

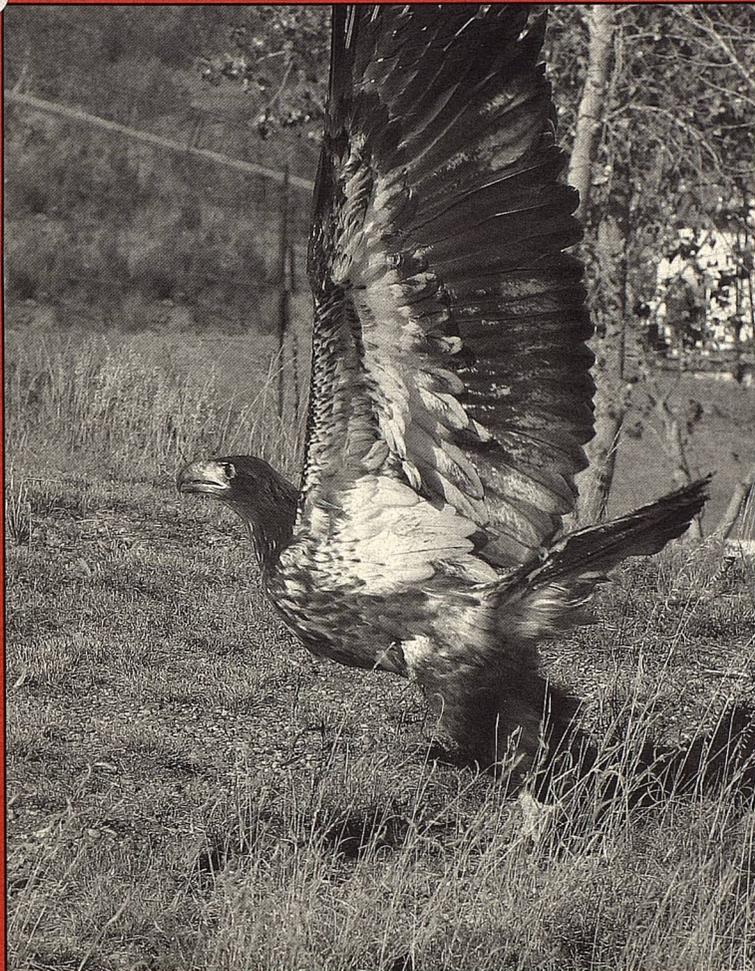
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The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 4 / 2005



Freedom

This immature Bald Eagle was given her freedom once again on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2005. This is what wildlife rehabilitation is really all about.

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Letter from the Director

Another Year Draws to a Close

I've heard it many times from others, but now I, too, believe that the older we get,

the faster the time seems to pass.

For the past two decades, my life seems to be programmed in terms of two seasons: baby bird season, or not baby bird season. Both are equally busy in their own way, but it's always a happy end to summer when the last baby bird is raised and released around the end of September.

That said, it's a little difficult for me to believe that another year is drawing to a close. When the calendar page turns from December to January 2006, the Wildlife Center will be nineteen years old, and before long we'll be making plans for our twentieth anniversary celebration.

The Wildlife Center's early beginning conjures up vivid memories of a constant stream of wildlife admissions, not enough sleep, and no help. My dream was to establish a place for wildlife in need to go to for care, but I never imagined it would engulf so much of my life.

I'm not sorry about the choices I made all those years ago, and I'm very, very proud that the Center is a thriving, successful non-profit organization that remains 100% volunteer.

Every year brings new developments and achievements. In addition to the anticipation of an important anniversary, we are also looking forward to hosting our first conference next year, for wildlife rehabilitators, as well as anyone else who might be interested in learning more about birds of prey. (See Raptor Conference on page 5.)

I'm thankful to the thousands of people who've helped us in some big or small way along the way – donors, volunteers, veterinarians, Board Members, and the countless others who did something kind at one time or the other for us. Without the generosity and gifts of time and effort, the Center certainly wouldn't be where it is today.

Our remaining big dream is to renovate our three story barn where all the rehabilitation activities will ultimately take place. An Architect's plans are already completed – all we need is about \$300,000. We saved \$45,000 toward this already. We're saving every penny not needed for operation, but realistically, this may still be at least three to five years away. If someone donates the funds for this project, our new building will be named in their honor.

A welcome October vacation - the best remedy for homesickness

For months I looked forward to our October vacation. We left October 13th and headed for my home town of Allentown, Pennsylvania where I have an aunt, two cousins and longtime friends. We spent time visiting, and more time outdoors than on any other vacation. The weather was beautiful, and my cousin Dianne Arndt was a wonderful hostess and travel guide. We spent a day in New York City, and I was thrilled to see the famous pair of Red-tailed Hawks, Pale Male and his mate, Lola, soaring over their posh Fifth Avenue apartment nest. Across the street was beautiful Central Park, offering a total escape from the noise and traffic in the city. Another day was spent in historic Philadelphia. It was a step back in time as we visited Society Hill, containing the largest concentration of original 18th and early 19th century architecture of any place in the United States. The Liberty Bell was also on our list of stops.

I came back refreshed and rejuvenated after a very busy spring and summer, and already looking forward to another new year ahead.

Photos of some of our stops will be on our web site (www.spwrc.org) for a few more weeks.

Carol

The Mockingbird Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. (SPWRC), which is 100% volunteer. The organization is an IRS determined 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that cares for orphaned, injured, ill and displaced wild animals with the ultimate goal of returning wildlife to its natural habitat. SPWRC holds state and federal permits but receives no funding whatsoever from either regulating agency. SPWRC operations are maintained entirely through the support of private donations and volunteer service, and no SPWRC staff member is paid. Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

Wildlife is accepted without regard to species, size, temperament, or popularity with the human race.

