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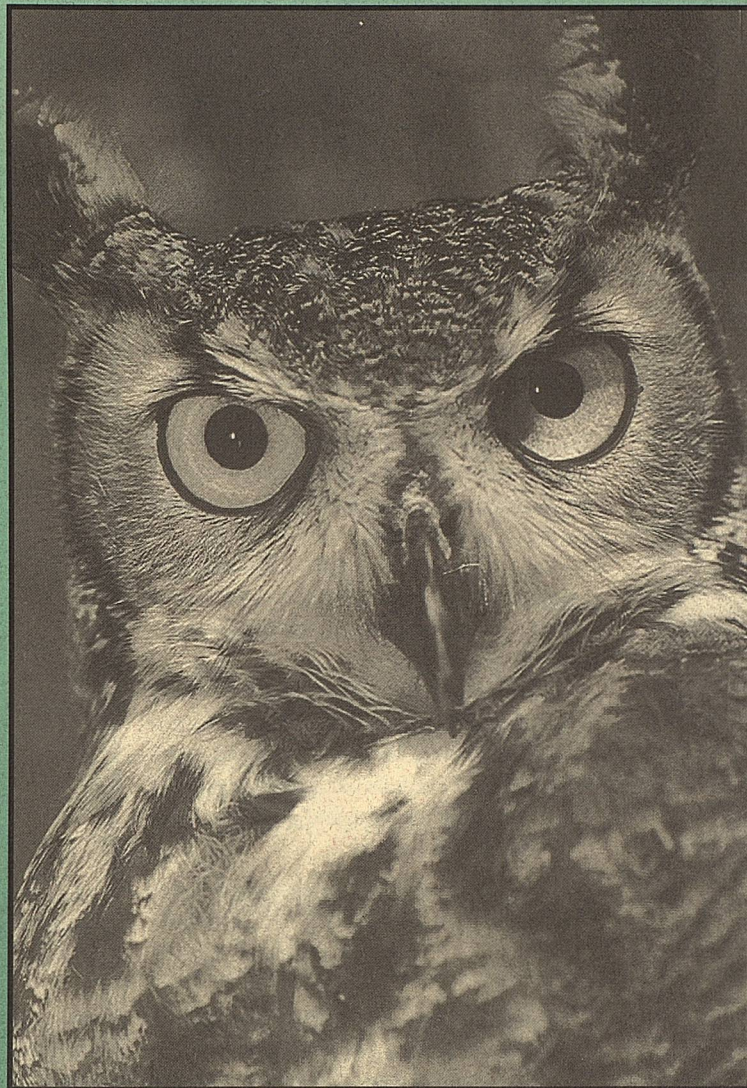
The Mockingbird Chronicles



Letter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 3 / 2008

Happy Holidays!



Letter from the Director

As the year comes to a close it is traditional to look back over the year and reflect on the past, and more

our patients fed and the workplace running. Keep an eye on our new website www.spwrc.org for upcoming news and events. In the future, we hope to be able to offer an electronic version of our newsletter. We have great plans and great expectations for the new year!

Dorothy

importantly, on the future. The Wildlife Center went through some momentous changes and events over the past twelve months: Carol Lee retired after 23 years of wildlife rehabilitation and I took over as Executive Director; the Wildlife Center celebrated its 20th anniversary; we hired a new manager, Katie Stafford; we offered many educational outreach programs; we started work on the Baby Bird Building, lovingly called "B-cubed." We also started work on the Memorial brick walkway; and facilitated Eagle Scout projects. Some of these events are chronicled in the pages of this newsletter.

We cared for a steady stream of animals; at the peak of our spring and summer season, we released 80 birds in a single day and were feeding 30 squirrels. I don't expect this to diminish, so if you think you might like to volunteer, please download a volunteer application from our website at spwrc.org. We're open during daylight hours so you can volunteer anytime from sunrise to sunset and we'd appreciate your help for whatever time you have available, even if it's just two hours a month.

