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2013
no.3

The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 3 / 2013

*Our Goal:
Letting
them
GO!*

This issue is dedicated
to all our
summer releases

Highlights:

Release and
Freedom!...p. 3

“Wildlife Wednesdays”
Wrap up....p. 4

Our History:
part 4...p. 7



Bayer CropScience is a proud sponsor
of “The Mockingbird Chronicles”

Enchanted Moments - Letter from the Founder



Carol Lee

The summer seemed to fly by. I raised dozens of baby birds at home again this year, and ever since I raised and released my first baby mockingbird in 1984, the magic always returns for me along with the little nestlings and fledglings.

Raising songbirds is demanding and labor intensive, but the rewards and satisfaction of watching them grow is wonderful. With an ultimate goal of setting the captive birds free, I jump into high gear every June, July and August.

The Center was started years ago as a result of my passion for wild songbirds, and even though there are some stressful situations and sad moments along the way, over 90% of those I raised this year thrived and were released. Youngsters leave the confines of the flight cage in our back yard when they can fly well and self-feed, and they stay in or near our yard for weeks post-release. They grow into healthy adults, learning the skills necessary for their long-term survival. A few are hesitant to leave right away, but eventually, their wild instincts kick in and out they go. By summer's end, our yard seems enchanted, full of 'my' birds: jays, robins, thrashers, mockingbirds and kingbirds, all returning to visit for a hand-out about every 45 minutes. Kingbirds catch pellets mid-air, zooming around our treetops.

Eventually the birds learn to find their own food, but until they all stop coming back to eat, I remain available. Jays are hardest to wean. The early mockingbirds left first, and remaining robins no longer beg, but return often to the food dishes. There's one cardinal rule during baby bird season: Never walk out the back door without food - lots of food. They are always hungry. At the end of August, 14 birds

are still coming back at regular intervals every 45-60 minutes.

It's always bittersweet for everyone at SPWRC when baby season draws to a close. Hundreds of birds and mammals have been raised and released by Center staff and volunteers, too - bird of prey chicks, waterfowl, squirrels, fawns, cottontails and a host of others - but, we're all ready for a slowdown in fall.

To read about my personal summer experiences - and one harrowing afternoon with Mississippi Kites a little too close for comfort - visit our web site at [www.http//spwrc.org](http://www.spwrc.org) - on the top left bar you'll see "Summer Releases 2013."

Thanks to everyone who brought us an animal the past few months, and also a donation to help care for it. Our LPL utility bill in August was a staggering \$607.54, thanks to their rate hike, our many incubators and freezers. Our summer food bills are also very high.

Our donations drop off sharply when baby season ends each fall. We always need more Keystone Donors - those who make a financial commitment each month to help us with our ever-increasing expenses, and a donation on which others depend. These donors are listed in each newsletter issue, (p. 10 in this issue) and we appreciate them all!

Carol



Bayer CropScience

**Bayer
CropScience:
Proud
Supporter of
SPWRC**

Front Cover:

Ladder-backed Woodpecker
July 5th, 2013 - on his day of release
(Photo by Carol Lee)

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

Dr. Jim Moyes, President
Rob Lee - Vice President
Carol Lee, Secretary
Patricia Harris, CPA, Treasurer
Gail Barnes
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Advisors

Jeanette Lubenau, D.V.M.
Mr. Bill Van Pelt, Austin, TX.

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

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

SPWRC can be reached by e-mail: spwrc2@yahoo.com

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

Learn more at our website: [www.http//spwrc.org](http://www.spwrc.org) and follow us on Facebook.

Our Goal is all about Release

When an animal's moment of release arrives, it can turn into something quite exhilarating.

Release is the hoped-for-end-result for each bird, mammal and reptile that comes through our doors.

Whether it's an opossum, fawn, cottontail, robin, hummingbird, cardinal, hawk, owl or box turtle – our goal is to release our charges back to their natural wild habitats whenever possible.

"Release" is often far from our thoughts as we have set off countless times over the past 25 years with boxes and pet carriers, nets, heavy gloves, towels, wading boots, and other "gear" - heading for a playa lake, field, building, tree, chimney or attic, in search of an animal reported to need our help - but far more often, of course, one comes to us.

