



Tales from a  
**Sisters Naturalist**  
by Jim Anderson

**Flammulated owls really get around**

My old pal from Sisters Country Conrad Weiler and his dear wife, Joan, hit me with a wonderful surprise a week or so back. They sent me an email from Panama.

There's ol' Conrad, standing in the bow of a ship carrying him and his lovely wife through the Mira Florues Lock, just before they went on a tour of the Gamboa National Forest.

As I sat in front of my faithful old MacBook OS10 reading the mail and wishing I were there with them, the name Gamboa went bouncing through my ancient brain and with it came an image of Rebecca Goggins, Forest Service researcher.

Through banding baby flammulated owls, Rebecca and other researchers discovered the owls spend their winters in Panama, principally in the Gamboa National Forest.

Then up popped Jane Stevens, retired wildlife rehabber living in Sisters with her husband, Bill. Jane was holding a baby flam that a wood-cutter presented to her. He found it in a tree cavity in a dead lodgepole he felled for firewood near Lava Top Butte, on the east side of Hwy. 97.

The little flammulated's a ringer for the Western screech owl, but has jet-black eyes. Screech owls have yellow eyes. While screeches live on small rodents, flams don't give a hoot about mammals; they live on moths, beetles and crickets.

Dead trees, especially snags, carry a red flag for firefighters, but they also have "Home" written all over them for woodpeckers, small birds and even bats. When snags are removed from the forest without consideration as essential wildlife habitat, that creates serious problems for cavity nesters.

When an area with lots

of bug- or fire-killed trees is opened for wood-cutting it should be inventoried for wildlife trees (trees with cavities already in them) and those trees marked as wildlife trees. It also becomes the responsibility of the wood-cutter to look over each tree he wishes to cut to ensure it isn't already keeping someone else warm and cuddly.

Reliving those wonderful days working with Jane and the USFS on owls and wildlife habitat I began to laugh, then laugh even harder as more memories came flooding back, and at that point my wife, Sue, became alarmed and came into my office to see what was going on... "Do you remember the day OSP called me and asked if I would fly the baby flams Jane was caring for back to La Grande...?" I said. Then Sue started to laugh...

It seems a different wood-cutter in La Grande took the baby flams from a nesting cavity near where he was cutting wood, and brought them home, but his neighbor turned him in for stealing them from Mother Nature. OSP cited him, took the baby owls away from him, then formed a patrol car relay and sent them overland to rehabber Jane Stevens in Bend.

Then the next day, Rebecca Goggins, the researcher who was studying the owls found them missing and called OSP. They realized what they'd done and told her not to worry, they'd get them right back. OSP then called me and I ran over to Jane's, grabbed up the owls, and headed for the airport. I called my young friend Jeff Cooney, who was studying to be a wildlife veterinarian to see if he'd like to go along.

I contacted a pal who owned a lovely little Aeronca Chief airplane I loved to fly, and Jeff, the two baby flams, and I took off for La Grande. Rebecca met us at the airport and she and Jeff whisked the babies back to their tree cavity home where they were accepted by their parents.

Little did the parents realize the Great Adventure the two nestlings had been on in less than 24 hours. A 150-mile relay in patrol cars, then to a wildlife rehabber, then packed off into a noisy airplane for another 150-mile trip back home and waiting parents. Who says owls don't give a hoot...



Jeff Cooney with baby flammulated owls.

PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not as modern
  - 6 Part of the foot
  - 10 As comfortable \_\_\_ old shoe
  - 14 More terrible
  - 15 Meal during a tour of Hawaii
  - 16 Man or boy
  - 17 \_\_\_ legislation; make laws
  - 18 Allows
  - 19 Forehead
  - 20 Blow-by-blow
  - 22 School skipper
  - 24 Say the rosary, for example
  - 25 Makes long deep cuts in
  - 26 Window covering
  - 29 Hanger-on; freeloader
  - 30 Soil turner
  - 31 Spine-chilling
  - 33 Bread ingredient
  - 37 Geologic periods
  - 39 Pitcher Koufax
  - 41 Winter forecast
  - 42 Train station
  - 44 Actor Romero
  - 46 \_\_\_ T; exactly
  - 47 Appointed
  - 49 Lifts with effort
  - 51 Like a zebra
  - 54 Noise of an explosion
  - 55 Removed wrinkles
  - 56 Does well
  - 60 Umpire's cry
  - 61 Wingless insect
  - 63 No-no
  - 64 Caesar's gown
  - 65 Actor Jack \_\_\_
  - 66 Funny bone
  - 67 Gush forth
  - 68 Hairy oxen
  - 69 Takes a nap

- DOWN**
- 1 Was in the red
  - 2 "The \_\_\_ Ranger"
  - 3 Word of disgust
  - 4 Get away
  - 5 Pensioner
  - 6 Actress Kirstie
  - 7 Regretted
  - 8 Pet, for many
  - 9 Move quickly
  - 10 Attacks from a hiding place
  - 11 Actress Chalke
  - 12 By oneself
  - 13 Salamanders
  - 21 Freeway divisions
  - 23 Risqué
  - 25 Canary's lunch
  - 26 Get rid of
  - 27 Apple's center
  - 28 "As ye sow, so shall ye \_\_\_"
  - 29 Like an expensive coat
  - 32 Ran fast
  - 34 Household pests
  - 35 Hearth residue
  - 36 It was, to a poet
  - 38 Relative by marriage
  - 40 Email provider for millions

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/29/17

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —

JFK				NACHO		ECHO						
EINS				ODIUM		ROAD						
TREE				TUTTI		RARE						
				MERCILESS		ALPS						
				PACT		SAN						
SERENE				REINDEER								
CLINT				PIVOT		AVA						
ROOT				DIVAN		DUEL						
APT				FREES		PADRE						
PESKIE				EST		MOSEYS						
				ITS		MESH						
STAB				SPLITTING								
LOBO				ELATE		NEED						
ARCS				ROVER		GATE						
POSH				STARS		RAN						

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- 43 Gift wrapper's need
- 45 Hen's mate
- 48 Fruit crop destroyer
- 50 Pierce through
- 51 Uses a sieve
- 52 Scout group
- 53 Cheek coloring
- 54 Pitt and Garrett
- 56 \_\_\_ up; become cheerful again
- 57 Recedes
- 58 Underground plant part
- 59 Piglets' moms
- 62 Mauna \_\_\_

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