I look forward to the future as we continue to take in all the orphaned, injured and abandoned wildlife that arrives at our doorstep. I also look forward to expanding our educational program outreach even more. We enjoy sharing our wildlife ambassadors' stories, so please contact us if you would like us to come to an event for your group or organization. All thirty-two of our ambassadors arrived at the Center too injured to be returned to the wild, and their lives now serve to teach the stories of their species and the importance of caring for the natural world. Our Open House on Saturday, the 20th of December will soon be upon us. I hope many of our readers will be able to come by between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM, introduce yourselves and meet our wonderful, dedicated volunteers who keep

Carol's notes

As we slip into my favorite time of the year with short, chilly days and long nights, I'm particularly enjoying my newfound "free" time. I visited relatives in southeastern Pennsylvania in mid-October, including a side trip to Washington, D.C. for a long weekend.

Since I've been back, I'm attacking all the nooks and crannies in our home that were neglected over the past twenty years while life was being breathed into the ever-growing Wildlife Center. It's almost "fun" reclaiming my space here at home.

I have no short-term plans for travel or other activities – just to enjoy every day as it comes, and reflect on the long list of things I still plan to accomplish.

Thanks to all of you for sharing my dream, and helping me make a place for ill, injured and displaced wildlife; we've returned many thousands of animals back to their rightful place on our landscape, and given them the best gift of all: freedom.

Carol

Cover

This photograph was taken by Dr. Louis Mitchell around 1990. It is "Bubo," our Great Horned Owl and our very first Wildlife Ambassador.



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

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

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Executive Director, Retired	Carol Lee
Manager	Katie Stafford

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

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

Volunteer Spotlight :



Jerrie Rodgers during her recent birthday celebration

Volunteer Jerrie Rodgers has been with the Wildlife Center for the past fifteen – and possibly more – years.

Jerrie was born in Hale Center, Texas, on a farm. She worked as an insurance adjuster for a number of years until her retirement.

She's often said, "The Wildlife Center saved my life." The other volunteers are as much a part of Jerrie's family as her daughter, Kelle Hester, and were there for her when her son Kevin passed away some years ago.

She enjoys going along to our educational programs, and takes particular pride in being caretaker for several of our permanent birds, namely our Mississippi Kite, American Kestrels and Australian Kookaburra. She's recently started wood burning, her new hobby.

Jerrie's many years of volunteer service have been an invaluable asset to our Center and our many thousands of wild patients over the years. Jerrie recently celebrated a birthday, and many of us joined her for lunch at the Red Lobster, her favorite restaurant.....Ed.



Commemorative Brick Walkway

South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center created a way for everyone to have an opportunity to leave a meaningful and permanent mark on the Wildlife Center.

We designed a Memorial Brick Walkway - a walkway of memories composed of individual bricks inscribed with names, personal messages, or memorable quotes. This is a wonderful way to support the Wildlife Center while honoring a family member, friend or favorite pet.

The walk is an attractive brick pathway in front of the amphitheater on the Center's grounds. Each commemorative or memorial brick along the walk is available for purchase and will be inscribed according to your wishes.

The 4"x 8" brick size will accommodate up to three lines with a maximum of 15 characters per line.

The walkway will be started in October 2008 and all inscribed bricks will be set by summer of 2009. This project will be ongoing until all bricks are sold.

Please make a donation and communicate your love of the wildlife of the Texas South Plains and the Wildlife Center that has been caring for them for the past two decades.

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

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

Memorial Brick Walkway Donors

Carlton Bell
Deborah L. Carter
Patricia Conover, Wolfforth, TX
Peg Davis
Janie Sue Ellington and Tom F. Hall,
Midland, TX
Dentler Erdmann
Larry and Lisa Gilliland
Jim and Pat Harris
Marcie Hartman
Valerie Komkov-Hill
Rob Lee
Jose and Patty Lujan, Los Alamos, TX

Memorial Brick Walkway Donors, continued

Jimmie and Linda McDowell
Tom McLaughlin
Leroy and Marty Montoya
Jean Morrison
Beverly Odell
Lola Page
William and Deanna Schwartz
Henry and Sellie Shine
Leanna Smith Levelland, TX
Hal and Darla Troutt
Dr. Cheryl and Fred Weber

Retirement Party honors Carol's twenty years of volunteer service

On Saturday, November 8th, friends honored Carol at a retirement party at LaBowski's Restaurant in downtown Lubbock.

Guests enjoyed good food and fine wines donated by Caprock Winery.