Yes, we get "attached" to our patients because we all have empathy toward creatures that have been orphaned, are ill, hurt or displaced. That notwithstanding, our job is to always do what's best for each animal. For the majority, that's release back to the wild and freedom.

Being treated and/or raised in captivity is not ideal, but it's an animal's best hope of a second chance at life --and freedom.

This issue is devoted to the countless thousands of little lives that had the good fortune to end up at our wildlife center.



One of three Curve-billed Thrashers raised and released this summer



A bowl of baby robins. They graduate from the incubator to a small - then large - flight cage

(Photo by Kim Davies)

Photo, right, is one of my favorites: Former Administrator Dorothy Tinkler helps me feed hovering Kingbirds several years ago - as a mockingbird sits on her head getting a bite too!

When you raise and release so many youngsters around the same time, multi-tasking is a must!



Seven newly released Northern Mockingbirds hanging around on the kingbird cage for a handout!

I had the pleasure of raising a dozen or so Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) this year. About eight inches long, the kingbird's head is dark gray; the throat and chest are lighter gray and the belly is pale to bright yellow. Once released, they hang around for several weeks, and are amazingly fast, aerial acrobats. Extremely feisty, they're not called "tyrant" flycatchers for nothing.

They hover impatiently in front of me as they often snatch a morsel from my fingers, or catch one mid air.

Sharp-eyed, extremely agile and super-quick, there are few misses. This gives them practice for chasing and catching bugs on the wing (their diet is almost exclusively flying insects, and they have voracious appetites) once they leave me.

This is their Number One essential survival skill, and they must learn quickly, because this month they'll start migrating south.

Kingbirds return to Lubbock in summer to breed and raise families.

Their pips and constant chattering are unmistakable, and I'm glad they'll return again next summer to start a new generation.

Did you know?

Collectively, a group of kingbirds is known as a 'coronation,' 'court' or a 'tyranny' of kingbirds.

"Wildlife Wednesdays" Wrap Up

In June, we held two-hour classes on each of the four Wednesdays. Our pilot program was attended by six students, all 10 or 11 years old, going to 5th or 6th grade. The students were Reagan Jones, (attends Cooper North) Jonathan Hignight (Cooper South); Maddy Sudduth (Oakridge Elementary); Anna Brown (Lubbock Christian School); Aaron Roghan (Hutchinson) and Aubrey Andrews who was visiting Lubbock during June, but lives and goes to school in Oklahoma.

Our first class was all about birds and the characteristics that make birds unique. We discussed their hearing, vision and adaptations that allow birds to "make a living." We used tweezers, pliers, slotted spoons, toothpicks, tongs and straws to demonstrate how different kinds of beaks and bills are used to crack nuts, eat seed, spear fish, pry insects out of bark or take apart a berry. We also talked about the different types of birds' feet, which are used for perching, hunting, foraging, swimming and wading. We had a display of various bird nests and eggs, and talked about the plume industry and the dawn of conservation around 1900.



Jonathan Hignight, Aaron Roghan, Maddy Sudduth;
Back: Aubrey Andrews; Reagan Jones; Anna Brown

We looked at feathers through magnifying glasses and learned about their structure. Laws protecting wildlife were also covered, as was migration.

Week two was focused on birds of prey, and the special adaptations raptors use to hunt. Gail Barnes introduced the kids to our American



Maggie Hancock shows students
an Ornate Box Turtle

Kestrel, Mississippi Kite, Great Horned Owl and a young Burrowing Owl.

Week three was all about mammals and the youngsters met a baby squirrel and our resident opossum. Gail Barnes also brought a bat to class.

The fourth Wednesday we took a tour around the property and saw what goes on in each area and building of the center. Rob Lee, retired federal game warden with U.S. Fish & Wildlife service, talked to the students about science and forensics and how evidence helps solve crimes against wildlife. Students also learned about poaching, smuggling and pollution, and saw some "show and tell" items.

Maggie Hancock rounded out this session bringing three sizes of Box Turtles to class to talk about turtle care and why box turtles should be left in the wild. Each student got a "Turtle Care" handout so they will know what they can do to help Box Turtles. Maddy Sudduth brought her own box of show and tell items including a mammal skull, snake skin, shark teeth and other items, and Reagan brought his young Ball Python to show the class! These were six very bright students, and we enjoyed being able to share a lot of information with them they probably won't learn in school!

CONGRAULATIONS!

