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The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 2/ 2016

Summer is Here!



danny hancock

Goodbye to "Percy" and "Yanis".....page 6
100 Years of Bird Conservationpage 9

Letter from the Founder



Carol Lee

At long last, I'm finally enjoying being "mostly" retired. After four tries at stepping back, it finally happened, and I'm enjoying every minute. I say mostly retired because I'll remain on our Board

of Directors and serve as Secretary. I'll continue to do our quarterly newsletters for now, and help with special events.

So what am I doing with my free time? Room by room, closet by closet and drawer by drawer, I'm getting rid of things I no longer need, use or wear, and simplifying my life. After 25 years of raising baby birds for half the year, I didn't realize just how much I had "set aside" to return to later to read, sort, or make disposition on. It never happened, because I never had enough free time. When "baby bird season" was finally over in fall, it was an short-lived opportunity to take care of everything I didn't do over the summer. Unimportant mail and papers had accumulated on our kitchen island ready to avalanche onto the floor, and dozens of "to do" things languished on the proverbial back-burner. It was almost overwhelming.

Suddenly the holidays were looming, as were our December newsletter and annual Holiday Appeal deadlines. 'Down time' passed quickly, and before I knew it spring was coming again and so were the birds.

There's no denying that raising, caring for and releasing them was my passion, but the demanding schedule of feeding so many nestlings and fledglings every 30-40 minutes day after day for months on end was exhausting. I chose to raise the little songbirds at home, because I could at least squeeze a few things in between feedings. By mid-summer there were so many little ones, by the time I finished one round, it was time to begin again. I look back and wonder how I did it year after year, but could truly say it was a labor of love. Releasing so many hundreds of little birds over almost 30 years was and is one of the most satisfying chapters in my life.

Now I spend time each week working on my family history, which I've been fascinated with since I was 15, when I had to write an autobiography. Searching for ancestors or discovering new cousins is like putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle.

Several years ago I had my DNA tested and it opened new doors, enabling me to find some 2nd and 3rd cousins. There were some DNA surprises- British, Scandinavian and 10% Greece and Italy. Where the last two came from I have no idea - especially since virtually all my dad's ancestors were from Germany - but DNA studies go back many generations and it gets complicated quickly. However, almost every time Ancestry sends me an email message me with a 'possible match' it turns out to be one. I never get tired of looking for new people, connections and clues.

I love spending time with our cats and kittens. As a child I was terribly allergic to cats (and dogs), but over time that all changed, and now I'm making up for all those "pet-less" years I experienced growing up.

I'm grateful to our longtime volunteer Gail Barnes who assumed my role as Director March 1st, and is doing a great job. I'm appreciative of our dedicated staff, volunteers, veterinarians, board members, gifted grant writer, Stacy Keith, our grantors and to my husband Rob Lee who oversaw our construction projects. We're also very thankful for our longtime donors, friends and supporters; it takes many individuals, resources and efforts to keep our non-profit organization running, and running smoothly. 28 ½ years now, and we're still going strong, helping wildlife every single day of the year.

Carol

Cover Photo:
The Great Egret gracing our newsletter cover this quarter was taken by professional wildlife photographer Danny Hancock

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
Executive Director	Gail Barnes
Education Coordinator	Gail Barnes
Operations Manager	Daniel Andrews

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Rob Lee, Vice President
Carol Lee, Secretary
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Advisors: Blaine Oden, D.V.M.
Mr. Bill Van Pelt, Austin, TX

Development Consultant
Stacy Keith, MA, CFRE

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

You can reach Executive Director 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 spwrc1@gmail.com

Learn more at our website: www.spwrc.org and follow us on Facebook

Notes from Executive Director, Gail Barnes



Gail Barnes

Baby season began with a bang this year. All species of birds and mammals started arriving several months ahead of schedule due to our unusually warm winter

weather. Baby ducklings and owl chicks were admitted almost three months earlier than usual. With the census already double what we had last year at this time, we were overwhelmed and put out a request for more volunteers. We had a positive response and are hoping for a continued influx of help as we haven't yet reached the peak of baby season.

In March, Linda Henry and I attended the annual National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association's Seminar in Norman, Oklahoma. Classes were scheduled from 7:30 AM until 9:00 PM and included information on baby squirrels, rabbits, opossums, raptors and songbirds. Speakers also covered topics from triage to release, tube feeding, critical care, and euthanasia. It was very informative and packed with valuable information.

In May, we lost two of our wildlife ambassadors: "Percy" the American White Pelican - an icon of the Center - and "Yanis" our Virginia Opossum, who spent his entire life educating the public. He was admitted as an orphaned infant, and lived more than two years. Read more about our two Wildlife Ambassadors on page 6.