Special thanks to organizer Dorothy Tinkler and to chef Matt Britton. There was a little reminiscing and a lot of fun!



Mary Wesley, first full-time volunteer attends retirement dinner

Did you know?

During 2007, the Wildlife Center cared for 1,920 birds, mammals and reptiles.

198 of those admissions were raptors (birds of prey) and 480 were mammals.

Three additional non-releasable birds were requested for use in education during 2008: a Swainson's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and an American Kestrel.

Rehabilitator Bebe McCasland gets prestigious Award

Big Spring wildlife rehabilitator Bebe McCasland received a very prestigious award for her work in conservation of natural resources.

The honor was given at the Lubbock Women's Club October 15th, 2008, by the Nancy Anderson Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Volunteer and DAR member Gail Barnes submitted Bebe's name for consideration.

Bebe started wildlife rehabilitation in 1974 with the help of her husband Ardis (Art). The McCaslands rehabilitate wildlife from their home in Big Spring, Texas, and give orphans and casualties they receive an initial helping hand. After an animal is stabilized and well enough to travel, their patients are brought to Lubbock for continued care.

Congratulations, Bebe, and thank you for your continued work in conservation of our natural resources.



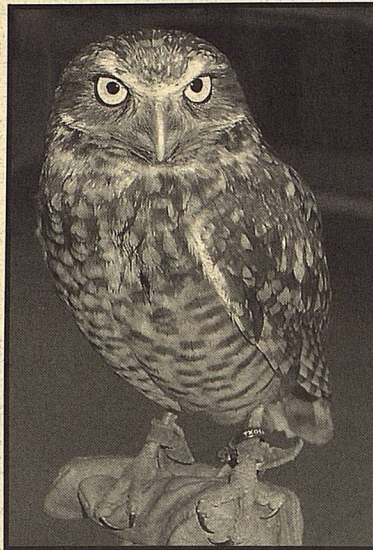
Black Vulture, "Black Beauty"

Our newest ambassador is a Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) that came to us from San Angelo in August.

She was christened "Black Beauty." She sustained a wing injury before coming to us that we hoped would heal. After X-Rays, however, it was determined that the wing would not sustain long flight and certainly not migratory flight.

Three's company now: She's moved in comfortably with our two Turkey Vultures, "Festus" and "Doc." We'll formally request her in 2009.

Goodbye, Hootie ... You'll be missed



"Hootie"

Our beloved non-releasable Burrowing Owl "Hootie" died. His caretaker, volunteer Jerrie Rodgers, was doing his daily cage cleaning, and as she was holding him, he died in her hands. unexpectedly October 11th, 2008.

"Hootie" was a resident of the Wildlife Center since the summer of 2001, arriving as a young chick. He was one of eleven Burrowing Owls whose homes in the ground were earmarked for development.

Before the bulldozers arrived, Rob Lee, then with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dr. Mark Wallace, Range and Wildlife professor at Texas Tech, coordinated efforts to remove the family of youngsters from harm's way. Both state and federal laws protect Burrowing Owls, like all other owls, and the project had to have proper permission.

With the help of a backhoe, their deep burrow was exposed, and Rob pulled out the little owls. They were of varying sizes, and all still had some downy feathers. The chicks were all taken to the Wildlife Center to be raised and released – except for "Hootie," the smallest. Rob advocated our getting state and federal permission to retain "Hootie" for education, because of the many Prairie Dog issues on the Texas South Plains; these are the animals the

Burrowing Owls share their space with underground, and if one species is at risk, so is the other. Unfortunately, the Prairie Dogs are still unprotected by state or federal laws at this time.

"Hootie" joined our other non-releasable wildlife ambassadors at countless programs in and around the Texas South Plains during his lifetime.

Even though Burrowing Owls don't "hoot" like Great Horned Owls, his name was chosen during our 2001 June annual open house, when visitors could drop their choices to "name the owl" into a fishbowl. The name "Hootie" was picked for our little friend.

Hootie will certainly be missed by all of us.

