



## Wonderful Wildlife

### *A day in the life of a...* Student Bird Volunteer

I have been the manager of the wildlife component at West Valley City School for the past two years and have enjoyed doing many things as a volunteer at the West Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

Every Monday volunteers help feed the nine education birds at the center. That is my favorite thing to do because we can get up close and personal with the birds and learn how they hunt and survive in the wild.

Even better than feeding the birds is when we get to hold the birds and take them for walks. Those days make cleaning up the poop, pellets and the uneaten rodents from their cages worth it.

We don't always work with the birds. Some days we help clean up the reptile cages and once a week we monitor the health of the ponds and streams. Working with nature everyday at the Outdoor Learning Center is something that I think all students should get to experience.

Next year when I go on to high school, I plan on continuing to volunteer at the center and someday I hope to work with wildlife for my career.

Did you know that if you like birds and want to learn more about them you could also volunteer? It is a great way to learn about local wildlife.

*For more information about volunteering with the birds, please check out our web site at [wvolc.org](http://wvolc.org) or call 509-340-1028.*



by Ty Laboy

### Living with Wildlife...

As winter approaches, well-meaning people are often tempted to feed wildlife, especially deer, elk, ducks and turkeys. It is **NOT** something we should do.

Residents also may not realize how trash impacts wildlife. It is important to remember that wildlife existed without our influence for thousands of years. Interfering with the natural ecosystem can wreak havoc.

**People shouldn't feed wildlife** and here are just a few reasons why:

- Deer and elk are not easily able to digest many types of feed. It can take several weeks for them to adjust. That means that although they have a belly full of food, it can't be used. This could lead to starvation!
- Feeding wildlife is expensive and if they start relying on you and you stop feeding them, they may become a nuisance. In addition, they get too familiar with humans and that creates safety hazards.

**And what about garbage?** How we take care of our garbage can have a huge impact on wildlife and their habitats. Stuff – especially plastic items – that end up as litter can harm wildlife. Plastic rings for 6-pack containers can choke an animal who gets one on its neck. Plastic styrofoam pellets can be mistaken for food and fill an otter's belly without providing any nutrients. And plastic lines and nets can entangle fish and birds.

All garbage items need to be recycled or disposed of properly to keep them out of animal habitats. By thinking about waste reduction, i.e., buying and using less stuff, we consumers can help to curb the cutting down of trees or the mining of ores that can contribute to the loss of animal habitat. **Let's all do our part!**

**THE ENVIROKIDS' WEBSITE:**

[www.SpokaneEnviroKids.org](http://www.SpokaneEnviroKids.org) and the email address: [envirokids@gmail.com](mailto:envirokids@gmail.com)

# Community Calendar

**December...** hands-on activities to look, feel and learn!

**Weekends, Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 from 1-3pm:** Birds of Prey Northwest lake cruises on Lake Coeur d'Alene. "Wildlife Over Water" cruises leave the CDA Resort boat docks. Boarding starts at 12:30pm. Call 208-765-2300, enter extension number 21 to get tickets: Adults are \$19.75, children 6-12 are \$11.75.



## RAPTORS!

Raptors are "birds of prey." Eagles, hawks, owls, osprey, kites, buzzards, harriers, vultures and falcons are all raptors. They are called "birds of prey" because they are meat eaters. The diet of these birds varies from species to species, but most eat mice, rabbits, and other small critters.

Did you know that raptors have very keen eye sight, large powerful hooked beaks and sharp talons? An eagle for example, can spot its prey moving more than a mile away! Their eyes are designed for rapid focus and are two and a half times better than ours. We can see raptors when they are 10 feet away, but they can see us with a quick glance from 25 feet away! They also see in 5 colors and we only see in 3.

Raptors have solid, hooked beaks that are curved at the tip and have sharp cutting edges. They have strong legs with four grasping "toes" on each foot, tipped by a sharp pointed talon. Three "toes" point forward while one points behind. The heaviest and longest talon is the one that points behind or towards the rear. Before a raptor strikes its prey, both legs are swung forward, putting the weight of the raptor's entire body behind its fierce talons. The ability to quickly lift off after the catch makes the sharp talons even more important. The talons keep hold of the prey so they can easily carry it away.

