

The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 2/ 2010

It's Baby Season !



Highlights:

- More changes afoot p. 2
- Fundraiser Wrap-Up p. 4
- Your Gifts Make a Difference! p. 6-7

Letter from the Director



I hope readers like our newsletter's new look. This was done to give it a facelift, as well as to save money, time and stream-

line the entire process. Yes, even with the color photos and glossy paper, we're saving money. We want to include more photos and short stories, and keep our donors informed about what their funds are being used for.

Speaking of donors, everyone who gives a contribution of \$20 or more during this quarter will be recognized as they have been in the past, but that may also change in future issues, again in an effort to save time, paper and resources. Adoptions and Tributes will be handled as they have been in the past. We're also considering going to an 8-page issue in March and September when things are less busy. Our Holiday issue will still be 12-pages.

If you'd like to subscribe to a pdf version, we'll be happy to deliver your quarterly newsletter to your email box; just notify me when you renew, or let me know by e-mail at spwrc@suddenlink.net

We polled readers about a pdf version versus a hard copy several issues ago, and the responses were pretty equally divided, so for now, we'll continue to offer both.

Now in our twenty-second year of service, many thousands of wildlife orphans and casualties have been given a second chance at life and freedom thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers, the generous donation of time and skill by our veterinarians, and in particular, the generous giving by our many our donors. Without funds, we can't accomplish anything.

For nineteen years we remained 100% volunteer, but finally realized we had to hire one employee to work five days per week, and one employee to work the other two.

At the present time, our monthly expenditures average approximately \$6,000. Even though we're required to keep current permits from Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, no funding whatsoever is provided by either regulatory agency.

We hope you like what you see, and know that our combined efforts are definitely making a difference. Throughout this issue are photos of past and present wildlife orphans or casualties and all were given a chance to return to the wild, and what better gift than freedom. Thanks to all of you who help make our work possible.

Carol

June 19th Open House

Join us at the Wildlife Center Saturday, June 19th between 11 AM - 2 PM to see what goes on behind the scenes at a busy regional wildlife center. We'll have refreshments, and you can meet and greet our staff and volunteers.

We're not open to the public on a daily basis because most of our animals are orphaned youngsters or are recuperating from illness or injury. It's in their best interest to have minimal human contact while they're with us.

Bebe McCasland will also be on hand to sign her new book, "The Scoop from Bird Poop," which features many of the animals she brought to our Center from Big Spring and other areas. Stop by "Ambassador Row" to see our hawks, owls, ravens and vultures; see our outdoor pond, Memorial Brick Walkway, (see brick walkway update, page 9) and amphitheater; visit our baby bird building, and have a look at little squirrels and other young mammals in the main work area.

We ask \$1.00 donation for everyone over 4 years old to help offset our summer expenses. Photography is allowed. Park next door (south) at the Indiana Baptist Church parking lot. We're located at 95th and Indiana Avenue, East side.



Come by during Open House to see water lillies in full bloom in our outdoor pond

The Mockingbird Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. (SPWRC). The organization is an IRS determined 501(c)(3) non-profit facility that cares for orphaned, injured, ill and displaced wild animals with the ultimate goal of returning wildlife back to its natural habitat.

SPWRC holds state and federal permits but receives no funding whatsoever from either regulating agency. SPWRC operations are maintained through donations, gifts, education programs, quarterly newsletter subscriptions, memorial contributions, "wildlife ambassador" sponsorships and fundraising events. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

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Operations Manager	Katie Stafford

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South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. is located at 3308 95th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423. (95th and Indiana, East side of street).

We can be reached by phone at 806-799-2142, by email at spwrc2@yahoo.com or learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org

Cover:

Top Left: Juvenile Mockingbird
Top Right: Western Kingbirds
Bottom Left: Juvenile Northern Oriole
Bottom Right: Young Virginia Opossum
Photos : Carol Lee

Volunteer Spotlight



Matt Garcia holds "Vincent" the Chihuahuan Raven

Matt Garcia, engaged to our Operations Manager Katie Stafford, took an almost-instant liking to the Wildlife Center and what we do there.

Born in Kermit, Texas, his parents were actually on their way to Alpine, Texas, but Kermit was the town along the way where Matt was born.

Asked what he likes most about the Wildlife Center he says, "Being able to make a solid connection with the animals I work closely with. Knowing so many people just drive by a hurt animal when it's lying there, there are also the ones who stop and make a real difference. Who else can say one of their closest friends is a Chihuahuan Raven?"

