

## Spring Comes To The Sanctuary

For the first time we have experienced predator attacks on our residents. Quasi our badly disabled duck (see his prior story of abuse) was attacked by a bald eagle. Although he was seriously wounded Quasi miraculously survived. Today his four inch by three inch wound which was one inch deep is almost completely healed.



New feathers are growing back covering the vicious wound and his loving and trusting spirit has returned.

We at first thought that Quasi was attacked by the bald eagle due to his obvious disabilities which made him appear to be wounded. We as a result immediately began to expand the planned Quasi's Quarters project (which was already inclusive of disability ramps) to provide protection from possible overhead attacks.

Today Quasi's Quarters is structurally finished and it is totally enclosed. As you can see Quasi is relishing in his new home which provides him a safe haven from any predator.



As we were working to finish Quasi's Quarters we did not see any evidence of or experience any other problems from airborne predators. Given that, we felt that the eagle had most likely attacked Quasi because of his disabilities. We surmised that our other ducks that lived in other fenced in enclosures were safe because they were healthy and we had never experienced attacks before.

Sadly we were wrong. We suffered first the loss of our beloved little white welsh harlequin duck to an attack and before we could build overhead protection in all of our fowl areas we lost our black Cayuga duck to another attack. We of course were heart broken by all of the attacks and have now erected overhead defenses in all the enclosure areas.



As heartbroken as we were at the losses, we realized that the eagles were most likely coming back due to the fact they felt there was a source of food available at the sanctuary for their babies. We realize that we can't really blame them for this instinct, and we realize that nature is often brutal. **BUT** at the cost of several thousand dollars we have protection in place for all of the fowl that come to us through neglect, abuse and abandonment cases or from natural disasters.