Take a trip to Lake Coeur d'Alene with your family in December and early January. You'll have a chance to see the annual visit of eagles coming to eat the Kokanee Salmon! Take a cruise or just got to the lookout points along the Centennial Trail. For more cool info on eagles, visit [http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildwatch/eagle\\_game/index.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildwatch/eagle_game/index.htm) and Professor Talon!

## EnviroKids' Points and Prizes!

You can earn points by participating in EnviroKids' activities. Whether it's visiting the EnviroKids' booths at community events or completing the activities in these newsletters, you will earn points that you can redeem for a COOL EnviroKids' Club prize.

- 20 points — Recycled notebook
- 50 points — Recycled yo-yo or recycled piggy bank
- 100 points — Bird feeder or rain gauge
- 150 points — Weather radio (limited supply)
- 200 points — A live raptor presentation to your church, school or other group or a trip on the Spokane River with the Spokane River Forum!

Look at the mailing label on this newsletter. **You will see a number next to your name. That is the number of points you have earned so far.** Want to earn more? Start today and do the activity on the next page and send it in!

Here is an example of what the mailing address looks like, and where you can find your prize points number.

Suzy Que, **25**  
1010 Environmental Ave  
Spokane, WA, 99201

## Winter wildlife to see in the Spokane region:

Bald Eagles  
Osprey  
Hawks  
Deer  
Elk  
Woodpeckers  
Ducks  
Geese  
Turkeys

And nearby:  
Mountain Caribou

## Hey EnviroKids' — We Want You to Be Involved!!

There are many opportunities to participate and learn more about the environment. Yet we have noticed that some of you have little or no points. Find out your total points by looking at your mailing address information on the front of the newsletter. And then, start having some fun to earn more points!

To keep receiving our newsletters, you need to participate in at least one activity during the year (return a newsletter, send in pictures or attend an event). We hope you stay involved!

## 2010 Spokane Recycles Calendars

Calendars featuring artwork from Spokane County students, as well as recycling tips, are available by calling the Recycling Hotline at 625-6800.



✂ **Return this completed page to earn 10 points ... or 100!** (See special activity below)

### Animal Match Game

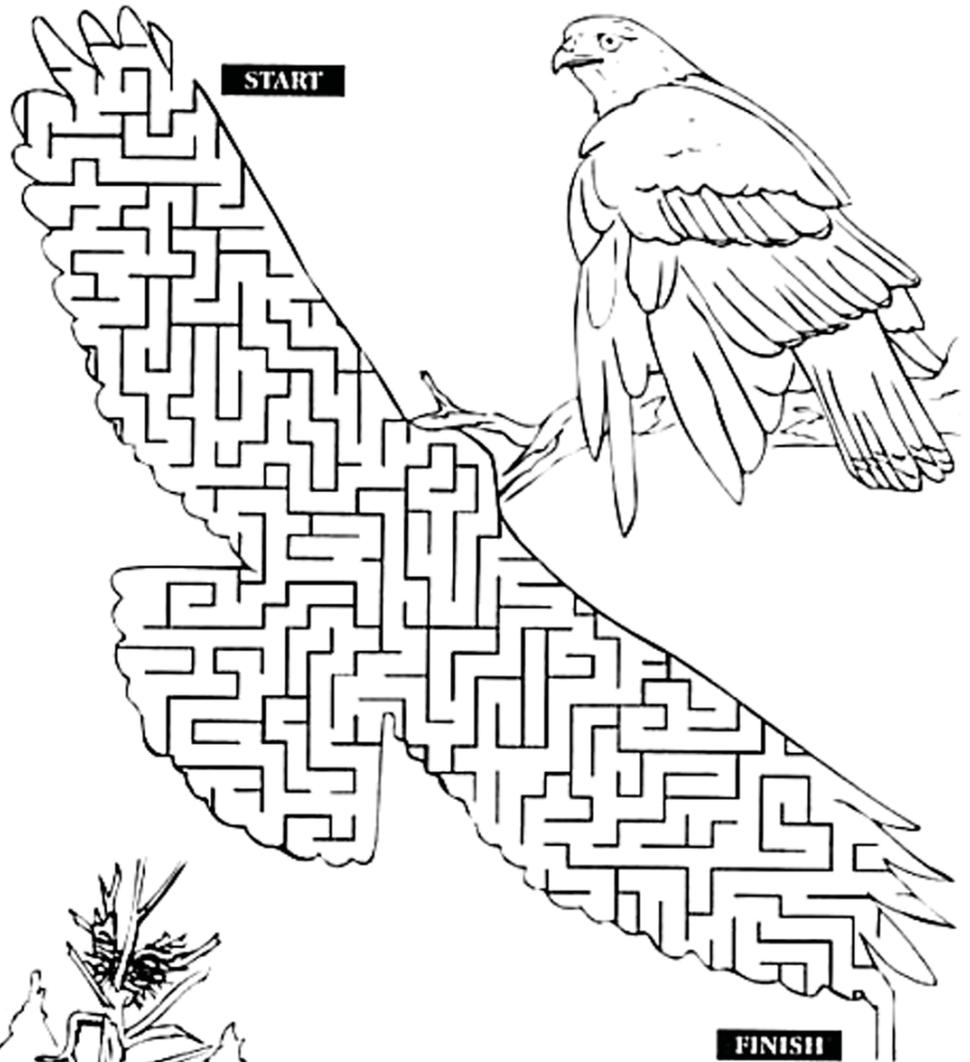
Can you match the adult name on the left side to the baby name on the right side?

