

The Changeling Ducks

David Gagnon, the rehab services manager at Life Care Center of Morristown, Tenn., has his own story of “changelings” – a follow-up to the Perspective entitled *The Changeling Eagle* that appeared Tuesday. You need to read this:

When I am not serving our customers at Life Care, I am at home where I run a small farm. I raise many animals, of which we have ducks and chickens. One of our prize Rouen ducks would lay beautiful eggs but would not ever set long enough to hatch them out, so we decided to put them in the hen house with the rest of the chickens and see what would happen.

One very motherly hen decided to set on the duck eggs and hatch them out. Sure enough, 21 days later, three ducklings hatched out and assumed that the chicken was their mother and patterned after her. It was the cutest thing to see a chicken foraging around the farm with three ducklings very, very close behind, doing just what they saw their "mother" doing. I wondered what would happen when the ducklings got bigger and saw all the other ducks going in the pond.



Sure enough, the time had come to "test the waters," and that they did. Since, then, the three ducks have become very much a part of the duck community; but something very interesting has happened. Although the ducks realized their full potential as ducks, they have never forgotten their mother that raised them to the point of independence. To this day, you can still see those same three ducks obviously being very partial to one very special hen, mom.

I guess the moral of my true-life story is that if a duck can listen to that still small voice to realize his potential, then we humans certainly should be able to – but never forgetting those who help us get there.

To that, David, Amen and Amen. Thanks for a wonderful story.

– Beecher Hunter