...to Barbara and "T.D." Birge of Lubbock. The Birges celebrated their 50th Anniversary July 12th.

The following day, neighbors, friends and family were invited to a cake and ice cream reception at their home.

We wish you many more happy anniversaries in the future!



When Does my Quarterly Newsletter Expire?

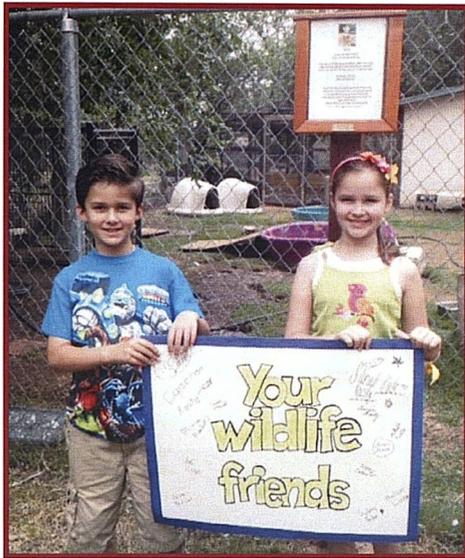
The expiration date of a Mockingbird Chronicles issue is on your mailing label. Donations of \$20.00 get one "acknowledgement" issue.

Donations of \$25.00 and up receive four (or more) issues. Our newsletter is printed and mailed in March, June, September and December. I personally review the mailing list each quarter, adding and removing names. The cost of printing and postage go up periodically and we try to keep our list under 600. Please help us help our patients by keeping your subscription current. This publication is our conduit to the public so you can see how your funds are being used. (If your expiration date is incorrect, let me know).

NEWS and NOTES



On June 11, 2013, area Animal Control Officers came to SPWRC for a class on handling wildlife and received Continuing Education Credits. Karen McDonald, (Bottom row, 2nd from left), Zoonosis Control Officer for Texas Department of Health Services in Lubbock, coordinated the event. (Carol Lee and Gail Barnes - bottom row 2nd from end and end on right, taught the two sessions).



Twins Cameron and Sarah Kate Rasty (photo above) celebrated their June birthdays and for the second year in a row, had their friends bring supplies for our wildlife patients instead of birthday presents for them.

They came June 14th and brought gifts for wildlife that were collected. The twins attend Preston Smith Elementary. Their parents are Laurie and Jahan Rasty. We sincerely thank you, and are very appreciative to you, your parents and your generous friends!

The nature craft table, (right) was a big hit at our summer Open House and was manned by our Junior Volunteers. Visiting kids created spiders, birds, owls and other cool critters out of pine cones

Summer Open House June 15th was attended by almost 300 people. Despite the prediction of rain, it was a mostly cloudy and pleasant three hours. We had a steady stream of adults and kids, and volunteers were on hand with our wildlife ambassadors.

Guests met "Stitch," our Virginia Opossum, and manager Daniel Andrews explained why our only marsupial is a beneficial urban species. Maggie and Danny Hancock talked about the proper care and feeding of Ornate Box Turtles, and why they should not be kept in captivity.

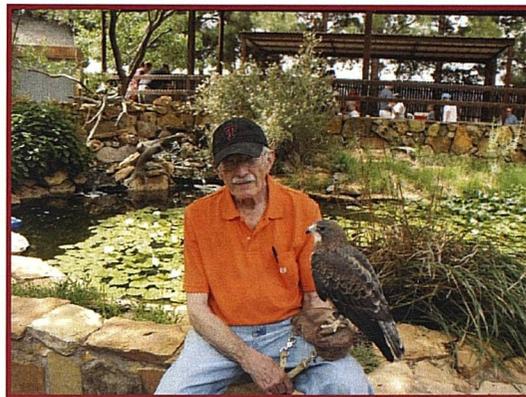
The nature craft table, manned by our Junior Volunteers, was the big hit of the day, and kids made adorable owls, spiders, and other creations out of large pine cones, pipe cleaners, squiggly eyes and fowl feathers.

Our two staff members, many volunteers, interns, JVs and Board members all helped make the three-hour event a success, and \$1295.61 in donations was raised. 2013 "may" be the last year of our Summer Open House due to the nature of our work – things are peaking in June, July and August with record numbers of baby birds and small mammals – and a few fawns. June 7th, the day after the evening storm with very high winds and heavy rains, SPWRC got a record number of admissions – 87- mostly baby birds and baby squirrels, but a Turkey Vulture was also "blown in." He fared well, and was later released. Approximately 75% of the other animals that were admitted we were able to save and release.

