

The Bald Eagle That Would Not Quit

*A short film about the rescue, two month recovery,
and release of a bald eagle*

Teacher's Guide

by

The Southwest Wildlife Foundation of Utah

This guide is intended to provide an overview of the film's content, some background information, discussion topics, and activities. We'd greatly appreciate feedback, questions and additional contributions from teachers and students.

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About the Film

This film highlights the rescue, recovery, and release of a wild bald eagle. The footage begins with the eagle's arrival and carries through many physical examinations and feeding sessions. Throughout the film, Martin Tyner, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with over four decades of experience, narrates to explain his methods and the condition of the eagle.

About Martin Tyner

At age twelve, Martin Tyner started caring for the sick, injured and orphaned creatures in his home town of Simi Valley, CA. At age nineteen, Tyner was hired as curator of birds of prey at Busch Gardens, CA. He worked in the movie and television industry training big cats, elephants, primates, sea mammals, and raptors.

Martin Tyner is a federally licensed falconer, eagle falconer, wildlife rehabilitator, wildlife propagator, and wildlife and environmental educator. He has been providing wildlife and environmental programs throughout the western United States to schools, scouts and community groups for over forty years. Martin Tyner provides intergenerational Elder hostel programs through Dixie State College, has taught summer classes at Southern Utah University, The Ancient Art of Falconry and Shakespeare, and performed in the Green Show with his raptors for the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Martin Tyner is the founder of the Southwest Wildlife Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, wildlife rescue, wildlife and environmental education organization. With the help of his golden eagle, Bud, they received a donation of 22.6 acres of beautiful, canyon property from Utah Power/Scottish Power, for the development of a permanent wildlife rescue facility and a nature park for the children of Utah.

In 2005 Martin and Bud were honored by the Utah State Legislature for over a quarter-century of wildlife rescue and wildlife and environmental education in Utah. Martin Tyner is one of America's foremost wildlife rehabilitators, a master falconer, eagle falconer, and wildlife and environmental educator. He travels throughout the West providing wildlife programs accompanied by his devoted companion, Scout, a wild golden eagle.

In 1976 Martin met the love of his life, Susan, who is an animal lover in her own right. Susan Heaton Tyner began her career working with animals in 1977, as a bather-brusher at the Canine Castle, a local dog grooming shop in Simi Valley and finished her training at the Pet Oasis, in Lancaster, CA, where she graduated to the position of professional dog groomer.

Susan and Martin moved to Cedar City, UT, in the winter of 1979 where they raised two children. In 1982 they opened Tyner's Pets and Dog Grooming where Martin ran the pet shop and Susan groomed dogs.

Susan volunteered as a leader in 4-H, developing the Guide Dog for the Blind puppy program in Southern Utah. She has been grooming dogs professionally for over thirty years and is an award-winning, international, creative groomer.

Martin continues to travel throughout the West providing wildlife programs accompanied by his devoted companion, Scout, a wild golden eagle.

About the Southwest Wildlife Foundation

Our Mission

Founded in 1997 in Cedar City Utah, we are a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, wildlife and environmental education, and the development of the Cedar Canyon Nature Park.

Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release

The Southwest Wildlife Foundation of Utah (SWF) cares for more than 100 sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife annually. Restoring them to health and returning them to the wild is our primary goal, but for those that cannot be released due to disabilities, the Cedar Canyon Nature Park (CCNP) can provide them with a permanent home in a natural setting while enhancing our visitors educational experience at the park.

Informing, Educating and Inspiring

The SWF provides over 100 educational programs reaching over 30,000 people annually. We believe providing educational outreach programs to schools, scout groups and community events, with focus on children and families, will make the greatest impact in preserving our wildlife, the environment, our public lands and our resources for future generations to enjoy.

The CCNP is 22.6 acres of beautiful canyon property donated by Pacificcorp, in Cedar City, Utah. We are in the process of developing a permanent wildlife rescue facility and Nature Park for the children of Utah. Sitting on the transition point between the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin, the CCNP's mission is

focused on fostering appreciation, knowledge and wise stewardship of the Colorado Plateau and Great Basin environments, which includes wildlife, botany, geology, history, and native culture.

Increased educational opportunities mean an increased awareness, knowledge and appreciation for the land we call home.

About the Cedar Canyon Nature Park

In October 2000, Rocky Mountain Power/PacifiCorp donated 22.6 acres of majestic canyon property in Cedar City, Utah to create a permanent wildlife rescue facility and nature park.

Nestled between beautiful red sandstone mountains, our goal is to provide a public educational facility dedicated to the environments represented by the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin. The Cedar Canyon Nature Park sits on the transition point between these two unique ecosystems.

This site is the historical site of Southern Utah Power Co. which was built in 1952. Coal Creek flows through the center of the property year-round and includes a waterfall built by the Cedar City Corporation in the 1930s.

