

## KDS Elementary Learns about Alabama Raptors

The Lake Guntersville State Park and the Alabama Wildlife Center partner to offer raptor education programs to schools to help promote the Eagle Awareness Program at the Guntersville Park. Scottie Jackson, the Director of Education and Outreach for the Alabama Wildlife Center, and Amanda Glover, Assistant Naturalist at Guntersville State Park, visited KDS Elementary to teach students and teachers about raptors on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Eagle Awareness is a popular program the park has offered for the past 31 years.



The elementary children gave Ms. Scottie and Ms. Liz their undivided attention as they showed the raptors from small to large. This photo shows Natchez, the Mississippi Kite. Natchez was brought to the center as a baby. He had been kept by people who weren't qualified to care for him and as a result was fed an improper diet. Because he didn't receive the proper nutrition, he has a Metabolic Bone problem and can't fly well enough to migrate to South America like other

Mississippi Kites. Therefore he will stay at AWC for the rest of his life as will all of these birds so that they may be used for education purposes.



*Legacy, the American Kestrel, was brought to AWC as a baby. He cannot be released back in the wild due to broken toes that did not heal correctly. This photo of Legacy is from the AWC website.*

*Coosa, the Barred Owl, was also brought to AWC as a baby. He cannot be released due to nerve damage in his legs caused by being attacked by crows.*



*BR1, the Great Horned Owl, was also brought in as a baby. She was set to be released and then they discovered that she has cataracts in her eyes and can't see well enough to hunt. BR1 is not her name, but rather the ID number given to her when she was entered into rehab. The name has yet to be decided.*



*R246, the Red Tailed Hawk, also doesn't have a name as of yet. She was brought to the center as an adult but cannot be released. She was hit by a car and is completely blind in her right eye.*

You may be wondering why there is no eagle shown. Not all presenters are allowed to show eagles. Each person that works with birds of prey must have at least 500 hours of experience working with eagles before being allowed to keep an eagle as an education bird.