Others weren't so lucky – hopelessly injured or died soon after admission.

Thanks to Byron Gray, Manager of Pure Water Ice & Tea Company in Lubbock (82nd and Indiana Avenue) for the donation of 10 gallons of iced tea and 4 bags of ice.

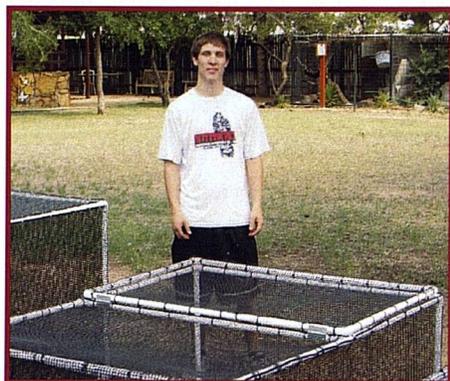
(We still plan to host our annual Christmas Open House Saturday, December 21st between 11 AM and 2 PM).



Volunteer Tom McLaughlin holds our Red-tailed Hawk during Open House



51st Eagle Scout project completed in July



Joseph Westerman

In July, Eagle Scout candidate Joseph Westerman, and fellow scouts from Troop #544, completed four new large duck pens and some necessary yard work around our pond.

Joseph is a senior at Frenship High School and considers going to Texas Tech after a 2-year Mission trip upon graduation.

His hobbies are basketball, camping and mountain biking. His parents are Paulette and Alan Westerman.

Thank you for selecting SPWRC for your project!

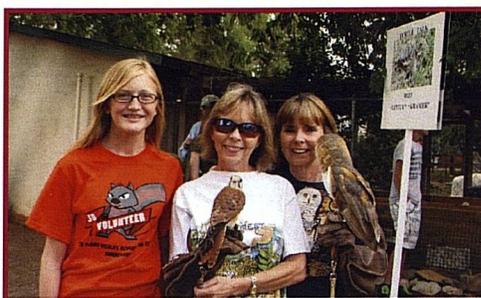


Front L. to R.: John Matis, Jared Bradshaw, Nato Kimball, Riley Golden, Joseph Westerman, Triston Pinkston, Alan Westerman, (little girl) Emily Westerman, Tucker Matis, (very back) Glenn Richie Scout Master. Zach Westerman. Front row: Mark Matis, TK Kimball, Matthew Westerman, Darion Bohannon.

(Both photos by the Westermans)

Junior Volunteers, Summer 2013

A very big thank you to DuPont, Bayer CropScience in 2012 - and most recently a \$2,000 grant from the Diekemper Family Foundation in Lubbock and the E. A. Franklin Charitable Trust - for their grants earmarked to expand and enhance our Junior Volunteer Program!



JV Mariah Adams, Volunteers Marla Carver and Gail Barnes at Open House

Emma Adams
Mariah Adams
Montae Barber
Megan Bash
Rhiley Boatright
Carlie Bruington
Wendy Buchheit - JV Mom

Brett Buchheit
Davidica Frazier
Kathryn Goldston
Ethan Ham
Avery Hodges
Kadie Hutcheson
Julie Hodges-JV Mom
Amy Hunt
Kasey McMurray
Kera Lindsey
Matthew Lopez
Dominique Pina
Kim Powell-JV Mom
Phoenix Ramirez
Elizabeth "Liz" Rogahn - JV Mom
Michal "Mikkie" Stout
Caroline Wilkerson
Lori Wilkerson - JV Mom

During summer 2013, our wonderful Junior Volunteers donated 879 hours of time as of August 24th. We thank all of you for your dedication and help on behalf of wildlife!

Making Acquaintances

Over the years, I've gotten email wildlife-related inquiries about many different things from people around the world. It was thanks to one email inquiry that Rob and I hosted a German veterinary student for two months. Another girl from Duke University visited for two weeks one summer to learn about wildlife rehabilitation. In May, 2011, a Canadian veterinary student, Catherine Loubier, came for 19 days.