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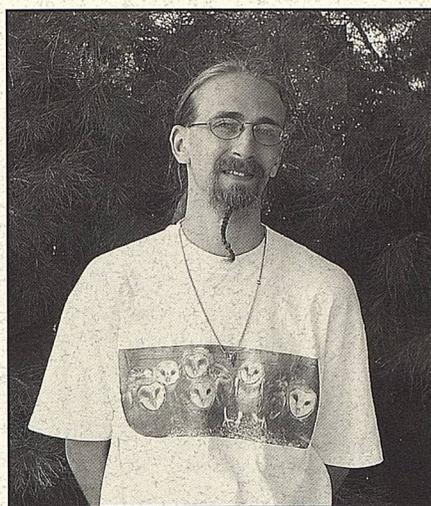
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Mrs. Willie Haragan

South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. is located at 3308 95th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423.

We can be reached by phone at 806-799-2142, by email at spwrc@cox.net, or you learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

Daniel Andrews started volunteering at the Wildlife Center over a year ago. A Lubbock native, he's a Junior at Texas Tech University majoring in Zoology. His minor is Forensics. In addition to going to school and volunteering with us, Daniel is a home healthcare provider.



Dan Andrews

Dan's career aspirations are to do several years of field research and then work in a zoo or in a forensics crime lab. His hobbies include camping, playing pool, and watching movies. He shares his space with two fish and five cats.

Community service for a traffic violation first brought Daniel to our facility, and his desire to work with the animals motivated him to stay on as a regular volunteer.

His favorite thing about helping out with us is learning about and working with the animals. His least favorite duties are cleaning cages and washing dishes.

We're delighted to have you with us, Daniel, and we hope you'll continue to enjoy volunteering for years to come!.....Ed.

Visit us at spwrc.org

A new tradition for one of our volunteers



Ray Nitzschke mans the grill to cook for others at his surprise birthday party

September 11 was the birthday of volunteer Ray Nitzschke. He hadn't celebrated it for several years because of the attacks on New York City on September 11, 2001. We surprised Ray at noon that Sunday, with plenty of food and birthday gifts. He grilled about ten pounds of hamburgers, hot dogs and brats, and we all enjoyed a nice lunch in our outdoor amphitheater. We're starting a fund for Ray who needs \$435.00 for his rabies pre-exposure vaccine. Cost of this has risen so much in past years, the Center must put this burden of cost onto volunteers themselves, but we're glad to help share part of the expense.

If you can help, please make a notation on your check that it is to be earmarked for Ray's rabies shots.

Get Well Soon

* Good luck to Rick Tennyson, husband of Debbie Tennyson who's been hospitalized three times recently. Rick had a heart transplant three years and two months ago. We all wish you the best!

* Best of luck also to Frank Wynne of Crestwood, Kentucky, who underwent extensive surgery in mid-November. He returned home after Thanksgiving, and we wish him a complete recovery. Kathy Wynne has been a supporter of our efforts for wildlife the past several years. She and I knew each other in a whole different life in Mississippi, and met again by accident at a Houston Wildlife Symposium some years ago and renewed our friendship.



Happy Holidays!

One Lucky Hawk

Rehabilitator Bebe McCasland in Big Spring brought us a juvenile Harris' Hawk that was rescued by oil field workers. They thought the bird needed help because it was screaming for food and the coyotes would get it. The oil workers caught the bird, tied it up with wire around its legs, placed it in a plastic bag and hung it upside down. Their supervisor took it from them, removed the wire and took it to Bebe. She thought the leg lost blood supply from the wire because it had a badly swollen foot. When the bird arrived at the Wildlife Center, it had a fractured leg. I immobilized the leg, and then took it to Dr. Farley at the Emergency Clinic. After getting back, I tried to feed it. He picked up a piece of meat, and then it fell. Much to my horror it wasn't the meat at all, but it was his upper mandible. In the haste to get the bird stabilized and worrying about his leg, no one noticed that his beak was injured as well. Bleeding profusely, nothing would stop the hemorrhage, so it was back to the ER again. A new intern held the bird in the car, applying firm pressure. Dr. Farley used nitrogen sulfate sticks and the bleeding finally stopped. The poor bird looks a bit funny, but he'll make a full recovery and be released in the spring. Meanwhile, he'll be well fed and spend the winter recuperating in Lubbock..

.....By Debbie Tennyson

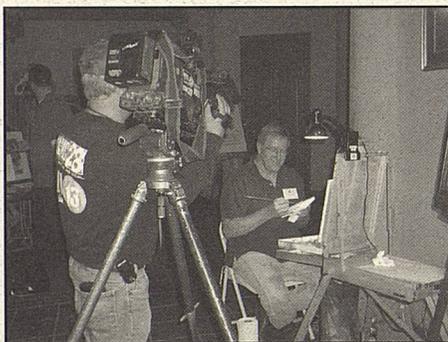
Welcome to Carter Vincent McBride, new son of Ellen and Toby McBride born November 4, 2005. Toby is a toxicologist at the Reese Center who's helped us on many occasions, and Ellen is a former Wildlife Center volunteer.

Nature of Art



Artist Linda Roark's paintings

Our second annual fundraiser Nature of Art was held the second weekend of October. The two-day event featured 18 area artists selling their artwork, and several participated in demonstrations. We had a silent auction, and Wildlife Center supporter Jerry Dobbs donated over a dozen hand-made birdhouses. Fine Caprock wines and food was available for guests, and the event raised \$2,500. Thanks to Beth Bartley, Carol Peterson, Debra Bearden, Shirley Ryle and Gad Perry for serving on this event's committee. Thanks to Mark and Janet Wallace for the hospitality arrangements, and to Mark, Julie Thomas, Brandon Best, Shirley Ryle and Willie Haragan for helping me man the welcome table.