Holiday Open House

Holiday Open House gives visitors a winter glimpse behind the scenes. Join us Saturday, December 20th, 2008, anytime between 11 AM and 2 PM. There's no charge but gifts and donations for our wildlife patients are always appreciated. Monetary contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law, and SPWRC is an IRS determined 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

If you'd like to bring something for the animals in our care, visit our web site at spwrc.org and click the Wish List tab. Photography is welcome. We invite you to take a break and stop by. Enjoy a glass of wine, soft drinks and festive refreshments. Meet our volunteers, share your wildlife stories, or ask questions about those pesky tree squirrels, Canada geese or those hard-to-miss grackles. You can also sign up to volunteer, because our busy season will start again weeks before winter is officially over.



"We judge bird song not by its musical quality nor even by its creativeness, but by its effect on the human spirit." Len Eisner, b. 1948 American writer and professor

ADOPTIONS

- Mira Jean Kaufmann adopted "Gracie" our gray fox in Memory of benefactor Ann Lee. Ann's friend, Pat Christensen of Lubbock, was notified of her kindness.

- Dwight and Marianne Overton of Lubbock adopted "Shadow," our Barred Owl for Shawn Overton.

- Danny and Maggie Hancock of Lubbock adopted "Louie" and "Athena" in Memory of "Hootie" our Burrowing Owl, for volunteer Jerrie Rodgers.

- Mike and Peggy Mulcahy of Flower Mound, Texas, adopted "Boris," one of our rehabilitated and released badgers for their daughter, Kellie, in Memory of "Mr. Hat" their ferret. Peggy is a former SPWRC volunteer.

Where are they now?

Debbie Tennyson, Wildlife Center Manager for fifteen years, left Lubbock in September, 2006, and re-located to Lawrenceville, Georgia after being offered a position at Medieval Times, a dinner and tournament attraction in nearby Atlanta.



Many of our readers knew Debbie. She said, "I'm the Master Falconer for Medieval Times here, the newest of nine castles owned by a royal family from Spain.

Medieval Times started in the U.S. twenty-five years ago and is the #1 Dinner and Tournament attraction in North America. Our castle is also the largest, seating over 1100 in the arena. Medieval Times is also the Number One breeder of the famous Andalusian stallions and each castle houses twenty five or more horses to use in its shows.

It's my job to care for, maintain and train all the King's prized birds. I have three falcons and an owl I'm responsible for. The falcons are free-flown over guests' heads during their five-course meal they eat with their hands, as they did during medieval times. The owl is used for education and display, and before each show I give a tutorial on birds of prey and falconry in the middle ages.

My falcons are of three different species: "Izzy" is a Lanner Falcon native to parts of Africa and Asia, "Sabre" is a Saker Falcon native to Europe and Asia, and "Blaze" a Barbary Falcon native to North Africa. "Kratos" is the Eurasian Eagle Owl's name and she's quite an impressive, strong bird of nine pounds.

Once a month, the advertising agency sends me to nearby cities for TV, radio and newspaper spots. It's a lot of fun traveling and doing things for the company. I still do education on birds of prey in schools, which is what I love most.

Although I miss Texas, family and friends I'm having a good time in Georgia.

It was culture shock for this small town girl, but fun at the same time. After all what's not to like? I drive to a castle everyday, dress up, ride horses, fly falcons and play in a giant sand box!"

Amy Nusbaum spent time at the Wildlife Center almost two years ago as an intern. She writes, "I've been so content at the Houston Zoo and even more so with my department, 'Natural Encounters.' We have several mixed species exhibits, so it's definitely a great first job as I'm able to learn husbandry and training practices for exotic birds, reptiles, and mammals. Also, unique to my department is that we give a lot of educational talks to the public. As a result, most of Natural Encounter's collection is composed of 'handling animals' compared to other zoo sections where they work with animals through protected contact. I've been so grateful for my volunteer experience with Lubbock's Wildlife Center and it's one advantage I have over other new keepers, with my comfort level in handling and restraining wild animals.

I've also been lucky as my section has time for training our animals.



I'm training two primates called Cotton-top Tamarins, a Collared Aracari, (a toucan species) an Asian prevoist squirrel (in the rodent family), a Binturong, (tree dwelling members of the Civet family that live in Asian rain forests) Straw-colored Fruit Bats (from Africa), and Poison Dart Frogs, native to Central and South America.

