

# The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 1 / 2013

## Our 25th Anniversary Celebration Coming in April!



### Highlights:

- Our 25th Anniversary Fundraiser.....5
- "Wildlife Wednesday" classes for kids coming to  
the Wildlife Center in June!.....3



Bayer CropScience

Bayer CropScience is a proud sponsor  
of "The Mockingbird Chronicles"

## Letter from the Founder



Carol Lee

We have a lot to be excited about – our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (details on the following page), our pilot program “Wildlife Wednesdays” for youngsters (page 3), and another busy “baby season” just around the corner.

Grants from South Plains Foundation last spring, and three other grants from CH Foundation, Helen Jones Foundation and Dora Roberts Foundation during fall, 2012, are all helping make our dream of an on-site education center a reality. Work has already begun with the purchase of paint, new furniture and a portable PA system for use in our outdoor amphitheater and at large education programs.

Between now and June we'll be purchasing equipment and everything else needed to start offering on-site programs and fun, educational activities.

It's hard to believe twenty-five years have passed since our humble beginning, but we couldn't be prouder of our many accomplishments and milestones.

We've given hundreds of students and volunteers some experience lending a helping hand to wildlife, and best of all- for many thousands of wildlife patients - a second chance at life, freedom and return to their place in our natural world. Area veterinarians, grant makers, donors, friends, supporters, past and present board members, students, teachers, interns, Lubbock businessmen and the local media have all contributed to our unanticipated but remarkable success!

My philosophy is, “If you work hard and believe in what you do, you can make a difference” – and I believe we have.

Recently I found a draft written for a winter, 1999, newsletter. It read, “There's always too much work, too many animals, not enough time to get everything done. Were we making any difference at all, or was I simply afraid to give up because everyone would say, ‘I told you so?’ And what about all of those little lives in our care depending on us?”

Inevitably, someone came along with a word of encouragement, a donation, or offer to help.

Whatever those catalysts were, they always came at the right time to keep us going.

We don't always get what we want, but we've always seemed to have what we need - and that enables us to keep going - and I'm very thankful for that, twenty-five years later!

*Carol*

**midtown**  
printing & graphics

Thank you to John Frullo, Melissa Boone and the staff at Midtown Printing & Graphics in Lubbock for their great job on our quarterly newsletters and other printed materials.

**Front Cover:**  
**Lesser Goldfinch**  
**Taken at Bosque del Apache NWR,**  
**New Mexico, by Danny Hancock**  
**(December, 2012)**  
**(See his photo of an American**  
**Goldfinch on page 7)**  
**Also by Danny Hancock:**  
**female Cardinal on mail page**

*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, grants, education programs, quarterly newsletter subscriptions, tributes, “wildlife ambassador” sponsorships and fundraising events. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

Founder	Carol Lee
Operations Manager	Daniel Andrews
Asst. Operations Mgr.	Ami Knox
Education Coordinator	Gail Barnes

## Officers and Directors

## Board of Directors and Officers

Dr. Jim Moyes, President
Rob Lee - Vice President
Carol Lee, Secretary
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Gail Barnes
Lisa Gilliland
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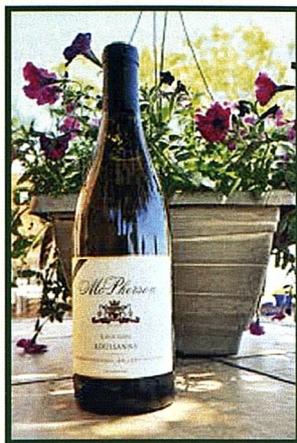
South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. is located at 3308 95th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423. (95th and Indiana, East side of street).

SPWRC can be reached by e-mail at spwrc 2@yahoo.com Learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org and follow us on Facebook.

You can reach volunteer Gail Barnes or Operations Manager Daniel Andrews to schedule a program or community service work at 806 799-2142.

Founder Carol Lee can be reached at spwrc@suddenlink.net

## Our 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION is April 12th, 2013!



The Wildlife Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and spring fundraiser, "Night on the Wild Side" is fast approaching and set for Friday, April 12, 2013, from 6:30 - 9 PM at McPherson Cellars in Lubbock (1615 Texas Avenue). "Ambrosia" (David Reed and his staff) will cater for the third time. Musician Kyle Abernathie will provide more great live music and we're delighted to have him back again this year.

