

Wildlife Release

Bringing You the Wonders of Wildlife

AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHINTIMINI WILDLIFE CENTER

Volume 21 • Issue 1 • FALL/WINTER 2011



Trent Seager, Master Falconer

by Kris Downing

and training. He also assisted in training some of the nonreleasable raptors for CWC's birds-of-prey programs.

Trent brings a great deal of experience to CWC. He has been a Master Falconer for 14 years and is the Vice President of Oregon Falconers Association. His specialty is small raptors, such as American Kestrels, Merlins, Cooper's Hawks, and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Trent's education background coincides with his love for raptors. He has a B.A. in Wildlife Ecology and Sustainable Living. He was a Raptor Biologist for six years working with federal agencies, studying the nesting habits and migrations of many different species of raptors. He has a Master's degree in Forestry and Wildlife from OSU and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at OSU in Forest Ecology.

Trent facilitated several workshops for CWC bird handlers in an effort to improve our bird-handling practices. Trent's insight on raptors and how they see the world really helped us better understand our birds' behavior. This training has helped CWC reach our goal of having the best trained ambassador birds for our education program.

Trent's love for raptors is infectious, and I appreciate his sharing with us his expertise and knowledge of falconry. I feel privileged to be a CWC education bird handler, and I'm always eager to improve my skills and to provide a positive environment for our birds to live long, healthy, content lives.

Little did we know how lucky we were and what a long relationship we would establish with Trent when he showed up in 1998 with his injured American Kestrel.

When Master Falconer Trent Seager brought an injured American Kestrel (the smallest of the North American falcons) to Chintimini Wildlife Center (CWC) for medical attention in 1998, he had no idea how involved he would become with CWC's recovering raptors and resident birds of prey.

He began his volunteer experience at CWC by exercising injured raptors, using falconry techniques, to get the birds healthy and flying strong so they could be released back into the wild. He became involved with CWC's education birds by answering questions about the birds' diet, housing, exercise,

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