The Center benefitted from special services provided by Barry Johnson, Danny Hancock and Joel Henry, from fixing door-knobs, repairing incubators, building perches for the educational ambassadors, hanging ladders, to clearing debris left from emptying the barn prior to its remodeling. We are also looking forward to Rob Lee's next project of setting up the owl-cam in the cupola of our barn so it can be live-streamed to our website for your viewing enjoyment! Stay tuned!

I want to say a special thank you to our core volunteers forming the backbone of our ability to care for wildlife. Employees Daniel Andrews and Alison Doran exhibited extreme commitment to their positions by volunteering many more hours than for which they are paid. Thanks to Linda Henry for her assistance with education programs and clerical duties relieving me for other tasks.

Our spring interns finished their coursework for this semester, including their valued dedication and contribution to the Center. Many of these young people have completed their degrees and are moving on to pursue careers or continue their education elsewhere. Best wishes are extended for a bright and prosperous future!

If your donation arrived after Saturday, May 28th, it will be acknowledged in our September 2016 newsletter. If your name, gift, mailing label or other information was inadvertently omitted or is incorrect, please notify Gail Barnes at ggbowls@sptc.net. Donations of \$25.00 receive a subscription of 1 year (4 quarterly issues). SPWRC never shares donor information or our mailing list



A volunteer holds a young Black-tailed Jackrabbit

Summer Open House

**Stop by Saturday, June 18th, 2016
Between 11 AM - 2 PM**

**Meet our "Wildlife Ambassadors"
and Volunteers**

Take pictures



Cottontail

(Photo by Carol Lee)

Crafts and activities for kids!

**We'll have Bahama Bucks
16 ounce "SnoBlasts" in
4 flavors for sale as well as
tee shirts**

**\$1.00 donation for guests
over 4 years old
or bring something from our
Wish List on our web site at
www.spwrc.org**

**Free parking directly south of
SPWRC at the Indiana Baptist
Church parking lot**

Thank you for Grant Funds!

Thank you to West Texas Community Foundation for \$7500.00 which is earmarked for wildlife care. Staff members Tami Swoboda and Denise Oviedo visited the Wildlife Center in April. Tami holds a little opossum in the photo below.

SPWRC will participate in "Lubbock Gives" through the West Texas Community Foundation (formerly called Lubbock Area Foundation) December 1, 2016. Gail Barnes previously registered the Center for this campaign.



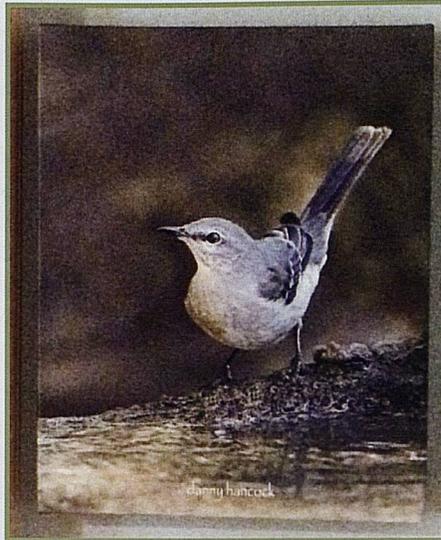
Tami Swoboda holds one of our little Virginia Opossums



Spring and summer means "baby season" and songbirds will continue to appreciate your handouts of seed and water as they rear their youngsters!

"The earth has its music for those who will listen."
.....George Santayana

News and Notes



Special thanks to longtime volunteers Maggie and Danny Hancock, who surprised me with a gift of one of Danny's beautiful Northern Mockingbird photographs on canvas. Their message: "In appreciation for all the wildlife you've saved." This beautiful picture now graces our living room. Thank you!

Not only is the mockingbird one of my top three favorite songbirds, it was the first wild bird I raised – and successfully released. Had that experience been a disaster, the Wildlife Center would likely not be here today.

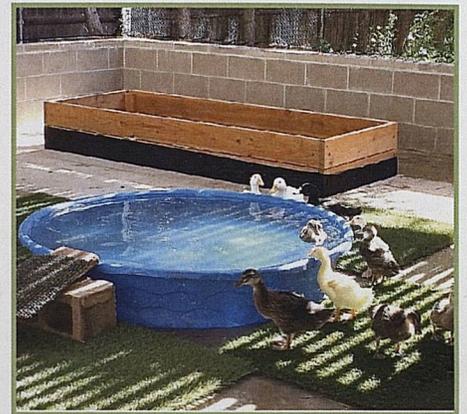
Thanks also to Shelly Ellison for the beautiful calendar from Birdnote!



Our first White-tailed Deer Fawn arrived May 27th this year

On May 27th SPWRC received a \$500.00 anonymous gift to complete the yard for our ducks and waterfowl. We'll buy organic soil as requested and seed to plant in the planter our Treasurer Pat Harris bought for this area.