My favorite animal is the Collared Aracari named "Pico." Amy says, "I've never worked with a bird so intelligent, social and who likes to be handled. It's also been a pleasure working with our curator, supervisors, and co-workers." All those glowing remarks aside, Amy said she still misses Lubbock, "...especially the weather."

Please note:

For the next two weeks, you can vote for your favorite Lubbock charity by visiting <https://www.citybankonline.com/community-rewards/vote.html> Click on Community Rewards and select the Wildlife Center. Certify you are 18 or older, a U.S. citizen, and hit Vote!

The top five will win \$10,000. We need your help!

- Carol's personal e-mail will remain the same and notes or comments are always welcome. (spwrc@suddenlink.net) In the future, direct all mail regarding volunteering, other comments or suggestions directly to the Wildlife Center at spwrc2@yahoo.com

- All gifts, Memorials and donations received after November 15th., 2008, will be acknowledged in our March quarterly newsletter. This issue went to press early in order to be distributed prior to the Holidays. As always, if your name or gift was inadvertently omitted, we apologize, and please notify us.

Success stories

I look back fondly on all the photographs I took over the past twenty years, and recently took time to reflect on the individuals in some of my favorites.

The White-tailed Deer fawns are among the most endearing, and so many have been successfully released back to the wild.

The little Eastern Gray Squirrel was one of four released at my house several years ago. He loved apricots, and sat to pose as I snapped away.

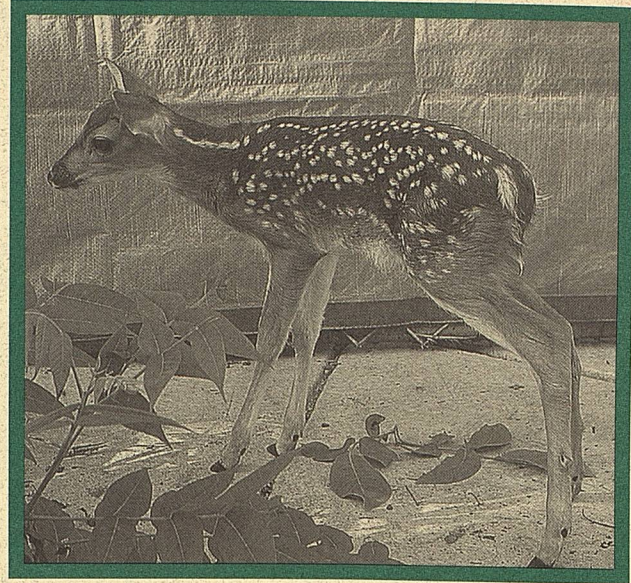
"H99" was a magnificent Trumpeter Swan of twenty-six pounds that we saved in December, 2003, along with one of two of his cygnets that were shot by poachers near Lockney, Texas.

The Baby Blue Jay's picture has been circulated far and wide, and it graces the cover of our Center's brochure that was created last spring.

The young Virginia Opossum is a popular and interesting patient, and we're able to give so many of them another chance. They're part of our urban wildlife species in Lubbock, and are docile, shy animals that would rather run away when confronted. Pet food left outdoors in dishes attracts them.

"Sierra" was our Golden Eagle until illness claimed his life in 2006. For a number of years he served as one of our regal "Wildlife Ambassadors" and went with us to many education programs.

The juvenile Yellow-shafted Flicker was one of five flickers I raised two years ago, and all five returned for handouts from their June release date through mid-October.

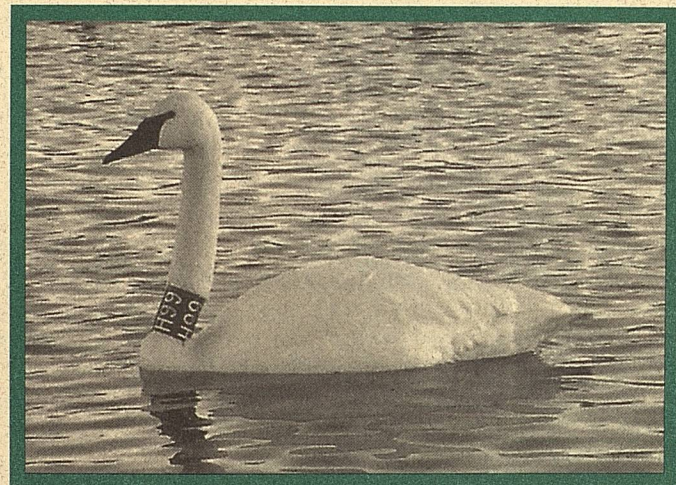


White-tailed Deer Fawn

We've raised thousands of avian, mammal and reptile species over the years. Everything from tiny baby songbirds, cute little mammal babies, raptor chicks, and newly hatched box turtles. We've all learned a great deal, and with the help of our veterinarians and volunteers, have been able to give so many hundreds a second chance.