Tickets are \$25.00 (\$30.00 at the door) and you can secure your reservation by sending a check for ticket(s) to SPWRC, 3308 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Lubbock, TX 79423. Two complimentary glasses of wine are included in the ticket price. Space is limited to 200, and we encourage early reservations.

We have some great items for our silent auction, including two roundtrip tickets from Southwest Airlines, a 3-night stay at a condominium in Angel Fire, NM; tickets to the Dallas, Abilene and Fort Worth Zoos, artwork, jewelry, a 100.00 MasterCard and other Gift Certificates/Gift cards. These are just a few of the many items that have been donated thus far. If you can donate a new item (by April 5th) we'd be delighted.

If you pay for tickets with PayPal via our web site (spwrc.org) be sure to indicate your payment is for ticket(s). If you're unable to leave a comment at the PayPal site, let Carol Lee know by email (spwrc@suddenlink.net). Special thanks to Kim McPherson, Rico Vega (Thomas Agency), our Board of Directors, Sara Mckee, Gail Barnes and our two Texas Tech interns, Devin McCain and Sydnee Woodman. A complete list of merchants and donors will be acknowledged in our June quarterly newsletter.

## "Wildlife Wednesdays" coming to SPWRC this summer for kids ... thanks to help from four Foundations and Bayer CropScience

Thanks to grant funding from four Foundations and Bayer CropScience during 2012 and early 2013, our pilot program for summer education programs is starting this June. Do you know a child 9-11 years old (4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade) who would like to be part of our new "Wildlife Wednesdays" summer learning program?

From 1-3 PM on June 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2013, we'll be launching our summer learning program. Classes will be held at the house on SPWRC's property at 95<sup>th</sup> and Indiana Avenue. It will be fast paced, informal and interactive, and most of all, fun for youngsters who want to learn things about wildlife they probably won't learn in school. We're excited about sharing Lubbock's "Wild Side!"

Basic concepts will emphasize wildlife as a natural resource. We'll learn about characteristics that make birds unique, feathers, habitat, courtship, nests, eggs, migration, laws that protect wild birds, endangered species, the plume industry and dawn of conservation. We'll discuss how people impacted and altered wildlife populations and their habitats. We'll also learn about some of Lubbock's common birds.

We'll discuss birds of prey in detail, their vision, hearing and other adaptations; how beaks and feet of raptors help them make a living. Students will visit our raptors that reside on the property. During our session on mammals, we'll talk about species found in our area and learn about Texas bats. Carol Lee will teach the classes, but we may also have a few guest speakers on one or more of the Wednesday sessions. Materials will be provided, and details are available on request. The cost for the four two-hour sessions is \$50.00 made payable to SPWRC. For more information call Carol Lee at 806 745-8120 or email her at spwrc@suddenlink.net with "Wildlife Class" in the subject line. Thanks to the Helen Jones Foundation, South Plains Foundation, CH Foundation and Dora Roberts Foundation for helping make this giant leap forward possible! Carol taught "Super Saturdays" at Texas Tech for a number of years, and has been involved in wildlife education since 1989. SPWRC holds a Special Purpose Possession permit to retain non-releasable migratory birds for educational purposes, issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



*"Each moment of the year has its own beauty...a picture which was never before seen and shall never be seen again"*

*...Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)  
American poet, essayist, and philosopher  
who believed in the need for harmony  
between man and nature.*



Bayer CropScience

### Bayer CropScience: Proud Supporter of SPWRC

Thank you again to Bayer CropScience for their January, 2013 gift of \$2,000. This year these funds are earmarked to help with costs associated with our education outreach programs throughout the year.

## Adoptions

\*Dwight Overton of Lubbock adopted "Shadow," our Barred Owl, for Shawn Overton of Seminole, Texas; "Jasper," the Common Barn Owl for Eric Overton of Dallas, Texas; "Empress," the Peregrine Falcon for Calvin Overton of Dallas, and "Percy," The American White Pelican for Hutch and Adalyn Overton of Seminole, Texas.

\*Mary Asbell and Allan Mcakenzie adopted "Farley," our wonderful Burrowing Owl

\*Larry Ackers of Lubbock adopted "Empress," our Peregrine Falcon, and "Vincent," our Chihuahuan Raven, in Memory of Jack Brashear for his wife Syble Brashear.