We'll also buy a low stock tank with a drain for easy draining and cleaning. The donors will also volunteer their time to help make the duck yard a pleasing natural habitat for our patients. Thank you!



Happy Ducklings!

Thank you Girl Scouts!

In May, Girl Scout Troop 6470 donated \$100.00 to the Wildlife Center. This donation was raised from their cookie sales.

Thank you!



Girl Scout Troop 5470

More News and Notes



In April, Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Westerman completed our 58th Eagle Scout project, making perches, a roosting perch and travel box for "Cleopatra," a Short-eared Owl and our newest wildlife Ambassador. Thank you! Matthew is a freshman at Frenship High School. His hobbies are football and reading.

His parents are Alan and Paulette Westerman of Lubbock. Matthew will be moving to Virginia in June.

Every year we welcome a pair of wild mallards that nest by our pond. This Mother's Day the mother duck hatched 10 ducklings!

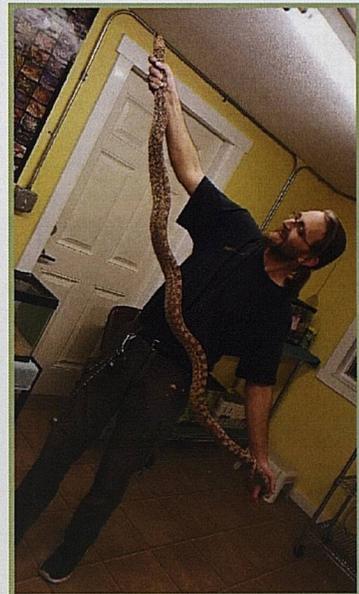


Newly hatched baby Mallard Ducklings

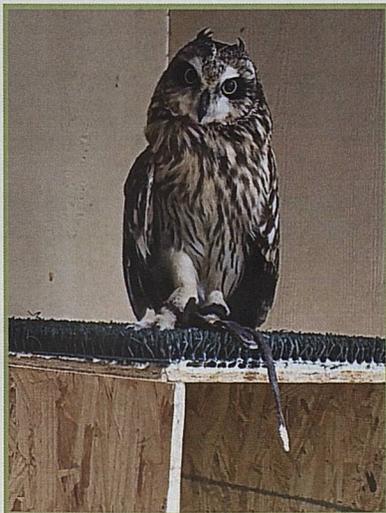


Matthew Westerman (on far right) and fellow Scouts

A Bull Snake was admitted on March 30th brought by Lubbock Animal Services. It was taken to Dr. Preston at Animal Medical Center. The snake had a missing left eye that was stapled shut and multiple abrasions and puncture wounds that were treated, and it was given antibiotics for seven days. He was released May 3rd in a barn. We had many requests for the snake to be released. Bull Snakes help keep the rodent population down.



Daniel Andrews holds the Bull Snake



"Cleo" is happy with her new perches

Watch for the summer issue of Lubbock Magazine. The Wildlife Center will be featured in one of their articles.

One of the collective terms for a group of owls is called a "Parliament."



Two Wildlife Ambassadors will be Greatly Missed

“Percy”

In May, two of our wildlife ambassadors passed away.

Percy, our beloved American White Pelican, was admitted to the Wildlife Center in November, 1999. The migrating pelican was found north of Lubbock near Plainview and brought to us by a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department game warden.

Upon examination and X-ray by Animal Medical Center veterinarian Lane Preston, it was learned Percy had a fractured coracoid bone – the large bone that supports muscles for flight. It was presumed the pelican flew into an immovable object -- perhaps a barn or girduring foggy or stormy conditions that were prevalent in the area around that time.

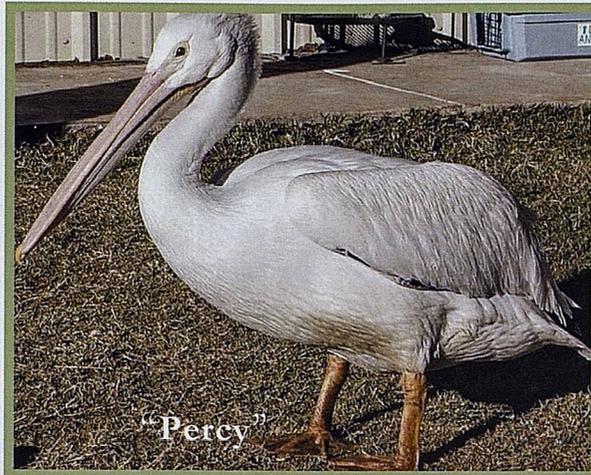
Surgery was performed by Dr. Preston. It was touch and go for a while, and Percy’s condition was grave. However, the pelican survived the surgery only to have the metal support pin dislodge several days post-operatively, putting pressure on his trachea and causing respiratory difficulty.

