

Santa Barbara Audubon Society Eyes in the Sky

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2011
6th Issue

WE DID IT!



Max in his new home

After a seven year process towards completion, we have now moved into our new aviary at the SB Museum of Natural History. Thank you all for your generosity, especially during these hard financial times. I hope that, as our partner in

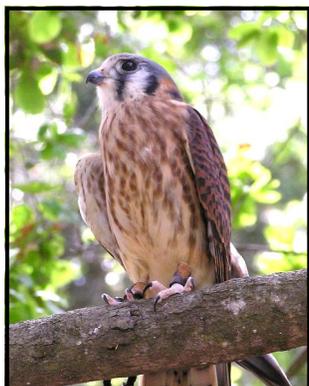


The new aviary

this venture, you will feel pride in our joint accomplishment.

On Sunday, March 27th, three of our birds (Max—Great horned Owl; Ivan—Redtailed hawk, and Kachina—American Kestrel) officially moved into their new quarters. Our new Peregrine falcon **Kisa** (*pronounced Keesa*) is still in training, and will move in within the next month or two. Tecolita, the Western screech owl that has been with us for seven years (we don't know her total age) has been ill recently, and, although she has mostly recovered, will not move in until she is completely well again. She still needs 24 hour monitoring.

The birds love their new place, and I no longer have to worry about what will happen should I one day have to leave my rented residence of 33 years where they were housed for the past 12 years.



Kachina on her favorite outdoor perch at the Museum.

We are currently searching for two additional birds: a male American Kestrel to join Kachina, and another bird of prey to fill our last open space. This will depend on placement availability. We adopt birds from wildlife rehabilitation centers that have determined that a particular patient will no longer be able to survive in the wild. We will keep you updated.



Ivan in his new aviary



We normally do not ask for money in this newsletter, as its purpose is to show you our appreciation for your support. This is an exception.

We still need \$700 towards the total cost of \$1,500 for a much-needed guard rail. As you can see in the picture, it is definitely needed. Max doesn't seem to care, but our other birds find the close-up faces and clinging hands a bit stressful.



NEW PEREGRINE FALCON JOINS EYES IN THE SKY



Kisa

Kisa (pronounced *Keesa*) is a juvenile female Peregrine that arrived at her new home on March 6th. The name was given to her by a Hopi Elder. **Kisa** is the Hopi word for “raptor” (bird of prey). Most often it is used for eagles, but it covers all other birds of prey as well.

Like Angel, our last Peregrine, Kisa was adopted from South Bay Wildlife Rehab in Rancho Palos Verdes, an urban area with a growing population of urban Peregrine falcons .



No—it's not a butterfly. but a piece of quail meat stuck on her beak .

Shot by someone with a pellet gun, Kisa sustained permanent nerve damage, disabling the use of her right wing. She will never fly again. What a heartbreaking predicament for a member of the fastest animal species on earth. I will never understand the reasoning behind such a cruel act.



Kisa at our pond, perched on the glove, and wondering about the camera in my right hand.

Fortunately she is very young—less than a year old, and has spent half of it in captivity. She is eager to learn new things, is easily bored, and, just like your typical teenager, makes every effort to find mischief in her spare time (*examples to your right*).

Currently she is living with me full-time to help her overcome her natural fear of humans and their activities. This is done by keeping her tethered to a perch where she has to observe us close by as we go about our business. She quickly learns that no harm comes to her, that food comes from the glove, and the glove also gets her outdoors for fun and baths.



Kisa makes messes on her table and floor below.

Keeping a wild bird tethered was unthinkable to me for a long time—until I discovered that it cuts a new bird's “fear” time down to a month or two, as compared to a year plus when new birds are placed into an aviary untethered. Each time we enter the aviary, the bird experiences major stress, and will do its best to avoid us for as long as possible. This can go on for months on end. The tethering method, used by falconers for millennia, cuts the adjustment period down to just a few weeks.

Forgive me, but I can't help but keep taking pictures of **Kisa**. The following are some I took just yesterday:



Kisa takes her first outdoor bath.



Drying out in the late-afternoon sun.



Watching our chickens. Good thing she's already been fed.



Birdwatching.



Kisa is learning that her transport carrier is a fine place to walk into, as it contains her favorite food—dead quail. It took her all but 60 seconds.



Kisa gets a friendly visit from one of our wild resident Black-crowned Night Herons (!!!).

Bird Humor...



OUR VOLUNTEERS...

...are the lifeblood of **Eyes in the Sky**. They help provide the quality of life our birds deserve: from aviary cleaning and maintenance to outdoor time, exercise, feeding, and activities such as special trips to the top of our mountains and visits to local parks and beaches. Many of our volunteers have been with us for many years (one of them, Fred Ennerson, for **20 years** - when I first started rehabilitating oiled and injured seabirds). They volunteer one or two afternoons per week, and our numbers have just increased by 10, bringing our total number to 25. This makes it possible for each of our birds to get quality outdoor time and personal attention seven days a week. Let me introduce some of them:



Zoe Stevens with Ivan



Bettie Cox with Tecolita



Teresa Fanucci with Kachina



Bernard Unterman with Ivan



Bonnie Whitney with Kachina



Janene Dallow with Ivan



Carolyn Naiman with Ivan



Wendy Bruss with Kachina



Lacee Lopez with Kachina

Thank you all, for your support - in all its shapes and forms!

We hope that you will continue with us, as our dream is yet to be fully realized, and you are much needed to keep it going and growing!

There is beauty all around us (Navajo)—above us, below us, and all around us. We teach this through the beauty and power of our birds, and experiencing them up close and personal.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc. - EYES IN THE SKY

c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History • 2559 Puesta del Sol • Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805-898-0347 • eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net • <http://santabarbaraaudubon.org>