\*Dr. and Mrs. Charles Wheeler of Lubbock adopted "Bobby," our Bobcat, "Gracie," our Gray Fox; "Percy," our American White Pelican and "Jasper," our beautiful Common Barn Owl.

\*Venita Davis of Lubbock gave a Holiday gift and adopted "Bobby," in Honor of Amberly Burton, an "Idalou Wildcat" of Idalou, Texas.

\*Deanna Watson of Slaton adopted "Miss Hoary," our Hoary Bat Wildlife Ambassador for her daughter, Angela Williams of Big Spring, Texas.

\*Mary Burke of Lubbock adopted "Bobby" the Bobcat for Tanya Thomas at Christmas. Tanya is also from Lubbock.

\*Jim and Sherri Mason, also of Lubbock, adopted "Bobby," our Bobcat for their Scout Pack #402.

\*Amanda Godbee of Fort Worth, Texas, adopted our beautiful Barred Owl, "Shadow."

## Gifts to Honor:

\*Janee and Bob Cosby of Lubbock made a generous donation during our annual Holiday Appeal in Honor of family members Steve and Kim Kailey of Carrollton, Texas, and Barbara Kailey of Dallas, Texas.

\*Stacy and Thomas Young of Lubbock made a generous Holiday donation in Honor of veterinarian Dr. Tim Polk at Animal Medical Center, Lubbock.



## Get Well Soon:

Dr. Lane Preston, and Dr. Mark Wallace following their surgeries!

## Gifts to Remember

\*A generous Memorial gift was sent by Beverly Colbert in Lubbock, in Memory of her son, Matthew Scott Colbert.

\*Jane Stuart of Lubbock sent a contribution at the Holidays in Memory of Marie Billingsley Stuart and Cecil James Stuart

\*Peggy R. Davis of Lubbock sent a Holiday donation in memory of David Martinez, son of Mandy Romero, also of Lubbock, and Mrs. Romero was notified of this gift.

\*Jean Morrison of Lubbock made a contribution in Memory of her son, David.

\*Beverly and Dorian Cain of Lubbock made a Holiday donation "Given in Memory of Juanita Rogers and Danita Cain"

\*Fidel and Twila Ortiz of Hart, Texas, made a Memorial donation in the name of John W. (Jay) Stone. Linda Heck of Dimmitt, TX, was notified of their gift.

\*J. D. and Pat Young made a Memorial donation in the name of Patsy Yowell who passed away January 19<sup>th</sup>.

We were all very fond of Patsy – she worked at Animal Medical Center for 35 years. The Young's Memorial gift was acknowledged to Patsy's husband, Charles Yowell of Lubbock.

\*A Memorial for Patsy Yowell was also sent by Anna Bradford of Spur, Texas. Charles Yowell was notified of her kindness.

\*Gary W. Smith of Lubbock made a Memorial Donation to the family of Evelyn Simpson (Cindy and Ben Shacklette), Lubbock. They were notified of his kind gift.

\*Susie Williamson and Ruben Castillo (Williamson Interiors, Lubbock) sent a Memorial contribution in the name of "Kassie." Acknowledgement was sent to Sally and Steve Haliburton of Lubbock.

\*Susie Williamson and Ruben Castillo (Williamson Interiors, Lubbock) also sent a Memorial donation in the names of Dorothy Elizabeth Rainey and Jack Eldon Rainey. Sally Haliburton and family of Lubbock were also notified of this kind gift.

\*Steve Kriegshauser of Lubbock made a Memorial donation in the name of "Cotton Boy."

\*Carol Lee made a Memorial donation in the name of "Buster," her beautiful 5 year old indoor cat who died suddenly from Feline Infectious Peritonitis on December 30, 2012.

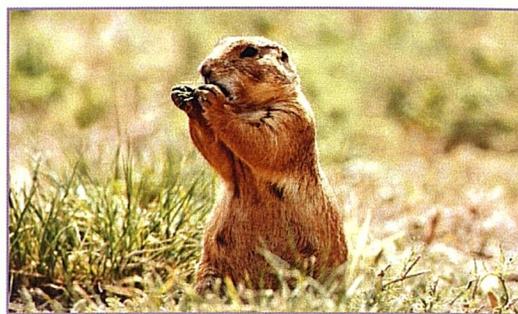
## Commemorative Brick Walkway

Two Commemorative Bricks were purchased since December, 2012:

\*Lori Harleson of Lubbock purchased a paving brick in Memory of Ken Harleson and Evelyn Cox.