Artist Glenn Lyles paints as TV cameraman visits the event

Sponsors: City Bank, Well Body Natural Foods, Ince Insurance and Lubbock Electric.

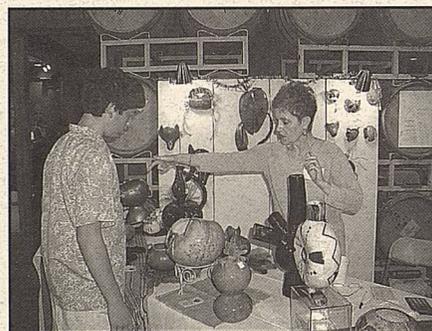
Bronze Eagle will soon be in its permanent outdoor location

Last year Lubbock artist Jim Eppler made a beautiful large bronze eagle for the Wildlife Center, using our own Golden Eagle "Sierra" as an inspiration for the work. Dr. and Mrs. Jim Moyes made a contribution toward the Foundry cost, and Jim donated his work to make the beautiful life size bird. Now, after unexpected delays, the eagle is in artisan Steve Teeters' St. Eligius studio in Lubbock, where he'll craft a boulder on which the bird will rest.

Bird and rock will then be placed in the area adjacent to Ambassador Row that Will Hellman and the Scouts created for their Eagle Scout project. Two benches will be placed there also to provide a place for volunteers to enjoy some quiet reflective time outdoors.

Jim Eppler was selected as the spotlight artist for the 28th annual Lubbock Arts Festival next April. His paintings and sculptures are in over a dozen galleries in Dallas (Texas), Park City (Utah), Taos and Santa Fe (New Mexico) to name a few. Jim has been very generous to us, often donating items for our May fundraiser.

You may see Jim's beautiful bronzeworks at epplerart.com and see the Golden Eagle that will grace our outdoor area at <http://www.brazosgallery.com/artist/eppler/ej-0501.html>. Steve Teeters's metal sculptures are also found in numerous public and private collections throughout the country.



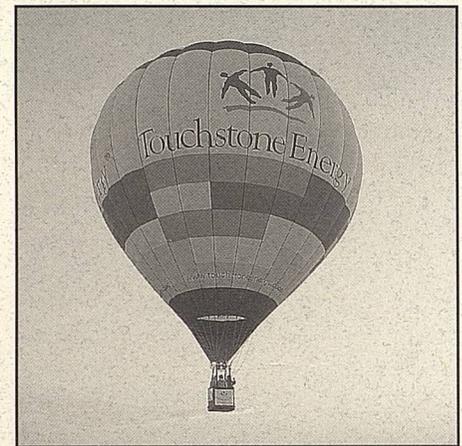
Beth Bartley talks with a guest about her beautiful gourd display during Nature of Art

Join us for upcoming Christmas Open House

Join us on Saturday December 17th from 1-3 PM for our annual Christmas Open House. Visit with volunteers, Board Members and friends. See our resident animals, and take pictures if you like. We'll have festive snacks, wine and soft drinks. If you'd like to bring something for our animals, visit our web page at spwrc.org and click on the Wish List tab. It is the quiet time of year for us rehabilitation-wise, but our permanent ambassadors will be on display.

Up, Up and Away

The South Plains Balloon Roundup advertising said, "Get Carried Away...." and we did, too, on September 10th & 11th, 2005. The colorful balloons started taking off at dawn. The club designated the Wildlife Center as a recipient of funds raised during the

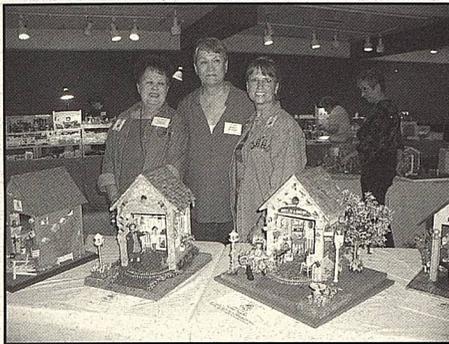


two day event. The balloons were beautiful. During the summer, the balloon enthusiasts joined us at the Wildlife Center for an outdoor lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings. Thanks to Tony and Mary Ann Slagle-Poteet for their efforts to make the event successful.

We are already looking forward to being part of the crowd of onlookers at next year's event.

Thank you, Miniaturists

The Miniaturists of Lubbock held their 26th annual exhibit at the Municipal Garden and Arts Center the first weekend in October. As always, it was delightful to see all of their miniature creations from houses and rooms filled with tiny furnishings to the many diminutive items the club members made to exhibit and sell. For the past several years, the group donates part of the proceeds to the Wildlife Center, and gave us a check following their event for \$500.00. We sincerely thank them all for their generosity to wildlife.



Marilyn Jamison, Fannye Burkleo and
Linda Clifton

"H99" is alive and well and living up north

"H99" the adult male Trumpeter Swan that was shot near Lockney, Texas December 13, 2003, is alive and well, and staying up north this winter, according to wildlife biologists in Iowa. We cared for H99 and his two cygnets for several weeks after poachers opened fire on the swans killing two and injuring three others. One of the youngsters had to be euthanized because of the nature of his injuries, but dad and his remaining offspring were released back to the wild after more rehabilitation in Iowa. Earlier this year he mated and produced another cygnet. This big bird still has a lot of fans looking out for him!

2006 Raptor Conference coming to Lubbock

For several years Eileen Wicker, Director of Raptor Rehab of Kentucky in Louisville hosted an increasingly popular raptor conference in the fall. I've attended two, and topics were all timely and the information very useful. Attendees number around 100.