Percy was rushed back to surgery and the pin was removed. The wing was again splinted and we waited. His course of antibiotics continued.

After several weeks Percy was out of the woods and recovering nicely, eating on his own and growing stronger each day. Lubbock residents showered him with fish and funds for a new freezer to store all of it. On several occasions, our celebrated pelican even made the front page of the local paper, the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.

Percy was loved by everyone, and was happy in his permanent home at SPWRC. During the summer, he liked to swim in his pool, sun, nap, and pester the geese and ducklings.

Sensitive to cold weather, he had special quarters where he could retreat to his own warm and comfortable space indoors when days grew chilly.



Percy became ill in early May 2016, and went to the veterinarian several times. He died May 8th, 2016. Our donors and friends are saddened by this unhappy news. Percy, one of our most personable wildlife ambassadors ever, will certainly be missed!

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology’s “All About Birds” page on this species, they note: “The oldest known American White Pelican lived at least 23 years, 6 months, and was banded in North Dakota in 1983.

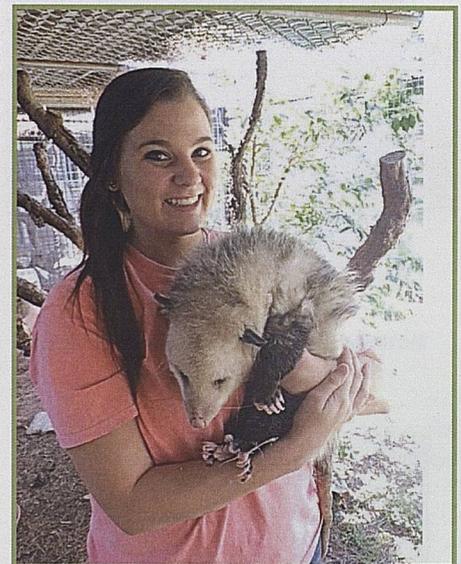
“Yanis”



Yanis in his baby picture

“Yanis,” our educational Virginia Opossum passed away May 6th. He was admitted in April 2014, weighing 40 grams (30 Grams are in 1 ounce). Although they may live longer in captivity, opossums live only 1-3 years in the wild. They are the only marsupial (mammal with a pouch) in North America.

Beneficial animals, opossums eat insects and rodents. They’re opportunistic, and if you leave pet food outdoors overnight, you may find opossums around your property. They show a remarkable resistance to many viruses and rarely contract rabies, parvovirus, distemper, or feline hepatitis, common in other mammals. Yanis helped educate and inform the public about opossums and the vital role they play in our urban ecosystem. He will be missed!



Alison Doran holds Yanis during an Environmental Educational program

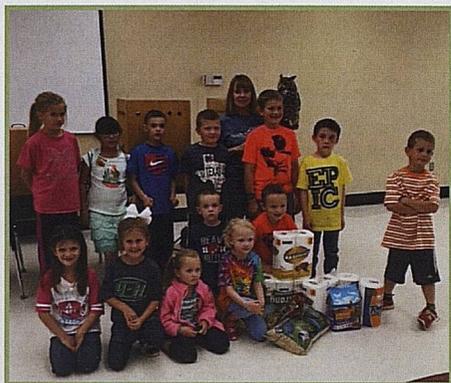
A big thank you to John Frullo and the staff at Midtown Printing for doing a great job with our quarterly newsletters!

midtown
printing & graphics

Environmental Education

Environmental education programs were presented during the last quarter for the following: Abernathy Elementary (Grades 4 and 5); Abernathy Clover Kids (4-H Group); Above & Beyond Pet Care Hospital (Celebrating 100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act); Cooper School Pre-K; Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR); Ervin Elementary 5th Grade; Friends of the Lubbock Public Library (sponsored two area library programs) and Girl Scout Troop #6370.

A tour was given to a group from Indiana Baptist Church for their Day Care Program; also tours of SPWRC for Preston Elementary and another for Jackson Elementary.



**Abernathy Clover Kids 4-H Group
Program in April**

Other presentations were given for the Lubbock County Republican Convention; Northridge Elementary; Raiders Helping Others (Texas Tech); Ranching Heritage Center (Ranch Days); Ramirez Elementary; the Science Spectrum; Scout Packs #536 and 544; Shallowater I.S.D. Intermediate; Lubbock I.S.D. (Project Intercept); two tours for Stewart Elementary and last but not least, Dino Day at Texas Tech.

A big thank you to Gail Barnes and volunteers for spreading the word about living with wildlife throughout the Texas South Plains!