\*Cindy Burkes of Denver City, TX, ordered a commemorative brick for "Jody Burkes – Incredible Husband."

These bricks will be laid in time for our Summer Open House, June 15th, 2013.



**Prairie Dog**  
(photo by Danny Hancock)

## CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED FRESH GOAT'S MILK

With the coming of spring, SPWRC needs individuals to donate fresh goat's milk for the influx of baby and young mammals.

The goat's milk is used for our deer fawns and many of our small mammals.

If you can help, please contact volunteer Barry Johnson at 806-241-4667.

**Notes:** If your donation arrived after March 3rd, 2013, it will be acknowledged in our Summer quarterly newsletter.

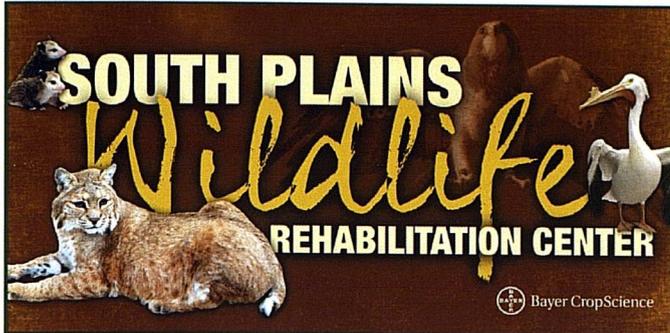
\*All Tributes and Adoptions are listed in order received.

\*If any information was inadvertently omitted or incorrect (including your mailing label) please notify Carol Lee at [spwrc@suddenlink.net](mailto:spwrc@suddenlink.net)

If you'd like the newsletter as a pdf file, let me know at the e-mail address above.

## News and Notes

## Shutterbug



### Our New Banner

Thank you to volunteer and graphic artist Amber Moralez and Copy Craft in Lubbock for making us a great banner that we can take to programs and other presentations.

Amber is very creative and we appreciate her time and talent!

Thank you once again this year for the generosity from South Plains Veterinary Medical Association.

SPVMA has sent us a donation each year for many years, and we are sincerely grateful for their assistance! The 2013 officers are:

Dr. Tim Polk, President  
 Dr. Casey Carrothers, Vice President  
 Dr. Don Hegi, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Dr. Shelli Wolfe,  
 Continuing Education Chairman

Our first baby doves of the year arrived February 21, 2013 and the first baby squirrel arrived February 25, 2013.

Our sympathy is expressed to longtime donor Patricia Marx on the death of her husband, Dr. John Marx.

Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Steward, Troop #406, is still awaiting final approval of his project to construct an outdoor enclosure for our convalescing box turtles.

Upon completion, this will be our 50<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout project. Watch for an update in our summer quarterly newsletter.

SPWRC needs a riding lawn mower. If you can help, please call us!

Our favorite Shutterbug, volunteer Danny Hancock, shares more of his wonderful bird photos with us. Danny takes many of his photos right here in Lubbock County.

The egret and heron photos below were taken at one of the Canyon Lakes near MacKenzie Park, in Lubbock. Thank you once again!



**Snowy Egret**

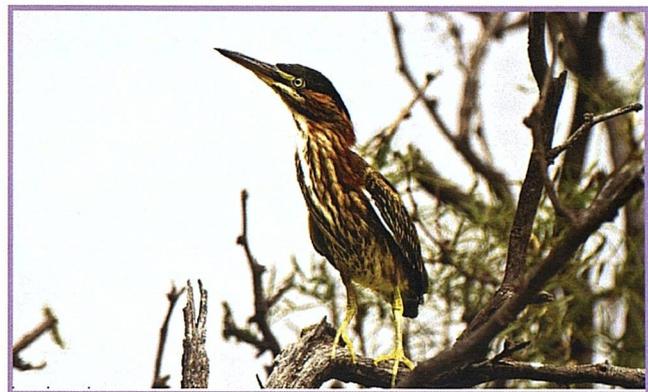
## Birding opportunities in and around Lubbock