In May 2012, I received an email note from a student, Ohad Jonathan Paris, University of Florida in Gainesville, who discovered four orphaned mockingbird chicks.

He asked for advice on feeding and care, and we corresponded for the next weeks as his little charges grew and thrived. He went above and beyond, creating a little jungle for them on his patio, bought all the correct foods, and had a good experience in the process. All were released.

This August I heard from Ohad again: "I finished school with a degree in microbiology last year, and over the winter spent some time in Hollywood, CA, doing something completely different - recording music (I've been playing piano for over 20 years and composing songs for a while) - so that was fun."

He also recently married his girlfriend, Ilana Levy, who helped him raise the little mockies. His wife finished her postdoc and is now a doctor of psychology. In November they'll be married in Israel - a second time - so his family can attend. We thank them for their kind words and donation, listed p. 10.



Ohad and Ilana Paris



Our History in a Nutshell - part 4

This issue covers our years between 2008 and the present.

In our December, 2012, newsletter, we reviewed SPWRC's early history from our inception in 1988 through 1994: why SPWRC was started and why we chose a mockingbird for our logo. We incorporated in 1992, launched our education program in LISD schools, and started an internship program with a local high school. In our spring, 2013, issue we covered the years between 1995 and 2001 – our first newsletter in 1995, and Master Site Plan developed by a grad student at Texas Tech in 1999 were just two of the milestones in our early years.



Immature male Bullock's Oriole

at this time, and divide the duties of making bank deposits, writing thank yous, bill paying and payroll/accounting among three board members (Carol Lee, Gail Barnes and CPA Patricia Harris) and this is working very well.

In May, 2013, our 14th "Night on the Wild Side" spring fundraiser raised over \$9,000. This brings us to the present: In some ways, the years have flown by. I couldn't be prouder of our many, many accomplishments since our founding in 1988.

Collectively, many hundreds have helped us on ur way: individuals, donors, volunteers, JVs, veterinarians, board members, high school and college interns, area merchants and businesses, Texas Tech faculty and personnel, federal, state and local officials, area school districts, churches, local media, scout groups and other non-profits...the list goes on.

We hope one day we'll celebrate fifty years, as it's been our pleasure to be of service to area residents, and **especially** the many, many thousands of wild birds, raptors, large and small mammals, reptiles and even a few amphibians that benefitted from our care and treatment and had a second chance at life!

Two More Ways To Help Wildlife:

SPWRC is an officially registered charity with **eBay Giving Works**. This program helps nonprofits by giving everyday eBay sellers the ability to donate to a certified nonprofit of their choice. Anyone can select SPWRC as the recipient for a portion of their sale price of an item (minimum \$5 donation required). Any eBay seller can donate 10%-100% of the final sale price.

SPWRC is also a registered charity at **iGive** and a portion of purchased products from their online shopping "mall" will come to the Wildlife Center if designated.

Board Advisor Bill Van Pelt, now of Austin, TX, set up eBay Giving Works for our Center.

Part 3 covered early events: a Valentine's Ball, construction of our front entry wall, Ambassador Row, launch of our Junior Volunteer Program (now in it's 10th year!), construction of our large outdoor pond; renovation of our outdoor stable (used for owls), our national Raptor Conference in 2006 and the hiring of our first employee in 2007 (after being 100% volunteer for 19 years!).

In fall of 2008, our new brochures were developed, and the printing was donated by Parks Printing. In October, plans were implemented for our Memorial Brick Walkway to be installed in our outdoor amphitheater area. This was spearheaded by former Board Member Beth Bartley.

In November, Carol was honored at a retirement party. (Retirement was short-lived, however).

By Spring, 2009, renovation of our "baby bird building" was complete and ready for occupancy. In April, 2010 Carol was again invited to Austin to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to join a panel of statewide wildlife rehabilitators to discuss policies relating to rehabilitation. In May, 2011, Christa Threet was hired as Executive Administrator. She resigned in September, 2012 to follow other pursuits. We decided not to hire another Director



During summer, 2013, SPWRC admitted eight White-tailed deer fawns. They came from outlying areas including Lake Alan Henry, Floydada, Snyder, Canyon, Fritch, Dumas and Shallowater areas.