If I could talk, I'd say , "Wow! This is good!"

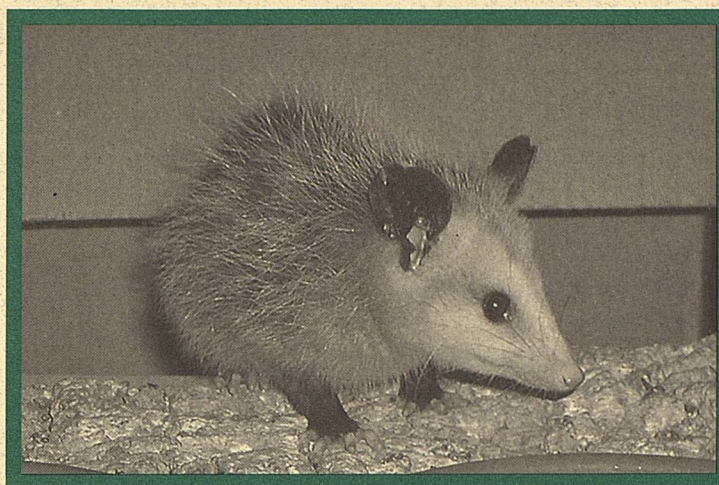


"H99 was returned to Iowa after rehabilitation for gunshot wounds.

Years of Memories



Blue Jay fledgling



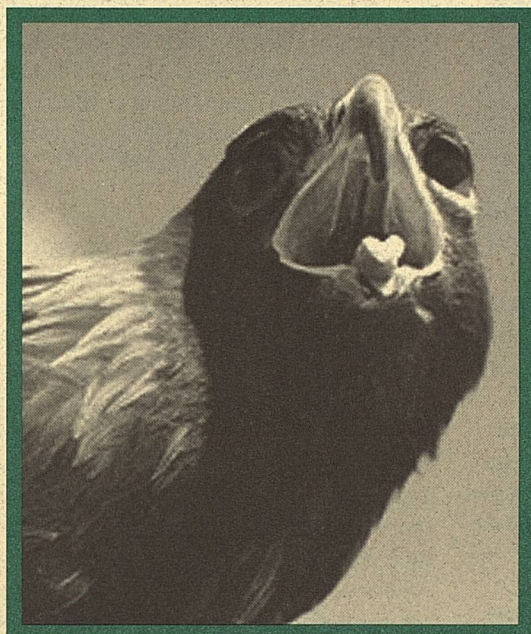
Virginia Opossum

Before a wildlife rehabilitator can care for an animal, he or she must first know that animal's natural history: how and where it lives, how it makes a living – by hunting, foraging, fishing, scavenging or a host of other tactics.

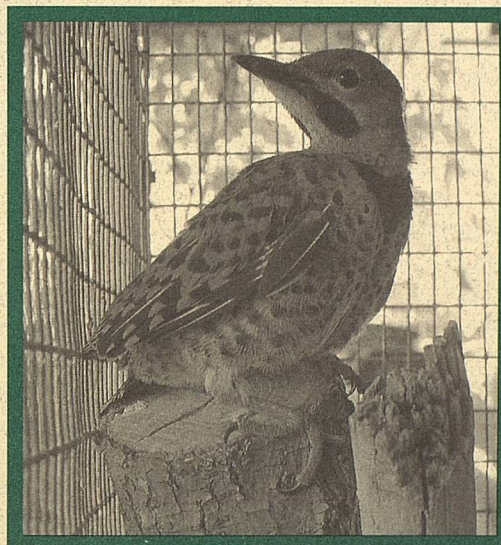
Each species has unique adaptations and special needs when it's raised in captivity, and we must try to replicate as much as possible so an animal feels at home and can recuperate to the fullest extent possible.