The two day session is held at a hotel with a large meeting room and a shuttle to the airport. Eileen's October conference drew raptor rehabilitators from 19 states. Shortly after her conference, she sent me an email asking if we would host next years' meeting. I was puzzled because they were getting rave reviews. When we talked, she said she promised her volunteers at least a year off, because hosting a conference is a tremendous amount of work. After a few days of soul searching, I decided it was too much work. That feeling was short-lived, though, and when I mentioned it to my volunteers, they were excited about the prospect, and the enthusiasm was contagious. I called and told Eileen we'd do it.

There'll be lots of work ahead, but we're honored to be asked, and we're up for the challenge. The dates are Saturday and Sunday November 11 and 12. If anyone would like to help in some big or small way, please let me know. Preliminary plans are already being made. We'll need help from sponsors!

The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's
lives may be,

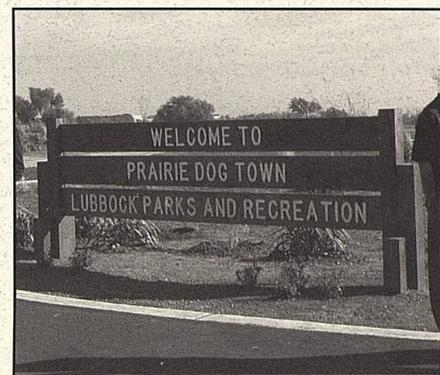
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the
great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with fore-
thought
of grief. I come into the presence of still
water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am
free.

Lubbock's "Prairie Dog Town" gets a facelift

After more than a year of planning and renovation, Lubbock's new Prairie Dog Town is restored. Currently, Prairie Dog Town is listed as our fifth largest tourist attraction here. The section is landscaped with native plants and grasses and irrigation is installed

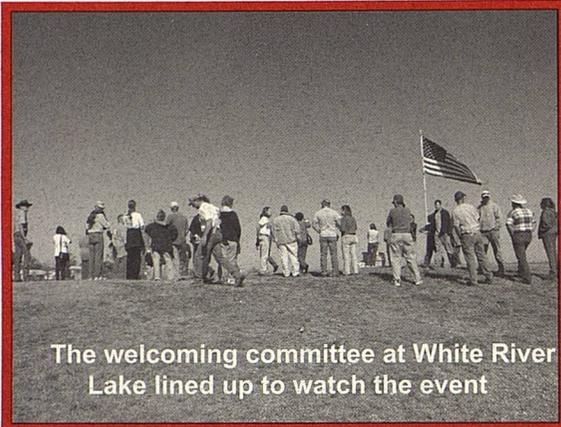


in the interior section. In addition to a shade pavilion, other improvements include a sidewalk, fencing, visitor parking, and a turnaround for buses. Interpretive signage is in the works and will explain the history of the Prairie Dog Town, along with habitat requirements. Now planning and work begins to enhance the native grasses and forbs that the furry rodents depend on for proper nutrition.

A keystone species like the prairie dog contributes to a wide diversity of life and helps support the prairie ecosystem of which they are an integral part.

Enriching the habitat with its burrowing behavior, the Prairie Dog benefits over 100 other prairie species. Some animals depend on Prairie Dogs as a food source including foxes, coyotes, badgers, Golden Eagles and Ferruginous Hawks. In addition to providing homes for the Burrowing Owl, other animals use the burrows for shade, like jackrabbits. Prairie Dogs now occupy less than 1% of their historic range than they did just a century ago. Persecuted to the point of eradication in many parts of the southwest, the Black-tailed Prairie Dog is truly a symbol of the Plains.

The Best Gift we can Give...



The welcoming committee at White River Lake lined up to watch the event

On Veteran's Day, November 11th, volunteers released a young Bald Eagle that was admitted to the Wildlife Center August 8th, 2005. An entourage of fifteen volunteers and several members of the media met at the Center that morning and caravanned to the release site at White River Lake near Spur, Texas, about an hour away. This time of year other eagles migrate through that area, and waterfowl and fish on and in the lake provide an ample food supply for the eagles. The release location was selected on a peninsula along the shoreline, where the bird would have an expansive view of the lake and its

surrounds. The weather was perfect: sunny and beautiful, with a light breeze across the body of water. The bird's carrier was carefully set down on the ground and uncovered. The door was opened, and the rest was up to the eagle. As if sensing the freedom at hand, she stepped out with wings outstretched and reconnoitered for a few seconds glancing around at the new landscape. Moments later she took a step or two and suddenly lifted off the ground. She was airborne and free once again, as her strong, large wings carried her on her way.

This eagle was found near Dallas. She was transported to veterinarians in nearby Southlake, Texas, suf-

fering from trauma to the head. She may have been grazed by a car. On examination, it was learned that the bird was unable to see, but fortunately, this proved to be only a temporary condition.

Game wardens and veterinarians facilitated the transfer of the bird to Lubbock because our facility is state and federally approved to care for Golden and Bald Eagles.

Volunteer Brandon Best was her primary caretaker. Her condition improved over the first six weeks, and her vision

was restored. Two months ago she was moved to our large outdoor flight cage so she could start flying and exercising. She ate about a pound of food every day.

Visit our web site at spwrc.org to read Brandon's narrative of the weeks he spent with this magnificent bird, and see color photos of the Bald Eagle as she flies off free with the wind once more beneath her wings.



"I can do this!"

Photo credits: Brandon Best, Art McCasland and Rob Lee.

Did you know?

It may take as long as five or six years for the Bald Eagle's head to be adorned with the beautiful white feathers?