Any time is a good time to go birding, but more species can be sighted during spring or fall migration. Orioles, Mississippi Kites, Turkey Vultures, Western Kingbirds, some songbirds and hummingbird species aren't here year round. Every once in a

while an unusual species shows up, much to the delight of area birders. Our numerous playa lakes are important stopovers for many species of waterfowl. The Lubbock Cemetery is another "hotspot" our area birdwatchers like, and when you Google "Birding at Lubbock Cemetery" a number of recent, month-long sightings lists come up. We're lucky to have such a great diversity of birds in our vicinity—over 400 species have been documented here.

Clapp Park at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Avenue U contains trees, an arboretum, a good-sized playa and is only two miles south of Texas Tech University. Lubbock Lake Landmark at North Loop 289 and Clovis Highway and the Canyon Lakes are also great birding spots. Access to Buffalo Springs is allowed for a fee. A list of all parks in Lubbock can be found on the Internet.

Early morning is a good time to go, when birds are out foraging or hunting for food. Grab your camera and binoculars and see what you can find!



**Juvenile Green Heron**

## Our History in a Nutshell - part 2



This issue covers our years between 1995 and 2001. In our December, 2012, newsletter, we reviewed the Wildlife Center's early history from our inception in 1988 through 1994: how and why SPWRC was started; why we chose a Mockingbird for our logo and who designed and drew it. We also had a custom sign made in Pennsylvania for our front fence. SPWRC incorporated in 1992, launched our education program in LISD schools, and started an internship program with a Lubbock high school.

In spring, 1995, we started a "Wildlife Friday" partnership with local CBS-TV affiliate, KLBK-TV, and appeared weekly on the television news segment to discuss a particular wildlife species.

With only a few interruptions when station management changed, it continues to this day during the Friday news at noon.

In December, 1995, our first *Mockingbird Chronicles* newsletter was published. It wasn't always "quarterly" – it was whenever we could get an issue completed and distributed.

In the early days there were many steps to get a newsletter to the print shop but fortunately it got much easier over time.

Today, I simply create a "pdf" when it's finished, and send it to our printers at Midtown by e-mail.

In May 1996, I was invited to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin to be part of a 10-member panel to study existing permit regulations and help initiate changes.

In July, 1996, our first summer Open House was held and attended by 330 guests.

In December 1996, a Dallas TV Affiliate filmed a television piece on our Center and Canada Geese.

This program aired nationally, and was the second such production aired outside the Texas South Plains.

By April 2, 1997, our IRS(c)3 determination was finally complete thanks to the help of Jimmie Mason, CPA, and his firm.



**The Center was started because of my passion for baby birds. Here were two of the many thousands I raised: a young Blue Jay and a Northern Oriole**

Our organization is also exempt from local and state taxes, retroactive to the incorporation date in 1992.

In January 1997, our first Bald eagle was admitted - and released - back in the Texas Panhandle.

In September 1997 a Board of Directors was created to further SPWRC's goals and oversee responsibilities of the Center.

In April, 1998, a German foreign exchange veterinary student, Petra Hagenbucher, chose to come to the Wildlife Center for an internship and first-hand look at wildlife rehabilitation in the U.S.

A Master Site Plan for the Wildlife Center was undertaken and completed in Spring, 1999, by Klaus Scholz of Texas Tech's Landscape Architecture Department. This was Klaus's senior project, and our roadmap for future structures.

In fall, 1999, SPWRC was made part of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University. Archived materials are available to the public.

In December, 1999, a \$40,000 gift was given anonymously to the Wildlife Center. This was earmarked for our Building Fund to further complete phases of our Master Site Plan. In December, 2000, the first new building of our Master Site Plan was erected where all animals were housed under one roof for the first time since our inception.

Also in December, 2000, our "Soaring into the Future" campaign raised \$19,900.

By August, 2001, our new Animal Drop-Off Building was in place. Heated in winter and cooled in summer, the public can drop off wildlife orphans or casualties 24 hours a day.

The following month, our 80' front wall is in place and painted soon thereafter by Texas Tech Art Major Clea McKenzie - with a beautiful wildlife mural. Also that month, the Wildlife Center assists an Eagle Scout candidate to relocate eight Burrowing Owls from Lakeridge Golf Course.