Matt's hobby is cooking and trying new dishes, but he also loves to paint, skateboard and write.

He says further, "As far as job aspirations go I'd one day love to have my own restaurant but in reality would settle for a job that pays enough to take care of my family and allow me the time to do the things I love."

I asked Matt if he had pets, and he replied, "I have none at this moment but I'm hoping to get a few pets in the near future; it's strange to me to not have pets, as growing up I spent a majority of my time as a ranch hand, so being a city boy now with no pets is a bit strange!"

Matt often cooks and brings in food for our volunteers. We appreciate your work on the Center's behalf.Ed.



Curved-billed Thrasher
One of several Thrashers growing up in our aviary

Education

Gail Barnes presented fifty-five education programs since January.

Many of these were in distant locations and many were multiple programs. We're very appreciative of Gail, as many of these presentations generate income for the Wildlife Center. Often other volunteers assist her, but sometimes she goes solo.

It's a lot of work getting the birds ready and into their respective carriers, loading the car, driving to the program location and unloading all the birds and their crates. Then it's loading again after the presentation and returning to the Center to unload one last timeand clean and store the carriers.

It's a big but important job, and we're grateful to everyone who helps spread the word about the importance of wildlife as a natural resource.



Gail Barnes presented a wildlife education program at the Sibley Nature Center in Midland, TX May 22nd

Memorials

Maggie and Danny Hancock made a Memorial donation in the name of Joe B. (J.B.) Thames. Craig and Marianne Hancock of Lubbock were notified of their Memorial contribution.

Maggie and Danny Hancock also made a Memorial donation in the name of Dr. Pat Allen who passed away April 20th. His wife Kathy Allen was notified of their Memorial gift.

A Memorial gift in Dr. Pat Allen's name was also made by Gail Barnes.

Another Memorial gift in Dr. Pat Allen's name was given by Carol Lee

A Memorial gift was given by Kathy and Frank Phillips in the name of Steely Saffle. Doug and Sherry Saffle of Lubbock were notified of their kindness.



"I was released!"

Adoptions

*William and Sarahlee Morris adopted "Miss Hoary," our newest wildlife ambassador.

*Cub Scout Pack 402 adopted "Bobby" (Sheri and Jim Mason)

*Melinda Mason adopted "Jasper" and "Miss Hoary"

*Lloyd and Lois Shroud of Manor, TX adopted "Shadow." They brought Shadow to us years ago!

*Lea Gustafson of New Home, Texas adopted "Bubo" during our "Night on the Wild Side fundraiser!"

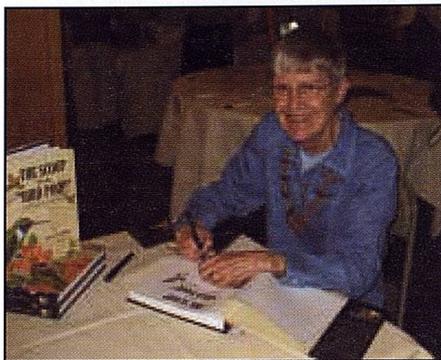
Thank you for a successful "Night on the Wild Side"

Our April 30th "Night on the Wild Side" fundraiser held at McPherson Cellars Winery raised over \$7200.00 and for that we're sincerely grateful! We are very appreciative of Kim McPherson for donating his beautiful facility to us for this fun evening. Thank you to Law Firm Glasheen, Valles, Inderman and DeHoyos, LLP for helping sponsor our event. Lubbock musician Mike Pritchard provided great music, and guests enjoyed wonderful hors d'oeuvres and fine McPherson Cellars wines. Bebe McCasland signed her new book, "The Scoop from Bird Poop" and we're grateful to Bright Sky Press for donating 30% of the book sales to the Wildlife Center.

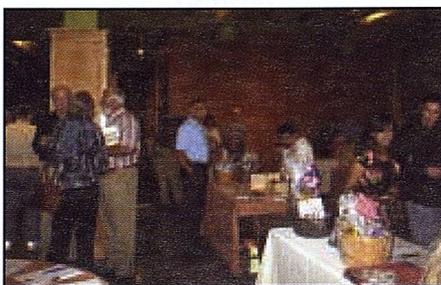
Our event was catered by Ambrosia Catering, (David Reed, Chef and Owner). Many area merchants contributed Gift Certificates and items for our silent auction, and teachers and students at Ramirez school donated ten beautiful themed baskets, also for auction. We are appreciative to everyone for the success of this event, with special kudos to Manager Katie Stafford and volunteer Danny Hancock for spearheading donation requests in the business community. Thanks also to Barry and Shelia Johnson, Ray Nitschke, Gail and Larry Barnes, Rob Lee and Melissa Maleckar.