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

Commemorative Bricks

Bricks purchased during the last quarter will be engraved and laid before our annual June Open House (Saturday June 18 (11-2).

*Jody and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, Texas, purchased a brick in Memory of Samantha Williams.

*Deanna and William Schwartze, Lubbock, purchased a brick in Memory of "Molly, the Perfect Scottie."

This is a commemorative walkway on Center property of tributes composed of individual bricks inscribed with names, personal messages or memorable quotes.

This is a wonderful way to support the Wildlife Center while honoring or remembering a family member, friend or beloved pet. The Brick order form is on our web site at www.spwrc.org



A young opossum gets a lesson in learning to lap formula

Do you read the Wall Street Journal?

If so, will you please save them for us?

We don't take regular newspapers (please take those to a recycle drop off) but both Gail and Carol use the Wall Street Journal papers in animal cages. The Journals are larger and heavier than local papers and you can leave them in our animal drop off building. Thank you!

Tributes

Gifts to Remember

*Ardis and Bebe McCasland of Big Spring, TX, made a Memorial donation for Mike Paul. An acknowledgement was sent to Mrs. Hallie Paul of Pleasanton, TX.

*Fidel and Twila Ortiz of Hart, TX, made a donation in Memory of Terry Box. Acknowledgement was sent to Tony and Cathy Leibel, Hart, TX.

*Susie Williamson and Ruben Castillo of Lubbock made a donation in Memory of Gary Bond Williams. Acknowledgement was sent to Elana Richardson and family, Lubbock.

*Susie Williamson also gave a gift in Memory of Joel and Maggie Winner-Carothers. Acknowledgement went to Kate Winner, Ruidoso, NM.



Male Red-winged Blackbird

(Photo by Professional Wildlife Photographer Danny Hancock)

Did you Know?

It's our everyday donations from Keystone Donors, for Tributes, contributions from animal admissions, fundraising events, *Mockingbird Chronicles* subscriptions and outreach education programs that allow us to keep our doors open, provide wildlife food and supplies and pay our bills.

Foundation and other large gifts and grants allow us to make necessary, much-needed improvements at the Wildlife Center, the most recent of which are our new barn and water-fowl facility. Thank you, one and all!

Summer at the Wildlife Center

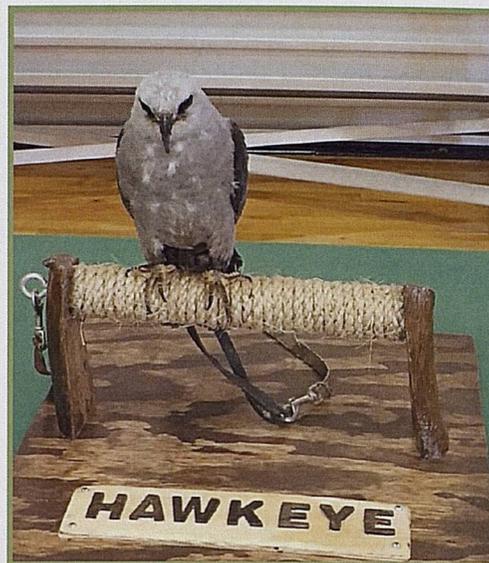


Great Horned Owl chick admitted this season

(Photo by Gail Barnes)

It's never really quiet at the Wildlife Center. Animal admissions arrive almost every day of the year, and our census is highest from March through early September.

High winds, sudden storms or hail in the forecast put everyone on high alert, because volunteers know they're going to be busy - birds get blown out of nests, and some mammals find their burrows suddenly flooded.



Thanks to Joel Henry for making a perch for our Mississippi Kite, "Hawkeye"

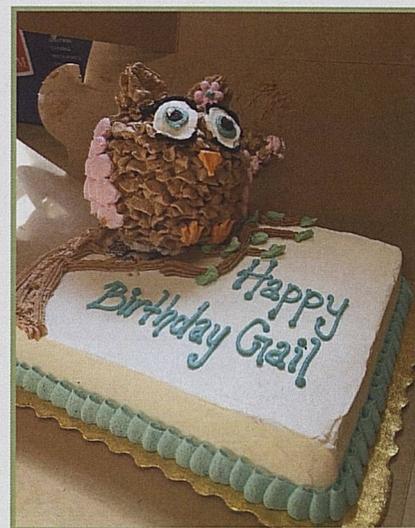


Young Cottontail
(Photo by Gail Barnes)



This Common Loon was successfully treated and released May 8th in the Canyon Lakes

Animals get 'displaced' in many ways, too - sometimes healthy youngsters are separated from their parents by well-meaning people. Please don't kidnap healthy, bright-eyed baby birds or mammals, but leave them in the care of their parents who teach them essential survival skills.



Gail Barnes' adorable birthday cake adorned with her favorite bird: an owl!



