



From The Heart

The Wild Bird Care Centre - Nepean

over to the water and began to feed, they cut off her escape. A short time later she was securely in their grasp and was whisked off to the

position. There was, however, a small abnormal clump of feathers near the tail. Hidden amongst the feathers was a spider with the grip of Hercules hanging on to the tail and wing. The spider was removed and the bird was released. Stranger than fiction!

Concern for Eilisha began to intensify as winter approached. Wild Bird Care Centre workers had made several unsuccessful attempts to capture the flamingo but she was a strong flyer - and very wary.

On December 3 she relocated to a creek in Andrew Haydon Park in Nepean and in this urban setting became even more of a celebrity. Knowing that her only hope of survival was capture, a mist net enclosure was erected along the creek but she failed to take the bait and disappeared when the creek froze.

When staff returned to remove the net on December 10 - after there had been no sightings of the bird for two days - they were startled to see her walking on the ice. They immediately approached the enclosure, broke through the ice with their hip waders and retreated. When Eilisha walked

Centre for observation.

Everything was fine and arrangements were made to transport her back home. On December 16, thanks to the good will of the bird's owner, she flew home with Centre Director Kathy Nihei (by jet of course). Today she is enjoying life with her 5 flamingo companions, safely within a spacious enclosure in Connecticut, never to escape again. This was her third try.

■ Miss Muffet

The Centre receives many attack victims but the most unusual one in '97 was a tiny Golden-crowned Kinglet found below a window. The rescuer picked up the flightless bird and brought it to the Centre where it was examined for probable window impact trauma. There was no evidence of injury, despite the fact that the right wing was locked in

■ 1997 Injury Percentiles

The grim statistics are as follows:

- Orphans - 20.4%
- Human Interference - 18.5%
- Cat Attacks - 14.7%
- Hit by Cars - 10.9%
- Window Impacts - 8.7%
- Unknown - 6.1%
- Other - 6%
- Sick - 5.9%
- Other Impacts - 4.9%
- Other Attacks - 4.2%

■ Fund Raising

The Centre is beginning a major fund-raising effort to pay for exterior release cages that will greatly improve the chances of rehabilitation. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, send your cheque to:

Wild Bird Care Centre
73 Majestic Drive
Nepean, ON K2G 1C9

HIGHWAY MORTALITY By Bruce Di Labio

For many of us, the opportunity to see a Northern Saw-whet Owl is a challenge. While driving along Hwy. 401 to Presqu'ile Provincial Park on November 9, I did observe 9 Saw-whets and one Eastern Screech Owl between Napanee and Trenton. Unfortunately, all of the birds were fresh kills which appeared to have been hit by passing cars the previous evening or early that morning.

Weather conditions were ideal for migration, with clear skies and a light breeze out of the north. This high mortality rate in such a concentrated area is possibly due to the fact that the Northern Saw-whet Owl funnels through Prince Edward County as part of its regular migration route. They use Prince Edward Point as a final staging area before taking flight over Lake Ontario.



Photo, Bruce Di Labio - Inset, Jim Flynn