Event Contributors

Attorneys Glasheen, Valles, Inderman and DeHoyos, LLP
 Southwest Airlines
 Six Flags over Texas, Arlington, TX
 Six Flags over Texas, San Antonio, TX
 Dallas Zoo
 Houston Zoo
 50th Street Caboose
 Above & Beyond Pet Care Hospital
 Alternative Food Company
 Andrew Wilks, Sculptor
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 Bob Barker
 Bodyworks
 Cactus Theater
 Caprock Wine Company
 McPherson Cellars Winery
 Llano Estacado Winery
 Chapparral Ridge Golf Course
 Meadowbrook Golf Course
 Stone Gate Golf Course



Bebe McCasland signs her books



Guests look over Silent Auction items



Volunteers get together for a thank-you pizza party at Carol and Rob's for their hard work to make the April 30th event a success

Special thanks to Bonnie Bart, receptionist at Mason Warner and Co. for taking reservations for our "Night on the Wild Side."

Event Contributors, continued

Diane Dycus
 Drury Hotels
 Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
 Freebirds World Burrito
 Gebo's
 Glazed Honey Ham Co.
 Golden Corral
 Grainger, Inc.
 Heavenly Paws,
 Holiday Inn Express, Canyon, TX
 Texas Panhandle Heritage "Texas!" tickets
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 Juanice Myers
 Mikki Senkarik
 Lil' Footprints
 Little Caesars Pizza
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 Papa John's Pizza
 1 Guy From Italy Pizza
 Lou and Erika Densmore
 Lubbock Symphony Orchestra
 Main Event
 McAlister's Deli
 Melissa Maleckar
 Outback Steakhouse, Paul Willems, Prop.
 Pampered Paws
 Pinkies
 Scentys
 Schlotzsky's Sandwiches
 Scott's Complete Car Care
 Southwest Plastic Surgery Center
 Steak Express
 Tandy Nelson
 Leanna Smith
 Linda Steffey
 Charles Swift
 Terry Dunfield
 Texas Roadhouse
 Triple J Chop House and Brew Pub
 Texas Tech University
 Well Body Natural Foods
 Woodrow House Bed and Breakfast
 Zach's Club

When is a hawk not a hawk?

The Center gets calls - especially in fall - about Nighthawks, and people ask if these small birds with a tiny beak and big mouth are really hawks. The answer is NO. Improperly associated with hawks, nighthawks, poorwills, chuck-wills-widows and whip-poor-wills are members of a family of birds whose scientific name is *Caprimulgiformes*, or nightjars. They're also known by the unflattering term "goatsuckers" based on an ancient belief that these birds fed on goat's milk at night, but their presence near such animals was undoubtedly due to the insects attracted by goat herds. If you're interested, you can read more in a column I wrote about them for the Lubbock Avalanche Journal in November 2008 at http://lubbockonline.com/stories/111608/col_356546517.shtml. The name is derived because the nighthawk "hawks" insects.

Wikipedia defines hawking: "Hawking," or hawking insects, is the primary feeding strategy for some birds, including most typical nightjars and some other species including kingbirds. The term comes from the similarity of this behavior to the way hawks take prey in flight, although, unlike most hawks, birds hawking insects don't catch their prey with their feet.

Typically, a bird that is hawking will watch for prey from a suitable perch.

When it spies potential prey, the bird chases it and catches it in its beak then returns to a perch. Prey that's very small relative to the bird, such as gnats, may be consumed immediately while in flight, but larger prey, like moths, are usually brought back to a perch before being eaten."

Other birds that hawk insects on the wing are swifts, swallows, kingbirds and flycatchers.

If your donation arrived after May 27th it will be acknowledged in our fall quarterly newsletter. If anything has been inadvertently omitted, please notify Carol Lee at spwrc@suddenlink.net

Hopefully by the time this newsletter arrives in mailboxes, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will be completely contained. In Louisiana, according to enature.com, the fragile wetlands are home to more than 269 species of birds, including the once endangered Brown Pelican, Louisiana's state bird.

