

# WHY I GIVE

## For the Birds

By Kathleen Craven

For Winston Moore, the Idaho Bird Observatory isn't just about saving migratory birds. It's also about saving kids. The observatory, established above Lucky Peak along one of the largest known raptor and songbird migration routes in the western United States, brings children and others face to face with a variety of birds as they are counted, banded, weighed and measured.

"Kids don't have good role models because too many parents are too busy to pay proper attention to them," says Moore, founder of W.H. Moore Company. Because of this, he and his wife, Diane, support a number of causes that provide children with what he considers "good, clean, wholesome activities."

Moore first visited the IBO at the invitation of his friend Dennis Fitzpatrick, who knew of his love for the outdoors and wildlife. Moore was instantly enthralled with the operation and the chance to hold a raptor or songbird in his hands and look into its eyes. In short, he was hooked.

He also was impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of the Boise State students and volunteers who staff the modest outpost, which promotes public wildlife viewing and environmental education.

Top: Winston Moore visits with a passing raptor. Left: IBO Director Greg Kaltenecker removes a songbird from a net. Right: The view from a blind.



Dennis Fitzpatrick

"There are 15-20 young people living up there, sleeping in old trailers and sleeping bags, who love nature and birds," he says.

To help the observatory continue its mission and to ensure that kids have a place to stay involved and avoid the pitfalls of negative peer pressure, Moore and his wife have pledged a \$1.5 million endowment.

"In these times of economic uncertainty, Mr. Moore's gift will provide the stability needed to ensure that our work will continue and that the program will be able to grow indefinitely," says Greg Kaltenecker, director of the IBO.

That's music to Moore's ears. "When they hold a bird in their hands, those kids are just in awe," he says. "I think it's fantastic." ♦



John Kelly



John Kelly

## SCHOLARSHIP

## REMEMBERING A BELOVED PROFESSOR

**CONTRIBUTIONS** have steadily been streaming in for a student scholarship fund established in the name of Mary Ellen Ryder, a beloved linguistics professor. Ryder, 56, was killed in a devastating fire that swept through her Southeast Boise neighborhood in August. By early October, close to 40 individuals had contributed to the fund.

Ryder taught linguistics for 20 years in the Department of English at Boise State.

"She is one of the great professors that built this university," said Boise State President Bob Kustra in response to her death. "As a teacher, she has spread the joy of learning and discovery to countless students. She will be missed as a vital member of our campus community."

