBC's Emergency Wildlife Hotline is ringing off the hook, rescue volunteers are racing up and down the Keys to bring in wildlife casualties, and visitors from all over the world are flocking to FKWBC's Sanctuary to learn about the unique Keys Ecosystem. Here at the FKWBC's Wildlife Hospital, we are quietly and expertly tending to incoming patients, fighting hard to save lives and return wildlife to our hardwood hammocks, skies, and coastal wetlands. Every day, we witness signs of recovery that are sometimes as subtle as an egret opening her eyes, a cormorant finally holding up a healed wing, or an osprey devouring a fish on his own. And each and every time we have the opportunity to make this positive impact, we are heartened and feel hopeful again about the natural world's ability to heal, given the chance. We know you feel this way too. As our patients begin to recuperate, the hospital is enlivened by the sound of birdsong-chirps and hoots, rustling in food and water dishes, flutters of wings stretching, and even an occasional pelican grunt! Although you are not here in person to see and hear these re-

newed signs of life, please know you are here in spirit and, indeed, make our rewarding work possible. Our statistics are compelling; so far this year, only 6 of the 143 animals brought to our doors in dire need of help have been accompanied by a donation. Though we host over 14,000 visitors a year along our Sanctuary boardwalk, their donations cover only a small fraction of our expenses. You, as our supporters, keep FKWBC's Wildlife Hospital saving lives and the Sanctuary teaching and inspiring. Your help is a lifeline to every animal we save and to every visitor we inspire. None of these stories would have been possible without your support. You are with us on every field rescue, in every patient's struggle to mend, and in every effort we make to teach. Our wildlife patients share their habitat with so many who are dependent on the Keys for their livelihood or a well-earned vacation. Only with your continued support can we **"Keep Them Flying."**

Warmest thanks from the Animals!

Wildlife Admissions 2010



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FKWBC Wildlife Emergency Hotline



Miracle Osprey Chick Saved after 70 foot Fall!

On February 2nd, FKWBC's staff and volunteers rushed to respond to a hotline report of two osprey chicks on the ground around Mile Marker 81. There we discovered two chicks no more than five weeks old; sadly, one had already died from the fall. The survivor was in extremely critical condition, bleeding from her eyes and nares (nostrils). The little chick's panicked parents were circling and vocalizing overhead. The Osprey family had not only lost their chicks. Their nest, atop a towering Norfolk Island Pine 80 feet high, so carefully built and tended to over the course of four breeding seasons had fallen apart, slipping from its perch.

FKWBC's rehabilitators raced the surviving chick to the FKWBC's Wildlife Hospital for stabilization and treatment. Even with the best care, including subcutaneous fluids and medications to relieve her pain from the long fall and impact, we knew her chances were slim. At the same time, we knew that if she did survive, her only hope was to be reunited with her parents. Osprey chicks have so much to learn- how to spot and dive for fish, where to migrate. With the help of the Florida Keys Electrical Co-op, we devised a plan to fix the fallen nest. During the next few days, FKEC sprang into action- building, erecting, and donating a 45 foot osprey pole and platform right beside the original pine. The little chick, fighting for her life back at the hospital, showed improvement with each passing hour. We rejoiced when the little chick

was finally strong enough to eat, eagerly gobbling little pieces of fish and vitamins. But the Osprey parents were spending less and less time near the nest site.

Six days later, the platform construction was complete. The nest had been carefully cut from the pine and relocated to the new platform. Back at the hospital, the little chick had gained over 20% of her bodyweight and was extremely vocal. We were excited but concerned. Would the parents accept the new nest site? Might the chick fall again? Would they recognize their little chick after being separated for several days? FKWBC's staff met an FKEC bucket truck at the new nest site. The little chick, sheltered in a covered basket, rode in the bucket up to the platform. The basket was placed in the heart of the nest and uncovered at the very last second. Within minutes, the parent ospreys began swooping overhead again and the chick eagerly vocalized. At first the parents landed on the pine and called to the chick, but would not approach the unfamiliar basket. But within an hour, both parents landed on the nest with a delivery of ballyhoo for the hungry chick! Thanks to all of you for not only helping to save a chick, but reuniting a family and restoring habitat



Together "We Keep Them Flying!"





Photo: Virginia Bowen

Patient Spotlight

American Bittern

Wildlife medicine is a challenge! Weighing a patient is an objective means of evaluating progress, recovery, and appetite. FKWBC's Emergency Wildlife Hospital treated this Bittern for wounds inflicted by attacking dogs in Key Largo. She doubled her weight during her recovery and was released into the Everglades, far better habitat for the secretive marsh dweller!



FKWBC's Sanctuary was honored to host sculptures from renowned artist **David Brooks** for an exhibition that will appear at the Miami Art Museum from March 26th to June 26th entitled "**The Wilderness**". The exhibition examines real or imagined boundaries between tamed and untamed nature.



KEEP THEM FLYING!

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