Elk	cub
Fox	gosling
Wolf	calf
Turkey	eyes
Owl	pup
Eagle	fawn
Beaver	poult
Goose	kit
Raccoon	fledgling
Woodpecker	pup
Swan	owlet
Skunk	cub
Moose	kit
Bear	cygnet
Hawk	calf
Deer	chick

\*Some baby names are the same for two animals. We'll use the baby name twice to make it easier for you.



Maze courtesy of [Hanquest.org](http://Hanquest.org)



**Help the Red-tail Hawk return to its nest.**

### You can earn 100 points!

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to help you enjoy and learn about the wildlife around your home. You and your family can make your property a special place for songbirds and other wildlife species, many that have lived in our area long before people began to settle.

This special place is called a "Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary!" To find out more, stop by the eastern office of the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife at 2315 North Discovery Place off Indiana in Spokane Valley, or visit them on-line at [www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/index.htm](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/backyard/index.htm).

If you make a "Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary" and receive the certificate, send a copy to us and you will be awarded 100 points!

### Water and Wildlife...

Most animals need to live near a river, lake or pond because they, like people, need water to survive. Osprey and Bald Eagles are seen near lakes and rivers where they catch and eat the fish. Make sure our lakes and streams remain clean so animals always have water to drink and fish to eat!

### Earn 20 pts!

Send in a picture of you and your family on an eagle watching trip to Coeur d'Alene (see page 2 for details), and you will earn 20 points!

✂ Cut along dotted line and return this page to us to earn points!



**EnviroKids' Club**

EnviroKids' Club  
c/o National Weather Service  
2601 N. Rambo Rd.  
Spokane, WA 99224



**PRSRT STD**  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Spokane, WA  
Permit No. 722

## EnviroKids'...caring for the Earth

EnviroKids' Club is a way for you to team up with other kids in Spokane County--exploring all aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage & recycling, plants & animals, and even you & your environment.

EnviroKids' Club members will receive an activity in the mail four times a year (in the newsletters). Complete the activity (or activities) placed on the back of this page and return the page to the Club Headquarters (address and form is below). You will earn points towards a special prize. The EnviroKids' Club is for kids grades K-6, who live in Spokane County.

**Mail Completed Activity by FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> to:** EnviroKids' Club, c/o National Weather Service,  
2601 N. Rambo Rd., Spokane, WA 99224

**Fill in this form and send back to us to earn your points! Do you also have a friend or sibling who would like to join the Envirokids' Club? Copy this page for them to send in and be added to our mailing list.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities and to have name/picture used in ads/website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and Date

EnviroKids' Club Partners:  
National Weather Service, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, Spokane River Forum, WA Department of Ecology and West Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

**Printing and mailing provided by Spokane Regional Solid Waste System ([www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org)), an EnviroKids' partner agency, with partial funding through a grant from the WA Department of Ecology.**

*Printed on recycled paper*