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Entangled red-tailed hawk rescued from Portland golf course

Entangled in net mesh

By Jeff Mill, The Middletown Press

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PORTLAND >> It was Karen Perruccio to the rescue when a red-tailed hawk became entangled in a net at the Portland West golf course Thursday.

“It was pretty cool,” is how Perruccio, the town’s animal control officer, described the bird’s rescue. However, Perruccio said credit also must go to the town’s highway department, which provided her with a bucket to reach the hawk, and to Christine Cummings. Cummings is the cofounder and president of A Place Called Hope raptor rescue rehabilitation and education center in Killingworth.

Cummings examined the hawk after Perruccio freed it from its entanglement some 20 feet up on a net used to contain golf balls hit on the course’s driving range. As the bird struggled to free herself, Perruccio said, it merely became more entangled.

“It was so bad,” Perruccio said.

When Perruccio arrived at the course, the hawk was hanging upside down with one its talons entwined in the net mesh. With no other way to reach the bird, Perruccio prevailed upon the highway department to bring a bucket truck to the course.

“They let me go up in the bucket!” a still-excited Perruccio said Friday.

“I’ve rescued birds lots of times,” she explained, “so I know how to do it.”

Once she was raised up to the bird’s height, Perruccio moved cautiously to take hold of the frantic bird.

“Once she realized I was there to help her, she calmed right down,” she said.

When she returned to the ground, Perruccio placed the bird in a carrier and left to meet Cummings, who examined the bird and said she was in good shape despite the incident. In a post on the center’s website, Cummings said the bird [“was uninjured, just tired and stressed from the ordeal.”](#)

Cummings gave the bird some preventive medicine and advised Perruccio to return it to the course.

“Chris said she might have a nest nearby,” Perruccio said.

When she got back to the course, however, Perruccio came upon the only unfortunate aspect of the story. There was a nest in the area but there was also a dead baby hawk lying on the ground, Perruccio said. She placed the carrier down but the hawk, perhaps understandably after the day she had, remained inside until Perruccio took the top off the carrier.

Then, assured she was free to go, the hawk soared up and away before landing in a nearby tree.

All in all, except for the dead baby, Perruccio described the incident as “awesome.”

Cummings exclaimed Perruccio was “a real hero.”

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