Thanks to Sheila and Barry Johnson for taking care of them, and finding suitable release sites. (Photo by Sheila Johnson)



Bayer CropScience

Tributes:

Gifts to Honor:

*Kenneth Bodden of Austin, TX, made a donation in Honor of his daughter Beth Bodden Felker, who is also a former SPWRC volunteer. This gift was also in Memory of Beth's cat, "Christmas."

Gifts to Remember:

*Patricia Yoder-Wise made a generous Memorial donation in the name of Doreen Wise.

*Joyce Badger made a Memorial Donation in the name of "Blue Boy," beloved dog of Jeanne and Jim Davis of Lubbock.

*Twila and Fidel Ortiz of Hart, Texas, made a Memorial donation in the names of James Norrell. Joann Norrell of Dimmitt, Texas, was notified of their kindness.

Adoptions

*Melinda Mason adopted "Toenails," our Swainson's Hawk, and also "Empress," our Peregrine Falcon.

*Louise Reynolds adopted "Percy," our wonderful American White Pelican

*Valerie Komkov Hill adopted "Athena," our Eastern Screech Owl

Hike for Health

SPWRC is a partner with a new program. The first annual "Hike 4 Health" is Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 9-11 at Lubbock Lake Landmark. It will be fun for the whole family! Read more on Facebook.



Western Kingbird perches on our metal flying Canada Goose sculpture on the patio

And more releases...



Eared Grebe helped by SPWRC and released in July

Photo by Danny Hancock



Newly released robin fledge loafing on our outdoor furniture

Notes:

By August 31, 2013, 1748 animals were admitted to SPWRC.

Join us for our annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 21st, between 11 AM and 2 PM.

We'll be sending out our annual Holiday Appeal in early December again. This is a needed financial boost during the months of low admissions and donations.

Commemorative Bricks

Each commemorative 4 x 8" brick along the walkway at the Wildlife Center is available for purchase and will be inscribed according to your wishes. This is a great way to support SPWRC while honoring or remembering a family member, friend or beloved pet.

Visit our web site (www.spwrc.org). You can print and mail instructions for your brick or bricks. Each brick can accommodate 3 lines and 15 characters, including spaces.

Special thanks to former Board Member Beth Bartley for spearheading and executing this project. It will be ongoing until all remaining bricks are sold. New bricks will be inscribed by our Holiday Open House (Saturday, December 21st, 2013).

A New Record

SPWRC admitted a record 87 casualties June 6th after the severe storm the night before with 80 mph wind gusts, very heavy rain and hail in some areas. The majority of admissions were birds.

We thank all those area individuals who took the time to bring animals to us that were casualties of the severe summer storm.

Environmental Education

During the last quarter, volunteer Gail Barnes did twelve programs, including three for Neighborhood Academy; TTUHSC Day Care, two presentations for the Home School Science Club; Covenant Day Care; South Plains Mall Kids Club; Snyder Elementary school; Godeke and Patterson Libraries and the Rotary Club.

Gail fractured her tibia early in the summer and had to cancel her out of town library programs. We're happy she is doing much better!

If you'd like to schedule a program for your school, scout or civic group, call Gail at 806 799-2142. There is a nominal charge.

"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."

.....Ralph Waldo Emerson

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



BOBBY, FAR RIGHT \$50
BOBCAT



GRACIE, RIGHT
GRAY FOX \$50



JASPER, FAR RIGHT \$45
COMMON BARN OWL



FARLEY, RIGHT \$35
BURROWING OWL



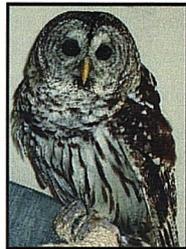
MISS HOARY, RIGHT \$40
HOARY BAT



FESTUS, FAR RIGHT
TURKEY VULTURE \$30



SHADOW, RIGHT \$45
BARRED OWL



MADDIE, FAR RIGHT \$35
AMERICAN KESTREL



ATHENA, RIGHT
EASTERN
SCREECH OWL \$25



VINCENT, FAR RIGHT
CHIHUAHUA RAVEN \$30



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 \$ _____

Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

Bags are packed!



S o m e - where in the world, birds are always migrating --- moving from one place to another because of food

availability and more favorable conditions.

Here, we enjoy over 400 species of birds, but of course all species aren't here at the same time. Some stay all year; others are here in winter like Canada Geese, and some species breed and raise their families here in spring and summer -- Western Kingbirds, Barn Swallows, Mississippi Kites and many others. Some species, like Northern Mockingbirds and American Robins may stay or wander, following sources of food and water.