In September, 2001, a new partnership was developed with Estacado High School students who looked toward a career in veterinary medicine. Also in September, the former



**One of 5 Northern Flickers I raised from nestlings to adults in 2005. It was wonderful to raise and release them successfully. All 5 returned for handouts for 3 months post-release**

Llano Estacado Animal Preservation Park donated \$15,000 to the Wildlife Center, as they were unable to start a zoo in the Lubbock community. Watch for Part 3 of "Our History" in the newsletter's June issue!

## A Fabulous December!

Even though the past few months have been relatively quiet at the Wildlife Center (and animal admissions are at their lowest during our coldest months), things are always going on behind the scenes - including getting a "Holiday Appeal" out the door in December.

Our donations drop off dramatically when admissions do the same each fall, and the annual Appeal helps us greatly through the winter months.

This year's Appeal was successful beyond my wildest dreams, raising \$33,806 by the time this newsletter went to press. My personal thanks go out to everyone who made a Holiday Appeal donation to SPWRC, adopted one of our wildlife ambassadors, sent a Tribute for a loved one, friend or pet.

This was our best December ever, and we are sincerely appreciative of every gift! We have a long list of acknowledgements for the last quarter, but acknowledging our donors is a top priority. Without them, our doors would not stay open for long.

### Thanks to Christmas Open House sponsors

Thanks to Sheila Johnson for providing great refreshments during our Holiday Open House. We raised \$1567.00 during the 3-hour period. Our event sponsors were:

Jester Art Service; Ambrosia Catering; Starbuck's Coffee (8001 University); Larry and Lisa Gilliland; Cookies by Design; Furr's Pie Kitchen; Lowe's Marketplace (26h & Boston); Joni E. Keith Co.; Schlotzsky's (81<sup>st</sup> & Indiana); Great American Cookie; Aunt Carol's Bakery; Market Street (98<sup>th</sup> & Quaker); The Cakery; Bakery creations; Sam's Club; Blue Sky Restaurant; My Cup of Tea.

Thanks also to Maggie Hancock, Joann Haddock and our volunteers and Board Members who helped during the event.

Thanks also to Sherri and Jim Mason and their Scouts for helping with the kid's activities!

## Our web site has a new look!

A big thank you to TTU student Jake Gustainis for helping develop a new web site for us. It's (finally!) simple to navigate and easy to update. Our domain [spwrc.org](http://spwrc.org) remains the same.

Jake spent a number of hours on the phone and online working on details of changing our host, but keeping the same domain. You can still find us by typing in [spwrc.org](http://spwrc.org). The new site is much more user-friendly, colorful, and easier to navigate, post updates and photos. You can still get advice on "Baby Birds 101" if you need help.

You can also continue to donate with PayPal, get volunteer information, contact us, read updates and see our wildlife photos. We'll add more as time goes on! If you'd like to see something special, let me know.



**American Goldfinch**  
(Photo by Danny Hancock)

Summer 2013 is the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** for our Junior Volunteer program.

We love having JVs during the summer months, June through August. JVs learn about native wildlife and participate in our bird ID contest.

**We also need moms & dads to help supervise young people this year!**

Call Gail Barnes, JV Coordinator, at SPWRC (806 799-2142) for more information.

## Environmental Education

Since the last newsletter, programs were presented at Wilshire Senior Living and Holy Spirit Catholic Church Day Care.

At the SPWRC Education Center two Scout groups met (Pack #114 and Troop #511) to work on their "Wildlife" badge and their "Wildlife" and "Conservation" badges respectively.

Call Education Coordinator Gail Barnes at (806) 799-2142 to schedule a program. They are now being booked into the summer months. A nominal fee is charged for presentations to help cover our expenses.

## 2012 Statistics

I've always been compulsive about our state and federal record-keeping, as it gives us a look at how our time and resources are spent. In the early days, it took many hours and days to enter data, starting the end of each December.

Years ago, all our typewritten or computer-generated sheets were so numerous they filled a cardboard gift box. Fortunately, the process has gotten easier and much more streamlined.