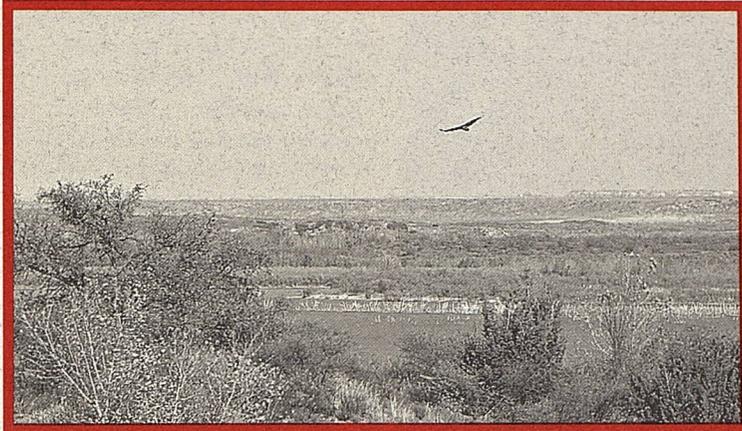
They can carry about eight pounds of food?

*"When thou seest an eagle,
thou seest a portion of
genius; lift up thy head!"*
— William Blake



"My spirit is about to soar!"

.... Freedom to the Animals in Our Care!



**Within minutes the Bald Eagle glides out over
White River Lake**

First Bald Eagle Release in 1997

Our last Bald Eagle release was February 9, 1997. Found 100 miles from Lubbock, a juvenile bird was found near death. She arrived January 18th, and the weeks of care and conditioning to get her on her way again were intense. After a clean bill of health by veterinarians, we fattened her up and then started flying her on a creance (a light nylon training line). She grew stronger daily. At last her day of freedom came. We took her back up north to the Texas Panhandle and opened her crate. She stepped outside, barely touched the ground, and was aloft. Soaring for 20 minutes, she ultimately was a mere speck in the afternoon sky. She was home.

More Bald Eagle Trivia

The Bald Eagle was chosen June 20, 1782 as the emblem of the United States of America because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks.

Like all birds, eagles have color vision.

...And Another Lucky Bird

On August 4th, Ed and Kay Sones, wildlife rehabilitators from Cedar Park just outside Austin, brought us a young Swainson's Hawk.

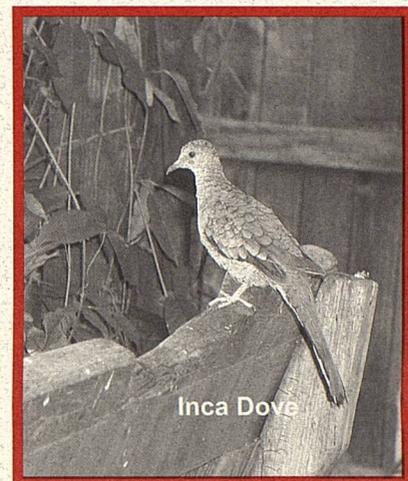
The bird came to Ed with a badly injured wing after he got caught in barbed wire. Ed gave it little hope for recovery, much less release. He did a magnificent and very intense job of treating the wing with big doses of patience and care, and by the time the bird arrived at our facility, he was almost ready for our large outdoor flight cage.

We'd seen photos of the injured wing, and it was a mess from the inside out.

On September 10 Ed's hawk and one other Swainson's Hawk was released in Lubbock County. Ed's hawk is in the photo to the right. Around the end of that month the Swainsons' Hawks pack their bags and get ready for their long migration back to South America to spend the winter.

This too, was a picture perfect release, and this bird was one more lucky traveler that we were able to lend a helping hand to, and make a big difference in his life.

Although few releases compare to the spectacular flight of an eagle returning to the wild, the everyday releases are important, too. Only five Inca Doves were admitted to the Wildlife Center this summer, but all survived. Two were released in September, and three



Inca Dove

smaller late babies will winter over and be released next spring. Over the past months, hundreds of songbirds, mammals and reptiles were given the best gift of all – the gift of freedom. It makes all our hard work very worthwhile, indeed.



**"Ed's" hawk high in a tree
after release**

NEWS and NOTES

* A huge THANK YOU to Rene Pearis-Coleman and the librarians at Godeke branch library. They sell corn to the public so they can feed the ducks and geese on the lake by the library. Recently they presented us with a check for \$190.25. We are so appreciative of your efforts in our behalf!

* Congratulations to Jeff Hickman, husband of former volunteer Beth Hickman, for a new job as an airline pilot with Southwest Airlines. The Hickmans now live near Dallas.

* Our Golden Eagle, Sierra was sick for a number of weeks, but has made a complete recovery. Thank you again to Jeff Jenkins of Levelland's Area Wide Medical Company for donating oxygen for the bird.

* Thank you to Jay Reichard for building me a wonderful new computer system. My Dell was six years old and dying fast!

* Congratulations to volunteer Ray Nitzschke and wife Karen on the birth of a granddaughter on September 30.

* Congratulations to Cameron Jones, who was honored during the Eagle Scout Ceremony November 14th at the Civic Center.

* Thanks to Angie Wilkins for donating the proceeds of the Wishing Well at Lil' Footprints to the Wildlife Center where children donated \$27.00

* A big thank you to Kathy Wynne of Crestwood, Kentucky for the box of office supplies, wildlife rehabilitation booklets and journals, two pairs of very nice eagle/raptor gloves and an animal "Ketch-pole."

* A decade ago in December 1995 our first Mockingbird Chronicles was published.

* On September 29th, the Wildlife Center was invited back to KLBK-TV to resume their "Wildlife Friday" segments. Debbie Tennyson alternates with Gail Barnes, and an animal goes to the studio each week to be highlighted. This is one more effort to help educate the public about the valuable natural wildlife resources we have here. Gail's taken Barn Owls and bats, and Debbie recently took our orphaned Bobcat kitten. Tune in Fridays and shortly after noon you can watch a short segment about one of our animals.