If you enjoy hummingbirds, they're migrating now, too.

Always buy a sturdy feeder that's easy to clean and refill.

I like glass feeders sold by Duncraft.com but there are many other retailers on the web, too.



Make your own sugar water, using 4 parts water to 1 part sugar. Keep some in the refrigerator for another refill.

The nectar degrades faster if it's hung in the sun, so hang in a shady spot and change the nectar every 3 days. Scrub the feeder between uses. If ants are a problem, buy an inexpensive ant guard. Remember, never use red food coloring. Some hummingbird experts say you don't have to boil the water but heat it enough to dissolve the sugar. (Photo from Duncraft website).

To donate using PayPal, visit our web site: www.spwrc.org

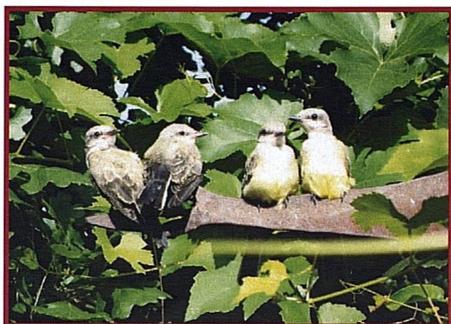


More youngsters - now on their own!



Blue Jay fledge fluffed up and drying off after a bath

(Photo by my daughter, Kim Davies)



Four more delightful Western Kingbirds perched on our patio sculpture

Note:

If your donation arrived after August 31st, 2013, it will be acknowledged in our December quarterly newsletter.

*All Tributes and Adoptions are listed in order received.

*If anything was inadvertently omitted or incorrect (including your mailing label) please notify Carol Lee at spwrc@suddenlink.net

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

We appreciate the great community support for the past twenty-five years...thank you!

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, Seattle, WA
 Karen Bosscher
 A.J. and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, TX
 Becky and Jason Cooper, Cambridge, MA
 Terry Gail Hooper
 Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
 Joyce Komkov
 Tom McLaughlin
 Dave Melton
 Fidel and Twila Ortiz, Hart, TX
 Tracey and Jose Pineda, Shallowater, TX
 Vicki Schellhase
 William and Deanna Schwartze

A great deal of information in the form of Tributes, admission slips, animals, cash and checks come to SPWRC on a daily basis, especially in spring and summer. We try very hard to thank every person for each monetary gift or donation of supplies. If your gift was inadvertently omitted, please e-mail Carol Lee so it can be added in our next newsletter.

\$2000.00

Diekemper Family Foundation
 E.A. Franklin Charitable Trust

\$500.00

Kyle and Sarah Abernathie

\$350.00 - \$400.00

Mountain Hideaway (Kyle and Misti Jones, Owners) From their "Sticker Donation program" (+ \$125.00 during our last quarter!)
 Dr. Mary Lochbaum

\$200.00 - \$250.00

Tracey and Lori Kitten, Slaton, TX
 Ohad and Ilana Paris, Springfield, VA
 Leanna Smith, Levelland, TX
 Stacy Spurrier

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.

\$100.00 - \$125.00

Jan and Steve Alexander
Jean Ann Cantore
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Glenn and Janie Forister
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Blue Jay Fledgling



Blue Jay Trivia

Nestling Blue Jays have bright pink mouths. After several months, the interior of the mouth darkens and eventually turns black. Tail feathers continue to grow after release. We can estimate age by tail length and mouth color. By summer's end jays molt and sport crew cuts. Jays are members of the "Corvid/ Corvidae" family, (also Crows, Rooks, Jackdaws, Magpies and others) and Corvids are extremely bright. Their strong, pointed beaks can hammer, poke, probe, crack, chisel and act like pincers. They scream if a predator is spotted, to warn other birds of impending danger.

They mimic hawk calls and other sounds. One of my jays mimicked the sound of dripping water, and another mewed – and hissed – like one of our cats.

To attract jays, offer whole nuts in the shell, or peanut pieces in a specially designed feeder. They'll also be attracted to sunflower or other seeds, and of course, water for drinking and bathing. In captivity, jays enjoy pieces of grape, watermelon, and mealworms. Blue Jays can be bullies as adults, but the jay youngsters are delightful to raise!