Last year there were exactly 1000 entries of indigenous, migratory birds that go on both state and federal records.\* We also cared for 684 non-

native species (European Starlings, English Sparrows and feral pigeons). We admitted 111 raptors, the most numerous being Mississippi Kites (35). The most numerous songbirds were doves, robins and blue jays, and the ubiquitous, unpopular grackle.

Of our 403 mammal admissions, we had 136 cottontails, 178 Eastern Gray Squirrels, 41 Virginia Opossums, 9 White-tailed Deer and 3 Mule Deer. Other mammal species included porcupines, bats and skunks.

\*(Migratory birds must be reported on both state and federal records, while mammals are only reported to state authorities).

## Spring Cleaning is not always good for the birds

With the first hint of spring, many people can't wait to get outdoors and start digging, planting and pruning. Folks grab shears, loppers, lawn chemicals and sprays, and often, the timing is disastrous for wildlife.

Nestlings or baby squirrels may fall victim to over-zealous homeowners with saws, as they cut back shrubbery, chop down branches or whole trees just as many baby birds begin to hatch in early April. While I'm not advocating planning one's outdoor yard chores around wildlife, a little thought and planning beforehand can save some homeowners a headache later.

By mid-to-late April, robins, mockingbirds and Blue Jays are hatching, all around the same time. This coincides with warm weather and plentiful insects – the mainstay of youngsters' diets.

Squirrels and birds have been known to find their way into people's living rooms via chimneys. To be sure you don't have unwanted guests, cap the chimney before animals are nesting or likely to be exploring. People often have their chimneys cleaned in early spring just when Chimney Swifts are looking for nest sites. While a few homeowners complain about the swifts' noisy chattering, most people welcome them, realizing how many insects are consumed by a family of swifts feeding their youngsters in a single season.

One of the best methods for managing urban wildlife is to be proactive. If you don't want a skunk or other night wandering visitor, don't invite one by leaving bowls of pet food outdoors after dark. If these animals discover a good food source, they are also likely to seek out a comfy place under your porch or shed to raise a family. Clean up wood and brush piles - they all look like a nice breeding facility to some wildlife species.

Exclusion is one of the best ways to avoid problems later. Check around your house, attic and elsewhere for potential entry holes and repair them.

Clean bird feeders and fountains to minimize threat of disease. Winter accumulation of seed and hulls around bird feeders can attract mice.

March is an excellent time to plan ahead, plant a garden for wildlife and avoid problems associated with unwanted guests.

## Spring also means Courtship, Nest-building, Egg-laying and...baby birds!

Courtship rituals can be simple or elaborate, and vary by species. One of my favorite courtship rituals involves the little bowerbird, native to New Guinea and Australia. Adult male bowerbirds build an elaborate courtyard called a "bower."

Depending on the bowerbird species, the male's design might be a circle of cleared dirt with a small pile of twigs in the middle or a complex structure of sticks and leaves. These bowers are filled with objects – everything from feathers, flowers, and stones - to bits of glass or other small trinkets and man-made objects.

The male carefully sorts his treasures and arranges the collection. If an item is disturbed while he's away, he'll carefully replace everything back to its original location.

Every bower is different, and items are sometimes even stolen from neighboring bowers. At mating time, females go from bower to bower. Several females may be attracted to the same male, while other males may find themselves without a mate. Research has determined that bowerbirds like the color blue, and bright blue in particular. When the female comes by to inspect the bowers and judge the male's talents, he struts, runs, sings and tries to convince her to join him inside.

(Image from Google Images)

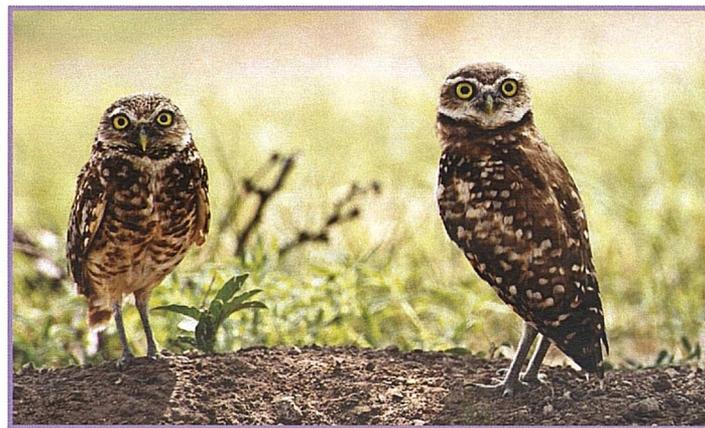


## Do you know there are about a dozen different, basic nest types?

A nesting area can be a scraped depression in the ground, a burrow-like structure, or a floating nest attached to water plants. Birds may also construct a mound nest on land or water; a cavity in a tree or other object; a platform of sticks; a cup or bag-like nest; a previously used nest - or simply

no nest at all – and eggs are laid on the ground, or on an inside or outside ledge.