Gifts to Honor

Pam Taylor of Ralls, Texas, made a generous donation to the Wildlife Center in Honor of Christmas for the Clay McDuff family of Spring Hill, Florida; the Mark McDuff family of Colora, Maryland, and Chris and Kelley Johnson of Louisville, Kentucky.

Terry and Sue Morrow sent a Christmas gift in honor of Sarah Daghistry of Lubbock.

We appreciate your support during the holidays!



We sincerely appreciate your help We're concerned about our high utility bills this winter

*We'll miss you,
Harold Hurd*

Harold Hurd and his wife Rosie were volunteers at the Wildlife Center during our early days. Harold always had a smile for everyone, and he was our first handyman, fixing locks, helping with the lawn, and doing many odd jobs. Rosie did a little of everything, too, and clearly, they both loved the animals in our care. Harold passed away September 5, 2005, at age 92. After retiring he and Rosie enjoyed several years traveling, bird watching and working as volunteers. A kind, gentle man, he will be missed by his family, friends, and the many people who knew him as a member of the Llano Estacado Audubon Society chapter here in Lubbock.

Faith is the bird that sees the light while the dawn is still dark. — Unknown Author

Memorials

* Sympathy to Manager Debbie Tennyson; her brother Donnie Risenhoover died September 29th. Memorials were given by Maggie and Danny Hancock, Johnny & Suzanne Franklin and Carol and Rob Lee.

* Max and Karen Werkenthin of Austin sent a Memorial donation in the name of Baby Ulla, beloved Rottweiler of Sharon and Cary Kingston. The Kingstons have been longtime Wildlife Center supporters.

* Rosie Hurd sent a Memorial gift in the name of her husband Harold Hurd (see bottom column to the left for more on Harold).

* Maggie and Danny Hancock and Carol and Rob Lee gave a Memorial donation in the name of Katy Gallagher, daughter of Gail Barnes, full-time volunteer at the Wildlife Center.

* Marilyn Keffer of Littlefield sent a Memorial gift in the name of Allen Yoakum; acknowledgement was sent to Ed and LaJean Yoakum of Littlefield, Texas.

* Barbara T. Dennis and Peggy White of Lubbock sent a Memorial gift in the name of Bill Skipper of Lubbock. His wife, Kathy Skipper is a former Wildlife Center volunteer. Tony Skipper, her son, was notified of the gift per their request.

* A number of Memorial gifts were given in the name of Linda Ruth Lamberts, wife of Dr. David Lamberts of Lubbock. Linda passed away November 9, 2005. She loved animals and wildlife. Gifts were given by Lydia Mann of New York City, Ginny Schoen and Ann Moore; Dr. Douglas E. Kopp, Plainview, Texas; Dr. and Mrs. Van Moore; Dr. Benjamin Sims, Sims-Perrin Insurance; Dr. Bob and Judy Schultz; Wilkerson Storage Co.; Dr. Patrick Reeves, Dr. Brent and Susan Nall; Dr. Sham S. Gandhi; Mark and Suzette Brock; Louise and David Cummins; Erika and Dr. Lou Densmore, Slaton; Tammy and Terry Chancellor; Lubbock Model Railroad Association; Dr. and Mrs. Gary N. Foulks, Louisville, KY; Elise Neal Davis and Kenneth Davis, Santa Fe, NM; Jane and James Tustin, and the Faculty and Staff, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Adoptions

* Bill Van Pelt of Washington, D.C. adopted "Empress" our Peregrine Falcon for his friend Lynda Lamb of California for Christmas.

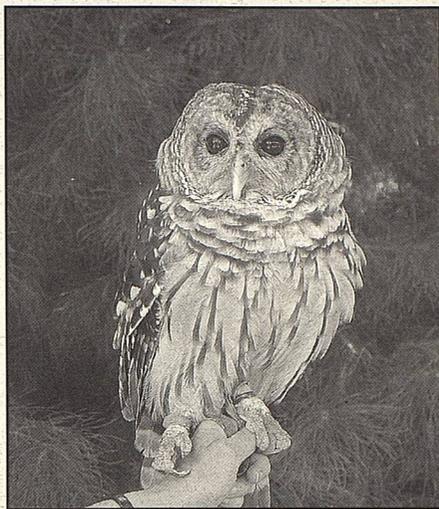
* Helen and Deana Cox of Lubbock adopted "Athena" our little Eastern Screech Owl, and also "Jasper" our resident Common Barn Owl.

* Valerie Komkov Hill adopted "Athena"

* Jasper was also adopted by Allan Mackenzie and his wife Mary Asbell.

* Dorothy Hanesworth of Matador, TX adopted "Bubo" for her son David, and "Jasper" for her son John.

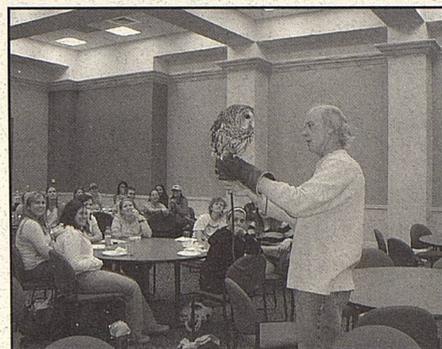
* Vickie Craig adopted "Sierra" in Memory of her father, Frank Cobb. Acknowledgement was sent to Dolores Cobb of Tyler, Texas.