2016 is the Wildlife Center's 28th year of service!

Read Baby Birds 101 on our web site at www.spwrc.org if you need help to decide whether to rescue or not. There is mammal information there, too.

South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
Accepts Donations
via eBay Giving Works



Celebrating 100 Years of Bird Conservation

“2016 marks the centennial of the first Migratory Bird Treaty, which formed the cornerstone of our efforts conserve birds at national and international levels. We are working with our partners to celebrate the last century of bird conservation, while looking forward to the next hundred years through a series of events around the country (and beyond) throughout the year.”

(From <http://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php#>)

A Little Background on the Dawn of Conservation

Early in the history of America there were no laws to protect wildlife. Settlers relied on the abundance of wildlife for food and clothing. As population exploded, demand for wildlife resources seriously depleted many species. The best example is likely the buffalo, as herds dwindled to the point of near-extinction. The demand for birds in commercial fashion markets also took a toll on some species' populations.

At the turn of the century women's hats were an essential element of dress, and was a symbol of the wearer's social and economic status. Simple or elaborate, most were adorned with feathers and plumes. Bird feathers of many species were used, but heron, Great and Snowy Egret, ostrich, peacock and Bird of Paradise were among the most popular. Turkey, goose and pigeon feathers were also used, but these duller feathers were often dyed and processed with starch, acid or dye to give them a more appealing look. However, despite the capability to produce fancy feathers from common barnyard birds, there remained a certain status associated with wearing real osprey, egret and heron feathers.

These particular feathers demanded high prices from the 'plumassiers,' or dealers who prepared the feathers for the millinery and fashion industry. Herons, and egrets (like the one on our cover) in particular, suffered at the hands of plume hunters. With their feathers attractive during breeding season, this is when most were killed, leaving their youngsters to starve to death.

Entire bird colonies were quickly eradicated and before long, these species were virtually gone. Supposedly, in 1892, an order of feathers to a London merchant included 6,000 bird of paradise feathers and 40,000 hummingbird feathers. Before long, feathers were no longer enough, and other parts of birds were soon decorating hats. These included heads of owls, wings or skins of some birds, and occasionally, a whole bird.

In 1906, Queen Alexandra became incensed at this cruel fad, and refused to wear wild bird feathers in her hat. Queen Mary followed suit in 1911. The feathered hat craze eventually set the stage for the nation's first bird protection laws.



In 1916 an International Treaty was signed between the U.S. and Great Britain (as representative for Canada). This treaty ethically bound the two

countries. In 1918, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of the country's oldest and most important environmental laws. Except under specific circumstances, this act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase or barter any migratory birds, including their feathers, nests, eggs, parts or migratory bird products.

This Act protects all common wild birds found in the U.S. except species introduced from Europe- English (House) Sparrow, European Starling, feral (wild) pigeon, and resident game birds like turkeys and pheasants. These birds are managed by individual states unless a species is listed as a Federally endangered species. There are a few exceptions that have associated regulations: these include wildlife rehabilitation and possession of certain birds for education, falconry, scientific collecting for bona fide scientific research,

and the hunting of certain species such as Mourning doves and Canada geese. The Act is aimed at conservation and recovery of certain wild populations.

This law also impacts what we can and cannot do in our everyday lives. It means you can't shoot a hawk, owl, robin or Blue Jay. You may not take a bird's nest for a private collection, or take mockingbird feathers. It also means you can't have a Science Fair project exhibiting birds' nests, eggs or feathers.

The photo is from an Audubon.org web site, showing the Great Blue Heron's beautiful plumes and feathers.

Read about one particular bird conservationist on the following page.



Two juvenile Mourning Doves

(Photo by Danny Hancock, professional wildlife photographer)

Mourning Doves and White-winged Doves are very prevalent at area bird feeders, often crowding out other species.

They'll eat seed off the ground or from hanging or platform feeders. Offering different types of seeds may encourage other species to dine in your yard.

Always keep a bowl of fresh water outdoors for the birds during every season.

Guy Bradley - Pioneer of Environmental Protection

Many individuals have been influential in conservation of our natural resources since this country was founded –Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir and Rachel Carson – but a number of pioneers in resource protection are much more obscure. One such individual was a champion for bird protection around the turn of the century when conservation was in its fledgling stage. His name was Guy Bradley. Bradley was hired in 1902 as a game warden in Monroe County in south Florida when the game warden system was relatively new.

Graceful bird plumes and colorful feathers were in high demand during this era by the millinery industry and were bought and sold to adorn women's hats. Plumes, bird parts and even whole birds were also used on gowns, fans, powder puffs, ornaments and other accessories. Eventually even well-to-do men's hats would sport fancy feathers.