Some nests are simple, while others can be quite elaborate, woven masterpieces. Nests, like bird's feathers and eggs, are protected by wildlife laws.



**Two Burrowing Owls**  
(Photo by Danny Hancock)

# 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



BUBO 2, RIGHT \$45  
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



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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Gift  Gift in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Membership amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge to (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Gift  Gift in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Membership amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please acknowledge to (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

## Bird Trivia

According to e-Nature, "DNA studies of songbirds have shown that among any four baby birds in a single nest, it is typical that only an average of two are the creation of the parent birds that are raising them. The other two nestlings have either a different father or mother, or both. In other words, it's a common practice among songbirds to mate with birds other than their mates, thus producing broods of nestlings with mixed parentage."



### Some Bird Behaviors can be Problematic

During breeding season we often get questions about birds battling their own reflections in shiny objects like exterior car mirrors or in glass doors and windows.

Glass presents a dilemma for birds when they perceive their own image as an intruder and spend fruitless hours attacking their own reflections. This usually happens during mating and breeding season, when a bird tries to fend off a perceived trespasser. Birds can be very territorial, especially now that they've staked out their own bit of turf. Sometimes this thumping will go on all day.

Soon we'll also hear about birds that are dive-bombing people in their yards and on the golf course. This behavior is more common among Mississippi Kites, Blue Jays, Northern Mockingbirds and others - and they are simply trying to warn you to not get too close to their nest or youngsters on the ground. Mockingbirds will sometimes actually make a buzzing sound if a cat or human ventures too close.

They're simply being good, watchful parents, so keep your distance until the little ones are grown and gone, only a few weeks over-all!



## Acknowledgements

Below are our Keystone donors who offer the Wildlife Center a sustained, monthly financial commitment to our cause: helping wildlife:

Carre' Avian  
Joyce Badger  
Judy Billman (new Keystone Donor),  
Seattle, WA  
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### Donors with an \* gave a gift during our Holiday Appeal

#### \$20,000

Dora Roberts Foundation

#### \$12,500.00

\*Anonymous Gift for Holiday Appeal

#### \$6,000.00

Helen Jones Foundation

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South Plains Veterinary Association (page 5)

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William Van Pelt, Washington, D.C.

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# 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.

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\*Carol Lee  
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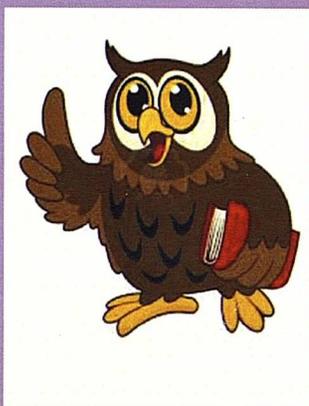
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## The Mockingbird Chronicles

Newsletter of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

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**"Wildlife Wednesdays"  
coming to SPWRC  
in June for kids!**

Do you know a child who might enjoy learning more about birds~ how they fly, build nests, keep warm or why some birds migrate? Would your child like to learn about skunks, opossums, cottontails, squirrels or other small mammals who call Lubbock backyards and parks "home?"

Our pilot program, "Wildlife Wednesdays" is taking wing every Wednesday this June from 1-3 PM in the house at the Wildlife Center.

We'll make learning fun! There will be hands-on activities and your child will meet some real hawks, owls, vultures and other wildlife.

We'll invite several guest speakers, too: a Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden, our bird of prey caretaker Gail Barnes, and Rob Lee who was the federal wildlife law enforcement officer prior to his retirement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Supplies will be provided. Space is limited. The cost is \$50.00 for the four two-hour classes. Read more inside on page 3!