Many species of herons live in the oil spill areas, including Black Crowned Night Herons.



Immature Black-crowned Night Heron

It's also home to more than 51 species of mammals including bobcats and otters, and home to over 120 species of alligators, turtles, toads, frogs and snakes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with Tri-State Bird Rescue and British Petroleum to provide wildlife assistance for species who may be impacted by the oil spill. FWS stresses, "Coordination is vitally important for recovery and research efforts, and specific safety requirements and other requirements must be met before anyone will be allowed on-site for any participation." Wildlife rehabilitators are being contacted through the Service in several affected states.

Others who don't qualify as a paraprofessional but are still interested in volunteering can get more information by visiting

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>.

Oil Spill Disaster



Plumage changes drastically over 2-3 years as Black Crowned Night Herons age, as you can see by these photos

In 1976, following five oil spills on the Delaware River, Lynne Frink founded Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research Inc., Today, Tri-State operates a federally licensed, non-profit avian rehabilitation clinic open daily that cares for more than 3500 injured, sick and orphaned native North American birds annually and also staffs a professional 24-hour oil spill response management team.

Under Frink's guidance, Tri-State gained an international reputation for leadership in oil spill management and training. Lynn passed away in 1998, but demonstrates how one person really can make a difference.



Juvenile American Robins also don't look exactly like their adult counterparts

YOUR GIFTS HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR

Youngsters that appear on these pages are admitted every spring and summer, and the animals pictured have all been cared for at our Center.

Breeding season at the Wildlife Center means long days for volunteers and staff. Baby birds are fed, on average, every thirty minutes during daylight hours, and that's about twenty-five feedings per day. As nestlings grow and develop into fledglings, they eat less often and are soon on their way to complete independence.



Blue Jay Fledgling



Juvenile Yellow-shafted Flicker

Transition to independence is gradual. As young birds and mammals graduate from a nest cup or incubator to a cage, the next step is encouraging them to eat on their own.

Once they've mastered picking up food from a dish, they're moved to an outdoor enclosure. Here they're slowly weaned from human presence, hand fed only occasionally, and birds can perfect their flying skills in our spacious outdoor aviary.

Mule and White-tailed Deer fawns enjoy privacy and a yard all their own, as they, too, are weaned from baby bottles and formula to nutritious, solid foods.

Every species is introduced to their natural foods as well – these are foods they'll have to forage or hunt for in the wild – insects, mice, berries and vegetable matter.



White-tailed Deer Fawn

When youngsters in the aviary are all flying well, eating on their own, waterproof, accustomed to outdoor sounds and noises and at least four or five days of favorable weather are in the forecast, the hatches to the outside are opened. Birds can leave at once, or stay until they're ready to venture out into the world outside; sometimes that can be several days or longer.

Back-up food is provided in hanging containers behind the aviary so birds can return whenever they fall short finding their own meals. Many return for days and even weeks for supplemental food. At dusk, hatches are closed to protect those still inside from predators. Birds choosing to remain outdoors are generally safe in one of the many trees nearby.

Baby Birds 101

Read about baby birds on our web site at spwrc.org

When young birds leave the nest, they're not good flyers. Many flop to the ground or teeter on a branch before taking the plunge from the nest. Many species are "altricial" and depend on the parents for extended periods of time. Most baby birds normally spend varying amounts of time on the ground until they perfect how to fly. **This is normal. Please don't pick up healthy fledglings – the parents are nearby, although you may not see or be aware of them.**

Remember "rescue, don't kidnap" and always use good common sense to evaluate a situation. *Rescue* for animal attacks; falls; lameness, bleeding, lethargy, etc.

WILDLIFE FOR THE PAST TWENTY-TWO YEARS!

Wildlife food and supplies are a significant component of our expenses.

Your dollars help buy food and formulas for baby birds, skunks and opossums, deer fawns and cotton-tails.

Your contributions also help pay for hundreds of pounds of "bird chow," food pellets for our turtle patients as well as meat and mice for our raptor (bird of prey) chicks.

Your gifts also help us purchase veterinary supplies for animals that need diagnostic tests like blood work or X-Rays or food and supplies for others that are ill or recuperating from surgery.

Our wonderful veterinarians don't charge for their services, but we purchase many things from them like syringes, first aid supplies and medications that allow us to do many minor treatments on site.