Turn-of-the-century south Florida was involved in this deadly trade, and home to plume hunters and poachers, especially near the small town of Flamingo. By 1900 about 50 families lived there - farming, charcoal making and bird plume exports were the mainstay of the local economy.

Egret and heron plumes were especially sought after, and these graceful wading birds were being slaughtered by the thousands. Plume hunters entered rookeries where the birds built their bulky nests in trees and shrubs over shallow water, and there would simply open fire, killing as many birds as possible. The millinery industry even hired 'gunners' to fire on the defenseless animals.

Guy Bradley was hired for the express purpose of protecting the rookeries where these species breed. He was known as a "fearless and brave warden," with an extensive knowledge of the region and the birds that lived there.

On July 8, 1905, Bradley was investigating shots he heard near Oyster Keys rookery. He was attempting to arrest a notorious plume hunter, Walter Smith, for killing egrets on Cape Sable when he was shot and killed. He was 35 years old.

The incident sparked public outrage, and resulted in the 1910 *Plumage Bill* that outlawed bird killing and protected the wading birds' remaining nesting colonies.

He was reported, "to be alert and faithful in the performance of his duty and willing to undergo any hardship to protect the birds."

In 1988, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established a national award in Bradley's honor, named the Guy Bradley Lifetime Conservation Award. The Foundation seeks out and recognizes "extraordinary individuals who made an outstanding lifetime contribution to wildlife law enforcement, wildlife forensics, or investigative techniques that warrant national recognition" and make a difference by perpetuating the spirit of Guy Bradley, the first wildlife law enforcement agent killed while protecting the nation's wildlife.

I'm proud to say **Rob Lee of Lubbock was the 1998 recipient of the Guy Bradley Award.** The Texas Legacy website notes, "(he) is best known for his ten-year effort (as a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) to eliminate waste oil hazards to migratory birds in west Texas, which contributed to the deaths of millions of songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors caught in the sludge of over 1200 un-netted open oil pits, a loss that exceeded the *Valdez* spill impacts. He also participated in the prosecution of defendants involved in pronghorn antelope killings, rare insect smuggling, burrowing owl poisoning, and game bird poaching."

Since the dawn of conservation, dedicated individuals go the extra mile to protect and preserve what we have for future generations. It may always be an uphill battle, but the world is certainly a better place because many fought to save our natural resources, and wildlife is certainly one of our most valuable gifts.

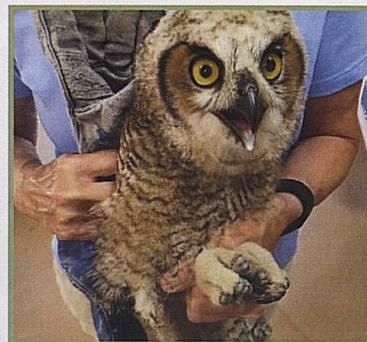
Everyone associated with SPWRC over the years is also doing a part to help wildlife and promote conservation.



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

Thank you for Supplies!

Randy Allison – Dog Food and Pecans
 Bebe and Art McCasland, Beef Heart
 Barbara and T. G. Birge – Corn for geese
 Pat Ellerman - \$20.00 Gift Card
 Tina Fuentes – Towels and Blankets
 Wade Gipson – Gram Scale
 Holle Humphries –
 Dry Food Dispensers
 Indiana Baptist Church – Paper Towels,
 Bird Seed, Toilet Paper
 Lubbock ISD – VTC – 5 Bags of Bird
 Seed and \$100.00 Gift Card
 Natural Grocery – Produce Donations
 Don Peach – Animal Supplies
 Susan Radle – Bird Seed and Cat Food
 Leanne Smith, Levelland, TX – Crocks
 Wayland Taylor (Bar T Pecans) - Pecans
 United Supermarkets – Produce
 Marilyn Jamison- a playpen and towels



This Great Horned Owl chick came in from Ozona, Texas, in May

You can help

If you shop online at Amazon.com you can designate SPWRC to receive 0.5% of the purchase price. Just look for the "Amazon Smile" icon and add it to your toolbar to make signing in easy!