Volunteers and equipment are still needed to help us with grading, installing educational kiosks, engineering, architectural designs, construction of paths, benches, a stage and pergolas, and the development of a variety of new educational programs at the park. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at info@gowildlife.org or call 435-586-4693.

Outline of Film Contents

On the Rescue of the Bald Eagle (0:00 - 3:37)

(0:05 - 1:25) - Details about the circumstances and conditions of the bald eagle when it first arrived.

(1:25 - 3:37) - Health Examination and explanation of symptoms, possible causes, and treatment.

(3:38 - 5:13) - Martin reflects on the dire condition of the bald eagle and his doubts of its survival.

On the Rehabilitation and Recovery Process of the Bald Eagle (3:38 - 22:00)

(5:14 - 8:41) - Day 11: January 18, 2015. First recorded session with the bald eagle since arrival. Martin conducts a physical examination, a feeding, and discusses improvements as well as notes a long road still ahead for the bald eagle to fully recover.

(8:42 - 15:23) - Day 18: January 25, 2015. Second recorded session showing further improvement. Martin does another examination, feeding, and explains the bald eagle's new level of recovery. In this session, the bald eagle is able to turn on its perch and eat whole mice.

(15:25 - 20:20) - Day 31: February 7, 2015. Third recorded session with physical exam, discussion of weight, and casting pellets. The bald eagle does not eat during this session but continues to grow stronger.

(20:22 - 21:43) - Day 59: March 7, 2015. Brief footage of bald eagle flying in the chamber. Martin discusses the return of its independence and explains the signs its readiness to go back to the wild.

On the Release of the Bald Eagle (22:00 - 28:12)

(22:00 - 24:00) - Release Day: March 7, 2015. Martin explains the bald eagle is ready for release and how he must net and capture the animal to prepare it for transport to the release location.

(24:00 - 28:12) - While showing transport, preparations and release location, Martin explains the difficulties and benefits of making the bald eagle release public. Though timing is difficult, he explains the education of the public is vital for the well being of wildlife and funding his rescue group.

General Follow Up with Martin Tyner (28:12 - 32:55)

(28:12 - 29:21) - Martin explains why he cannot track or follow the released bald eagle and reflects back on his experience of the recovery process.

(29:21 - 32:55) - Information about the Southwest Wildlife Foundation and the Cedar Canyon Nature Park, and a call for help, and ways to get involved.

Glossary

Bald Eagle

The National Bird of the United States, they are one of the largest birds of prey. Their wingspan can reach up to eight feet. Depending on their habitat, they hunt and scavenge for food and need to maintain top physical condition to survive in the wild.

Banding

The marking of individual birds or other animals with bands or rings to track them.

Beak

A bird's beak is used to gather and consume food. They are also used to pick up building materials, drinking, tearing and fighting.

Birds of Prey

A bird of prey is a carnivore (meat eater) that kills and eats mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, rodents as well as other birds.

Casting Pellets

Birds of prey consume animals mostly whole. After 24 hours or so, all parts that are undigestible are regurgitated as pellets.

Crop

A crop is an expandable pouch like enlargement where food is stored for later digestion.

Euthanized

Quickly and humanely ending the life of a non-releasable or suffering animal.

Feeding Tubes

A means to deliver food through a tube that runs down the animal's throat. It must be carefully placed to deliver contents to the right place which varies by type of animal.

Flight Chamber

As a bird regains its health it also needs to test its wings. A flight chamber is a large confined area where the bird has room to take small flights before release.

Habitat

The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Keel Bone

Also known as the breast bone, this runs down the middle of a bird's chest.

Lead Poisoning

Over time, traces of lead can build up and negatively affect a wild animal. The sources of lead are varied and difficult to determine in each circumstance. Remnants of lead bullets left in animal carcasses can be damaging when consumed by other animals.

Neurological Issues

When an animal has no visible physical injuries yet still does not have normal abilities. The problem may involve the brain and/or connections, and be difficult to pinpoint and treat.

Perch

A thing on which a bird alights or roosts, typically a branch.

Subcutaneous IVs

A means to deliver fluids to the animal by injection under the skin.

Transport kennel

There are many different types and sizes of kennels for wild animals. In the case of birds of prey, they are often modified to include a perch and the windows are shielded.

Talons

The large hooked claw of a bird of prey. These are long, sharp, versatile and used for killing prey.

Wild Animals

Wild animals are not pets. They are animals best left alone to live their lives in the wild and far away from humans.

Wildlife Ambassadors

Selected wild animals that cannot return to the wild and are kept by trained and licensed wildlife educators for learning purposes.

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Individuals licensed by state and/or federal authorities to tend to injured, sick or orphaned wild animals. Each rehabilitator may specialize in certain types of animals and have very different backgrounds in experience and education. All have the training to handle various critters and should always be consulted when a wild animal appears injured.