"Shadow" is a Barred Owl and she is also available for adoption. She's been with us for several years, but space on our adoption page (see page 11) is limited. Shadow will be featured in our newsletter from time to time. Her leg was broken and pinned several years ago in Central Texas. Without complete use of her foot for hunting, she would not have been able to make a living. She's a wonderful wildlife ambassador, and one beautiful bird. Shadow can be adopted for \$35.00. When one of our wildlife ambassadors is adopted (sponsored), you or your gift recipient will receive a certificate with the animal's picture, its biography including how and why it arrived at our center, a profile of that species, and a year's subscription to the Mockingbird Chronicles. We keep track of what donor funds are designated for, and if you adopt an owl, your gift will be used for food for the owl you adopt and other owls in our care.

Speaking of owls, if you thought we had a lot of Common Barn Owls when you read last quarter's newsletter, the number of Barn Owls has since climbed to 117. That's 44 more owls over the last three months, and each and every owl (chicks and adults) consume – on average – 12 small or eight large mice a day. Growing youngsters eat many times their own weight and have voracious appetites. 93% were released -- only five adults and three babies died.

Education Programs



Rob holds "Shadow" the Barred Owl during Dr. Julie Thomas's class

Eight education programs were presented during October and November. November 3rd, volunteers hosted a field trip to the Center for eighth grade students from Lubbock Christian University. October 7, Harwell Elementary students also toured our facility and students were treated to a bat presentation by bat rehabilitator Gail Barnes. October 13th, volunteers traveled to the Texas Cooperative Extension in Levelland, Texas. A week later it was a visit to All Saints Episcopal School. October 27th, a bat program was presented at Northridge Elementary for 828 students. November 14th, Rob and Carol Lee did a program for Dr. Julie Thomas's group of about twenty-five pre-service and in-service teachers at Texas Tech. November 7th Brandon Best did a program for Cub Scout Pack #536 November 12th, another Boy Scout troop visited the Wildlife Center for a tour.

Volunteer Hours Top All Previous Records

An astounding 15,098 volunteer hours were donated from January 1-November 30, 2005.

This does not reflect the hours of Manager Debbie Tennyson, Director Carol Lee, Rob Lee, and Larry Barnes who is always helping Gail Barnes and others behind the scenes. This number also doesn't include time given by our Board Members or veterinarians. Thank you one and all for the combined efforts for wildlife!

NOTES....

* Thanks to Marla Carver, Peggy Mulcahy, Willie Haragan, Karen Martin and Pat Hollingworth for holiday gift-wrapping at Barnes and Nobles. During several dates we raised over fifty dollars! Thank you!

* If you're interested in tagging along to count birds during the annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 17 for a few hours or all day, e-mail Anthony Hewetson at terrverts@yahoo.com Novice or advanced birders are welcome to join the fun. This is the 106th year the count has been held. To read more on the Christmas Bird Count, visit <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> today.

* Mark your 2006 calendar for Tuesday, January 24th when Wildlife Center volunteers will again host the Llano Estacado Audubon Society program. Many of our wildlife ambassadors and volunteers will be on hand. Photography is welcome and the program is free to the public. It will be held at the Garden and Arts Center (44th and University) in Lubbock beginning at 7 PM. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!

* Thanks to Patrick Spithill and wife Bonnie Dockray (Sprague Massage Center) for their donation to our Christmas Party.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to everyone who supports our efforts. We appreciate every penny, and be assured that it goes directly to the treatment, care and housing of the wild animals entrusted to us.

Thank You to our Monthly Benefactors

Carré Avian
A.J. and Cindy Burkes, Denver City,
Texas
Joyce Badger
Lisa Bruster
Barbara Davis, now a Lubbock
resident
Joyce Komkov
Tom McLaughlin
Davis Melton
William and Deanna Schwartze

Donations and Gifts:

\$500.00

Donna and Jerry Zikmund
 Miniaturists of Lubbock (Julian Biggers,
 Treasurer)

\$200.00

Beth Elmore
 Dr. and Mrs. Jim Moyes

\$150.00

Mary and John Gillas
 Neil and Carolyn Molsbee (In Honor of
 our Volunteers)

\$125.00

Ed Mason and Nancy Ridenour,
 Bloomington, IL

\$100.00

Mr. Gordon Huff
 Dr. and Mrs. Billy Sealey
 Dr. Cheryl Weber and Frederick Weber

\$70.00

Juanice Myers

\$50.00

Karen Bosscher
 Dr. Karen Holman, Amarillo, TX
 Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
 "A gift for the birds"

\$50.00 (continued)

Deanie and Terry Thrash (missed last
 issue)
 Lesa Wood

\$25.00

Elizabeth and Christopher Addington,
 Wolfforth, TX
 Pamela and Vincent Breeland
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bridgers
 Helen and Deana Cox
 Ann Daghistany and Lynn Ransdell
 Dr. Lou & Erika Densmore, Slaton, TX
 Ron and Cathy Galey
 Karen Gretzler
 Blanch Guenat
 Morrie and Pat Hartman

"For a wonderful fall!"