Shop at AmazonSmile
 and Amazon will make
 a donation to:
 South Plains Wildlife
 Rehabilitation Center,

Get started

amazonsmile

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
 Joyce Badger
 Judy Billman, Seattle, WA
 Cindy and Jody Burkes, Denver City, TX
 Becky and Jason Cooper, Cambridge, MA
 Stanley and Denise Davis
 Mark Jones
 Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
 Stacy Keith
 Joyce Komkov
 Lubbock ISD
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 Fidel and Twila Ortiz, Hart, TX
 Susan Radle (New Keystone Donor)
 Vicki Schellhase
 Robyn and Carl Tepper
 Deanna and William Schwartze
 Dr. John and Debbie Zak

Additional Gifts:

\$7,500.00

Community Foundation of West Texas

\$500.00

Anonymous Gift
 Gordon, Lori and Caroline Wilkerson

\$450.00

Dr. Mary Lochbaum

\$300.00

Anonymous Gift
 Dr. David E. Mangold

\$100.00

Anonymous, Tahoka, TX
 Larry and Janis Gailey
 John and Mary Gillas
 Sara North
 Jimmy Schneider
 James Seely
 Lois and Loyd ShROUT, Manor, TX
 Claudette Waddingham

\$75.00 - \$100.00

Anonymous, Tahoka, TX
 Dale and Michele Crawford,
 Shallowater, TX

\$75.00 - \$100.00, continued

Shirley Flache, Brownfield, TX
 Rebecca and Ronnie Germany
 Timothy and Kris Grabowski
 Jeffrey and Susanna Lastrapes

\$50.00

Jennifer Ancira
 Ann Bass
 Sue Colt, Ralls, TX
 Shannon Miller Beard
 Ebay Giving Works
 Barbara Hunsucker
 Chad Kirk
 Linda McWilliams
 Kim Phillips
 Saving Grace Pit Bull Rescue
 Sue Colt, Ralls, TX
 Helmut Wierzba

\$30.00 - \$40.00

Rebecca Arce
 Casey Garcia
 Ashley Hoffman
 Laurie Hoover
 Johnny Lozano
 Kyle Russell
 Amanda Vieregge

\$25.00

Justin and Laura Anderson
 Wendell Aycock
 Doug Cunningham
 Casey and Christian Freeman
 Glenn and Janie Forister
 Ronald Herrin
 Michelle Hill
 Dan Hlavaty, Ransom Canyon, TX
 Evelyn Lehman
 Lori Little
 Julie McCasland
 Peggy and Michael Mulcahy,
 Lewisville, TX
 Denise Newsome
 Elizabeth Olson
 Steve and Vicki Oughton
 Glinda Poe
 John Schwankhaus, Maumelle, AK
 Carole Sullivan
 David and Carrie Teske, Hobbs, NM
 Guadalupe and Mary Trevino
 Tammie Ware

\$25.00, continued

John Weaver and Debbie Walker
 Dr. Cheryl and Fred Weber
 Don and Neoma Williams
 Paula Womack

\$20.00

Seamus Anderson
 Joseph Alplanalp
 Carol Belasquez, Sugar Land, TX
 Gary Bloys
 Ken Brashear, Wolfforth, TX
 Kyle Bullock
 Richard Burgess
 Valeri Carr
 Ghislaine Cobb, Levelland, TX
 Stevan and Sheree Coleman
 Denton Collins, Ransom Canyon, TX
 Pat Ellerman
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 Jana Forbes
 Susan French
 Ken and Carol Fritz
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 Tanya Thomas
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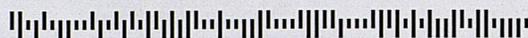


The Mockingbird Chronicles

Newsletter of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

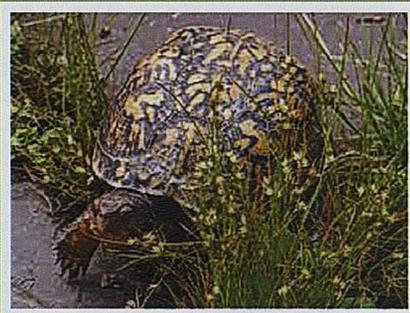
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Leave Ornate Box Turtles in the Wild unless you are willing to commit to their habitat and nutritional needs



Gail Barnes recently did a segment on "Wildlife Friday" on KLBK-TV about Box Turtles, and displayed one whose outer shell had been painted. This should never be done, as the turtle's shell absorbs light and Vitamin D to help keep the turtle healthy.

Box Turtles live on land, have special light and nutritional requirements, and should not be kept in a glass tank in a child's room. There's lots of information on the Internet, and you can call or leave a message for Maggie Hancock at the Center for information on how to properly care for Box Turtles in your backyard.

Healthy box turtles will eat almost every day during warm weather months and eat earthworms, insects, fruits and vegetables. Hamburger and Iceberg lettuce have no nutri-

tional value and should not be fed to turtles.

Box Turtles hibernate during the cold months, and must have proper habitat in order for them to survive the winter. The turtle must start hibernation in an optimal state of health, or may come out of hibernation with eye problems resulting from Vitamin A deficiencies, or in a very weakened state. Good husbandry includes paying a veterinarian to see your turtle if it suddenly stops eating during warm weather, loses weight, or develops eye, respiratory or other problems.

Read more at <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/news/pet-talk/texas-box-turtle-a-good-pet-for-you>