Wildlife Rescue Center

A facility to care for injured, sick or orphaned wild animals. They can range in size and structure depending on region and types of animals cared for. Sizes also vary depending on funding sources and affiliations.

Enrichment Activities

Research

1) Learn more details about the bald eagle

- Appearance
- Hunting and food
- Raising young
- Threats to the bald eagle
- The bald eagle as the National Bird

2) Inquiry and contact, send an email to Martin

- Do you have more questions about the eagle?
- Do you have more questions about what Martin does?
- Would you like to help eagles and other wild animals?

Imaginative Scenarios

Write or tell a creative and imaginative story about one of the suggestions below.

1) Martin explained that he cannot know what happened to the bald eagle he released. Knowing more now about the life of a bald eagle, what do you think it is doing right now?

2) If you had rescued and helped this bald eagle as Martin did, based on this experience, what name would you give it and why?

3) What do you think the bald eagle thought during the two month recovery stay with Martin? Do you think the eagle likes Martin?

Discussion Topics

Themes for discussion:

- 1) Have you ever seen a bald eagle in the wild?

- 2) Have you ever seen an injured wild animal?

- 3) Have you ever taken care of a sick pet?

- 4) Would you like to volunteer your time to help wild animals?

- 5) Can you name wild animals you've seen in your backyard or at the park?

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Test Questions

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best option from choices below each question.

1) When a wild animal is sick, it:

- a. Looks tired and cries.
- b. Acts dizzy and walks in circles.
- c. Appears tame.
- d. Makes loud noises.

2) What should you do if you see an injured wild animal?

- a. Give it milk.
- b. Trap it in a cage.
- c. Call for the help of a wildlife rehabilitator.
- d. Make sure it has food.

3) What is one way to know when an animal is ready to return to the wild?

- a. When the animal shows independence and fights.
- b. When the animal can stand.
- c. When the animal can be hand fed.
- d. When the animal escapes.

4) What are the two most dangerous parts of a bald eagle?

- a. The feet and the keel bone.
- b. The feet and the eyes.
- c. The wings and the beak.
- d. The beak and the feet.

5) What is a casting?

- a. Using an animal in a movie.
- b. Undigested parts of the animals eaten by birds of prey.
- c. Protective cast over a broken keel bone.
- d. The sharp ends of an eagle's feet.

True/False

Enter a T for True or F for False in the box next to each question.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) It is okay for anyone to capture a wild animal as long as you have a long pole net.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) With the right training, wild animals make good pets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3) Public animal releases are a good opportunity to educate people about wildlife.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) Wild birds fear humans.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) Bald eagles can be very dangerous.

Matching

Draw a line from the term to the correct definition below.

Keel Bone

Set the wild animal back to the wild and educate the public.

Talons

Individuals licensed by state and/or federal authorities to tend to injured, sick or orphaned wild animals.

Wildlife Rehabilitator

The marking of individual birds or other animals with bands or rings to track them.

Banding

Also known as the breast bone, this runs down the middle of a bird's chest.

Wildlife Release

The large hooked claw of a bird of prey. These are long, sharp, versatile and used for killing prey.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

- 1) **c.** Appears tame.
- 2) **c.** Call for the help of a wildlife rehabilitator.
- 3) **a.** When the animal shows independence and fights.
- 4) **d.** The beak and the feet.
- 5) **b.** Undigested parts of the animals eaten by birds of prey.

True/False

- 1) **F** - It is always dangerous to approach a wild animal.
- 2) **F** - No wild animals make good pets. Wild is wild. Wild animals are always dangerous when kept in captivity.
- 3) **T** - Under the supervision of a Wildlife Rehabilitator, the release of an animal is an opportunity for the public to see a wild animal up close.
- 4) **T** - Wild birds fear humans. This is important for the well being of both the birds and humans.
- 5) **T** - Bald eagles are birds of prey and have a strong beak and deadly sharp talons.

Matching

Keel Bone - Also known as the breast bone, this runs down the middle of a bird's chest.

Talons - The large hooked claw of a bird of prey. These are long, sharp, versatile and used for killing prey

Wildlife Rehabilitator - Individuals licensed by state and/or federal authorities to tend to injured, sick or orphaned wild animals.

Banding - The marking of individual birds or other animals with bands or rings to track them.

Wildlife Release - Set the wild animal back to the wild and educate the public.

Contact Information

Contact Martin Tyner

Email: martin@gowildlife.org

Phone: (435)590-1618

Postal: Southwest Wildlife Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1907

Cedar City, UT 84721-1907

Contact the Southwest Wildlife Foundation

Email: info@gowildlife.org

Phone: (435) 586-4693

Postal: Southwest Wildlife Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1907

Cedar City, UT 84721-1907

Main Site: www.gowildlife.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southwestwildlifefoundation

Twitter: www.twitter.com/swfgowildlife

Instagram: www.instagram.com/swfgowildlife

YouTube: www.youtube.com/gowildlifeorg