Dr. Lynn and Mary Hatfield
 Valerie and Glenn Hill
 Shawnette Hinkle
 R.H. and DeeAnn Holder
 Fritz and Margie Jakobsmeier
 Wishing Well at Lil' Footprints (\$27.00)
 (Angie Wilkins, owner)
 Mary Lindsay
 Kevin McCormick
 Teresa Mills
 Sharon Mitchell
 Beverly Odell
 Sylvia and Lonnie Peek
 Stanley Shelton, Sears Workplace Giving
 Mike Strouse
 Mrs. R.E. Twilla
 Mary Wesley

\$20.00

Bryan Bennett
 Al Bendeck
 Laurel Burnette
 Douglas Dendy
 Brain Henderson
 Joyce Kahn
 Ken Ketner
 Ron Nance
 Christopher & Jennifer Piel
 Nita Raue, Shallowater, TX
 John Spencer

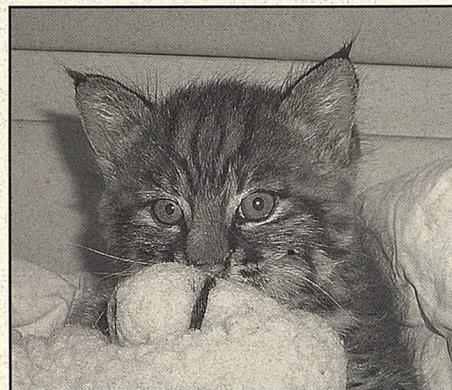
\$20.00 (continued)

Sarah Stoune
 Breck Wofford

\$15.00

Sandy and Bob Killebrew
 Marjorie Manning
 Kay Lee Sparkman

Note: If your gift arrived after November 30, it will appear in our March quarterly newsletter. December is one of the busiest month for administrative duties, and the newsletter must go to the printer as close as possible to December 1 so it can be printed, labeled, folded and mailed before Christmas.



Happy Holidays and Thank You!

Thank You for Supplies!

Thank you to Pat Christensen for three cases of soft drinks for volunteers); Cookie Noland (dog food); Lewrie Close; Carol & Mike Hill (welding and latex gloves); Sara Groce (glass eye droppers), Dick Markham (peanuts); Dr. Suman Ahuja (3 heater fans); Gafford Brothers, Jeff Jenkins (Area Wide Medical, Lubbock and Levelland); Bebe and Art McCasland, Big Spring (bird seed and beef heart for our raptors); United Grocery on 82nd and Boston for produce; Sandy Owens (latex gloves); Pam Casto (animal food); Mike Randolph; Sylvia Peek (cage); Amy McCarthy (cleaning supplies); Daryl Young (animal food); Mary Dee Hamma, Eric Greiner, Connecticut (60# bird seed).

Adopting a Wildlife Ambassador Helps Pay for its Annual Care

EACH \$50
 SIERRA, RIGHT
 GOLDEN EAGLE
 PERCY, FAR RIGHT
 AM. WHITE PELICAN



C.C., RIGHT \$50
 BALD EAGLE
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 GREAT HORNED OWL
 BOBBY, FAR RIGHT
 BOBCAT



GRACIE, RIGHT \$40
 GRAY FOX
 JASPER, FAR RIGHT \$35
 COMMON BARN OWL



HOOTIE, RIGHT \$35
 BURROWING OWL
 RICKY, NEXT RIGHT \$35
 ALBINO RACCOON
 HARRIS, CENTER \$30
 HARRIS'S HAWK
 OLLIE, NEXT RIGHT \$30
 M. FREE-TAILED BAT
 FESTUS, FAR RIGHT \$30
 TURKEY VULTURE



EACH \$30
 FIFI, RIGHT
 STRIPED SKUNK
 MADDIE, FAR RIGHT
 AMERICAN KESTREL



EACH \$25
 LOUIE, RIGHT
 EASTERN SCREECH OWL
 ATHENA, FAR RIGHT
 EASTERN SCREECH OWL



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Total amount enclosed \$ _____

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Adoption of _____
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Adoption of _____
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Membership levels: ◆ Millennium Member \$5000 ◆ Life Member \$1000 ◆ Benefactor \$500 ◆ Patron \$100 ◆ Supporting Member \$50 ◆
 ◆ Organization or Group \$30 ◆ Family Membership \$25 ◆ Individual Membership \$20 ◆

Gift Gift in memory of _____

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Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

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◆ Please make checks payable to SPWRC ◆ Send to: SPWRC ◆ c/o Carol Lee ◆ 3101 77th Street ◆ Lubbock, TX 79423 ◆ Thank you ◆

Just Another Sunday... by Brandon Best

On Sunday, November 27, I was out at the Center taking care of normal morning chores when the phone rang. It was Laura Forsythe with Lubbock Animal Services; there was a call in about a Mule Deer buck in a backyard at 38th & Indiana Avenue, right in the middle of town! Laura asked for advice and tranquilizing the animal - the most important thing is to not give the deer too much drug, that could kill it. While we don't normally make house calls, this was a special situation, so I offered my help. I arrived to find Lubbock Police, Animal Services, and a Texas Game Warden all on the scene, and just in time to see an Animal Services officer dart the buck with a tranquilizer gun. The drug began to kick in within a minute, but the dart really agitated the deer, and he had enough of that yard. With a bound, he was over the front fence and off down 38th street, leaving us behind. For 20 min-



Game wardens and Animal Services officers load the sleepy buck into the truck for transport to a safer place outside the city

utes we all searched for the buck to no avail. Finally he was sighted in another backyard, nearly a mile away, at 37th & University. When I got there, the drugs were kicking in on the deer, and we were able to surround it.

Standing on a fence, an Animal Services officer dropped a lasso around the deer's neck, but when it was pulled tight the buck came back to life and took off. This nearly pulled the officer off the fence, and fearing an escape, I jumped into the yard and was able to grab the deer's head, and like a rodeo bulldogger I was able to bring the sleepy buck to the ground. Police and Animal Services piled on and we secured his legs, and subdue him with plastic cable ties. The buck was loaded into the Game Warden's pickup (pictured here), and transported to Buffalo Springs Lake for release. Based on the buck's condition, he was deep into his annual rut, and probably wandered into town in search of a doe. Fortunately, there was a great team effort by everyone involved, and a successful resolution to a very tricky situation. There's rarely a normal day for people who work with wildlife.



Complimentary
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Newsletter of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
c/o Carol Lee
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The Mockingbird Chronicles