Our veterinarians sometimes still make house calls and trim the beaks and talons of our "wildlife ambassadors" – hawks, owls and vultures. Annually our birds receive a prophylactic dose of medication to immunize them against West Nile Virus.

"Like a great poet, Nature knows how to produce the greatest effects with the most limited means." Heinrich Heine
German poet (1797-1856)

Your donations help purchase heat lamps, heating pads and incubators, and your help pay our utility bills, which are especially high during baby season.



Common Barn Owl Chicks
Forty-eight Barn Owls were raised and/or treated during 2009



Chihuahuan Raven Nestlings



Burrowing Owl chick

During 2009, Wildlife Center staff and volunteers cared for 962 songbirds, 170 birds of prey, and 497 small and large mammals.



First Baby Blue Jay of 2010
Admitted May 21st



Great Horned Owl chicks being cared for surrogate mom "Bubo"

Thank you!

A very big thank you to Lubbock Apartment Association for their gift of \$3,000.

This was announced during Mayor Tom Martin's State of the City address January 12th, 2010.

The Wildlife Center was chosen to be this year's recipient of their gift, and for that we are sincerely appreciative!

Poachers still paying restitution

The evening of December 13th, 2003, Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden Mark Collins brought three gravely injured Trumpeter Swans to our Wildlife Center. An entire Trumpeter family of at least five birds was shot by poachers earlier that day and left to die in a field in Lockney. A pheasant hunter phoned authorities when he discovered the birds. Two birds were dead, and three gravely injured. Protected by state and federal laws, there is never a "season" on them. Their populations were nearly decimated at the turn of the century because of over-hunting, habitat loss and other causes.

One of the injured birds was "H99" a male Trumpeter hatched in 1999 in Iowa, and raised at the Swan Restoration Project, a captive breeding program operated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



Trumpeter Swan "H99"

In March 2000, the young swan received its red identifying neck band and released to the wild. Over the next three years, H99 was sighted in Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Poachers still paying restitution, continued

Somewhere along the way, H99 mated with a wild female trumpeter, and was nesting near Sleepy Eye, MN. The pair eventually produced four cygnets. In late fall 2003, the adult pair and their four cygnets left the Midwest, ending up in Lockney, Texas.

After being shot, dad and the remaining two cygnets required intensive and extensive care over the next few weeks. Trumpeter Swans weigh 25-30 pounds, and it took several volunteers each time they had to go to the veterinary clinic. Sadly, one of the juveniles had to be euthanized. Despite surgery, it was decided by all caretakers and Iowa DNR to relieve the bird's pain and suffering.

However, H99 and the remaining offspring survived, and left us December 31st. Volunteers Lindi and Joel Butler drove them to Des Moines, where the swans were met by Dave Hoffman from Iowa DNR. From there, the birds were taken to a swan rehabilitator in Spirit Lake (on the Iowa Great Lakes) for more surgery and rehabilitation. The two were eventually released back to the wild, and H99 wintered during 2005 within the safe confines of Wildwood Park and Zoo in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department immediately offered a \$1,000 reward for the poachers. Nine days later, four individuals came forward and confessed to shooting the swans. The four were fined a total of \$17,000—\$500 for each swan shot plus veterinary expenses and court costs.

Periodically the Wildlife Center receives a check from Texas Parks and Wildlife in Floyd County as we did again three months ago in the amount of \$502.50.

We don't know what became of H99 or his cygnet, but my guess is that if H99 died, his bright red neck band would have been reported to authorities, so we can hopefully assume he and his remaining offspring are still enjoying life in the far north.

Best wishes to Keystone Donor Joyce Komkov and to Board Member Beth Bartley as they recover.

Commemorative Brick Walkway Update

We hoped to have fifty new bricks engraved and laid by our summer Open House. However, only 28 have been sold for the second "batch." Sadler Monument Company will engrave in lots of fifty only, so hopefully we'll have those other 22 bricks sold by our December Open House.

SPWRC created a Memorial Brick Walkway so every-

one can have an opportunity to leave a meaningful and permanent mark on the Wildlife Center. This walkway of memories is composed of individual bricks inscribed with names,



personal messages, or memorable quotes. This is a wonderful way to support SPWRC while honoring a family member, friend or favorite pet.

The brick pathway is in front of the outdoor amphitheater on the Center's grounds. Each commemorative or memorial brick along the walk is available for purchase and will be inscribed according to your wishes. The 4"x 8" size will accommodate up to three lines with a maximum of 15 characters per line.

