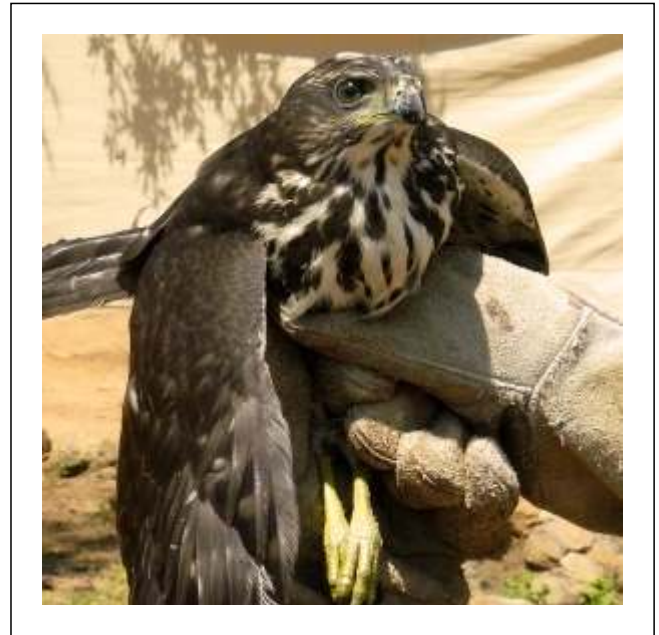


It's fantastic to have a bit of peace and quiet after a very busy, very successful holiday season! Thankfully, while we didn't have any serious incidents, we also welcomed quite a few new residents!

A stunning Black-breasted Snake Eagle came in from a local farmer who told us the eagle was just lying next to the road, close to a power line. He didn't seem able to sit up and just lay on his chest wherever we placed him. When he arrived at the centre we gave him a full check up but no injuries could be seen or felt. After some pain medication and other treatments, a great improvement was shown and by nightfall he was sitting up and moving around. We had to force feed him for a few days until he started to eat by himself. Once we considered him strong enough, he was moved to the aviary to regain his flying strength. It was great to see him making such a fantastic recovery! When he was ready, we released him and I cannot even begin to describe the feeling of achievement we felt as we watched this majestic bird circle above us in the blue sky.

Another bird of prey that came in was an African Goshawk juvenile. Weak and disorientated, he made quite a quick recovery with the right treatment and food. Thankfully he's also started to eat by himself now and will soon be released!



A classic case of poisoning was brought in at the beginning of this month. The beautiful Black Kite was treated by a local vet before we got him to provide him with a safe haven to recover. He had to be force fed and cannot sit up yet but we're holding thumbs that with time he'll pull through from this terrible human impact.

On a happier note, we released the Marsh Owl which came in towards the end of 2009 with dog bite wounds to her wing. She made a great recovery and seeing her fly away to freedom was very rewarding. A Cape Eagle Owl that was with us for a short time, also with a wing injury, was released as well.

Bella, the little injured Blue Wildebeest who was rescued from a sure death last year, has left us to be released on another farm, as has her friend, Mr. E. the Eland bull. We trust they'll live a full, free life!

Gollum the Bush Baby has made his first major step to rehabilitation and now bounces around in the aviary, learning to catch insects and fend for himself!

A Steenbok baby was rescued from being eaten after being poached off a neighbouring farm. When he got to us, it was clear the he'd been kept in a restricted area, as his hind leg muscles were weak and he battled to walk. He has recovered fully and has grown from tiny to small! Keeping the Steenbokkie company are two young Nyalas as well as a Blesbok and Impala. They are all bottle-fed every 3 hours during the day and keep us on our toes!

The two rhinos Dina and Safrina are loving life and still get spoiled and treated like royalty! Safrina is looking like an adult and Dina has bonded with her like daughter to mother. They get put out into the big outside boma every morning, where we built a special mud hole just for them. Rhinos need to have regular mud baths and Dina and Safrina enjoy a wallow on a daily basis!

Savannah's little Serval kittens are doing really well! They are drinking from bowls now and will soon start eating pellets. All 3 girls are incredibly loving and affectionate. Please go onto Sondela Rehab Centre on Facebook to watch the release videos!

Another new resident is a hippo, "Boesman". The big boy is a year old but very wild! We had a few nervous nights when he went "walkabout" but he has settled down and spends his day submerged in his waterhole. As we don't see him during the day, we used a motion-activated night camera to make sure he is doing OK and get a few shots of the little guy.