The walkway was started in October 2008, and is ongoing until all bricks are sold. Please make a donation and communicate your own love of the wildlife of the Texas South Plains and the Wildlife Center that has been caring for them for the past twenty-two years.

Special thanks to Board Member Beth Bartley for spearheading and executing this plan.

Visit our web site at spwrc.org and click on "Order a paving brick" on the left side. You can print and mail the instructions for your brick or bricks.

Adopting a "Wildlife Ambassador" helps pay for its annual care

PERCY, RIGHT \$50
AMERICAN
WHITE PELICAN



TOENAILS, CENTER \$45
SWAINSON'S HAWK



EMPRESS, RIGHT \$40
PEREGRINE FALCON



EACH \$45
BUBO 2, RIGHT
GREAT HORNED OWL



GRACIE, RIGHT \$50
GRAY FOX



BOBBY, FAR RIGHT \$50
BOBCAT

JASPER, FAR RIGHT \$45
COMMON BARN OWL

FARLEY, RIGHT \$35
BURROWING OWL



MISS HOARY, RIGHT \$40
HOARY BAT

RICKY, FAR RIGHT \$35
ALBINO RACCOON

FESTUS, FAR RIGHT \$30
TURKEY VULTURE



SHADOW, RIGHT \$45
BARRED OWL



ATHENA, RIGHT \$25
EASTERN
SCREECH OWL

MADDIE, FAR RIGHT \$35
AMERICAN KESTREL

VINCENT, FAR RIGHT \$30
CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN



YOUR NAME _____

ORGANIZATION OR GROUP _____

ADDRESS _____

Total amount enclosed _____

Membership amount \$ _____

Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Membership levels: ◆ Millennium Member \$5000 ◆ Life Member \$1000 ◆ Benefactor \$500 ◆ Patron \$100 ◆ Supporting Member \$50 ◆

Gift Gift in memory of _____ Gift Gift in memory of _____

Membership amount \$ _____ Membership amount \$ _____

Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____ Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

Recent Releases

The past few weeks we've released a number of animals: two Red-tailed Hawks, one of which had surgery that Dr. Jeanette Lubenau performed; nine Great Horned Owls, one Burrowing Owl and a number of Virginia Opossums, Eastern Gray Squirrels, Cottontails and a Jackrabbit.

One non-releasable Ferruginous Hawk was transferred with state and federal permission to Arkansas to a breeding facility.

On May 6th, a Sora was brought into the Wildlife Center for care.

Weak, emaciated and not eating on its own, Manager Katie Stafford went to work to get him back on his feet.

His progress was slow but steady, and on May 16th, he was fully recovered and released back to the wild. It's immensely satisfying to be able to see our work go full circle!

(Photo by Katie Stafford).



Our Sora returns to the wild

Species Profile: Sora (*Porzana carolina*)

The Sora's range is much of temperate North America. The Sora lives in freshwater wetland habitat throughout its range and also uses salt marshes while overwintering.

A Sora averages 8-10" long. They have a short yellowish bill and yellowish green legs. It has short, round wings that allow easy, maneuverable flight through tangled vegetation. Its legs are strong, and Soras prefer walking to flying.

Their nests are woven into a shallow basket from dead wetland vegetation and attached to stalks of dense, live vegetation. Nests are generally over or next to water.

The average clutch size is 10-12 brown, spotted eggs. Incubation by both parents lasts about 20 days, and is initiated with the laying of the first few eggs.

The young hatch asynchronously (not all at the same time). Precocial, (nearly independent soon after hatching) downy young may be cared for by one parent, while the other parent incubates remaining eggs.

Young Soras leave the nest shortly after hatching, and mainly forage for themselves.

The Sora is commonly heard in wetlands but is rarely seen. Similar to other rails, the Sora is a secretive species, hiding in the vegetation of its habitat.

Courtship and mating occur in early spring upon arrival at breeding grounds. Monogamous pairs are generally solitary, and defend their territories against invasion through calls and active chasing.

Predators of the Sora include herons, birds of prey and opportunistic mammalian predators.

Young Soras are especially vulnerable while foraging away from the protection of a parent.

The Sora's diet consists mainly of seeds, insects and snails.



This Red-tailed hawk is recovering after being shot in the wing. Dr. Jeanette Lubenau performed surgery

Did you know?

*It's not true that if you touch a baby bird the parents will abandon it. If a young fledgling is in harm's way near a street or schoolyard, move it to a safer location nearby. Parents recognize their offspring the same way we do: by sight and sound.

*Providing nectar from backyard feeders attracts over fifty species of birds such as hummingbirds, orioles, warblers and tanagers.



Red Admiral stops by for a drink

The photo above is Carol and Rob's hummingbird feeder with a Red Admiral Butterfly nectaring at it.

Carol also had a call recently from a Buffalo Springs Lake resident who reported a Northern Oriole at her hummingbird feeder.

To make hummingbird nectar use 1 part granulated sugar to 4 parts water. Heat enough to dissolve sugar; it's not necessary to boil water. Never add red food color. Hang feeder in shade and use an art guard if it draws ants.

Always clean feeder thoroughly between uses and keep unused nectar refrigerated.

The Great Horned Owl chick pictured below is growing up in our incubator right now.



Acknowledgements

Thanks to everyone who helps support our efforts. We appreciate every penny, and with donor contributions, we can continue to help injured, displaced, ill and orphaned wildlife.

Our Keystone Donors

Carre Avian
Karen Bosscher
AJ and Cindy Burkes
Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
Joyce Komkov
Katricea Lampley, Seminole, TX
Joyce Lisenby
Dave Melton
Tom McLaughlin
William and Deanna Schwartz

\$3,000.00

Lubbock Apartment Association (The Mayor's Luncheon)

\$500.00

Dr. David and Lewrie Close
McKinstry Co. Charitable Foundation,
Seattle, WA, and Lindsay Goodsell,
employee

\$150.00 - \$300.00

Brandy Bailey
Margaret Gates, Artesia, NM
Cindy Martin
Juanice Myers
Mark and Karla Richards
Riley Tully

\$ 100.00

Matthew Anthony
Dr. Nancy Chasteen, Farwell, TX
Carol Daugherty and James Wallace
Robert and Shirley Flache, Brownfield, TX
Mary and John Gillas
Danny and Maggie Hancock
Dr. Lola Page

\$50.00 - \$60.00

People's Bank, Lubbock, TX
Susan and Gary Bishop
Ken Dixon
Janie and Glenn Forister
Lawayne and Carolyn Fowler
Jim and Sherri Mason
Jay and "Charlie" McCollum,
Colorado City, TX

\$50.00 - \$60.00 continued

Sarahlee and William Morris
Frank and Kathy Phillips
Judy and Ron Rainger
Howard and Glenda Reynolds
Student Council, Sudan High School
Sudan, TX (for a recycling project)

\$25.00 - \$50.00

Petronella Arledge
Susan and Gary Bishop
Robert H. Flores
John and Stephanie Gaschen
Holle Humphries and Tai Kreidler
Paul Johnson
Lucia MacGregor
David and Vicki Marshall, Lorenzo, TX
Susan McIntire
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Yolanda and Johnny Serrano
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Mary Wesley

\$ 20.00

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Carole Daniel
Kristina Ertner
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Kathy Hinson
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Jolonna Martin, Levelland
Russell Moore
Tony Moreno
Nita Rylant
Linda Steffey

\$ 20.00, continued

Shirley Stevens
Gary Voyles
Elizabeth Watson

If your donation was inadvertently omitted, please let me know (spwrc@suddenlink.net) and it will be included in the next issue. We make every attempt to include all donations of \$20.00 and over.

Thank you for supplies

Russell Moore - Animal Food
Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Plainview TX
Pat Christensen - sodas for volunteers
Bebe and Art McCasland,
Big Spring, TX Beef heart
Don, Debbie and Adrian Smith, Pet bowls
Pam Casto - Cat litter boxes and beds
Larry and Gail Barnes - Mice and raptor
vitamins



Our "Wish List"

Gift Cards from: PetsMart
United and United Market Street grocery
Office Supply stores
Wal-Mart and Sam's Club
Also: Paper towels
Pop up tissues
Zip-loc bags, all sizes
Liquid laundry detergent
Dawn dishwashing liquid
Strained baby food meat,
vegetables, applesauce
Heating pads
(Without Automatic Shut-off)
Flannel baby receiving blankets
High quality bird seed mix

The Mockingbird Chronicles

Newsletter of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

c/o SPWRC, Inc.
3308 95th Street
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This issue is dedicated to the thousands of wildlife babies we've raised and released, and to our donors who help make our work possible!