Cottontails like to hide so they feel secure. Mom only feeds them at dawn and dusk, so that's when we give them their formula. Hawks feed during the day, so volunteers feed them at that time. Owls prefer late afternoon or early evening meals.

Some songbird fledglings like Blue Jays fare well when raised by humans, but when they're admitted as adults, jays and many other bird species become highly stressed.



Our Golden Eagle, "Sierra"



This flicker, member of the woodpecker family, was one of five siblings, and a delight to raise

Education Programs

A big thank you to volunteer Gail Barnes and all the volunteers who accompany and help her with programs! Locations are Lubbock unless otherwise noted.

August 8, 2008- Lubbock Business Associates

August 11, 2008- Grand Court

August 19, 2008-Rotary Club

September 17, 2008 Playa Lake Festival, Tulia, Texas

September 25, 2008 Playa Lake Festival Whiteface, Texas

October 1, 2008 Playa Lake Festival Friona, Texas

October 7, 2008 Playa Lake Festival Nazareth, Texas

October 8, 2008 Playa Lake Festival, Dimmitt, Texas

October 9, 2008 All Saints Episcopal School

October 14, 2008-Parsons Elementary

October 23, 2008 Hope Lutheran School,

October 25, 2008-4-H Club, Hereford, Texas

October 27, 2008 Whiteside Elementary

November 1, 2008 Individual tour

November 6, 2008- Bean Elementary

November 10, 2008 -Texas Tech Univ.

Natural Resources Department

November 14, 2008-Harwell Elementary, Science Fair

We're now doing individual tours for a minimum of \$25.00. The cost depends on the number of people. Call Gail Barnes at the Center for more information at 806 799-2142



Scouts make Barn Owl boxes as part of Eagle Scout project

News and Notes

Richmond Lee came to the Wildlife Center Sunday, August 10th, to assemble owl nesting boxes for his Eagle Scout Project.

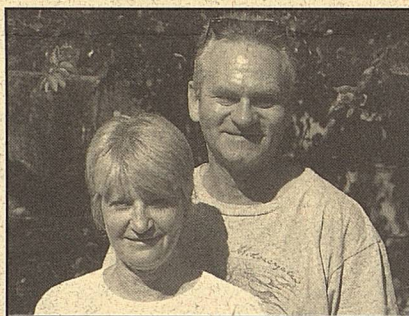
Six scouts and three adults from Troop 536 were on hand to help. Troop 536 is associated with Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Scouts completed nine Barn Owl nest boxes that will go with the Barn Owls we relocate, in hopes that the birds will use the boxes for nestlings of their own.

Scouts present were: Christian Hollingworth; John Sherman; Alexander Nunez; Jakob Reynolds; and Dillon Bates.

Adults present were: Mark Reynolds; Thomas Goolsby; Greg Curry; and Aveline Hewetson.

We appreciate all their hard work on that hot, humid day. Forty Eagle Scout projects have been completed on site since 1990.



Pictured above are Cherie Collins and Mark McFarlane of Moruya Heads, New South Wales, Australia. They visited the Wildlife Center July 22-24, 2008.

Cherie is a wildlife rehabilitator in Australia and works with Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES). WIRES is a network of rehabilitators who work together but each has their own animal specialty.

A big thank you to Texas Tech service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega for their enthusiastic participation in a 4-hour work day at the Wildlife Center Saturday, September 27th, 2008. Matt Lowrie coordinated this annual event. They cleaned, raked, pruned, scrubbed floors and were a huge help. About twenty-five attended.



Starbucks' Gals

Five wonderful workers from Starbucks at 82nd and Quaker Avenue in Lubbock: Katy Dodd, Kimberly Tellez, Brentha Cerda, Haylee Ward and Naomie Hague; came to help out the Wildlife Center on Saturday, August 9th as a part of the "Make Your Mark" campaign.

Starbucks sponsors its employees when they choose an organization for which to perform community service. We benefitted this year when Starbucks #6775 chose us. In addition to the wealth of work that the five ladies did for us - everything from putting down cardboard in mews to cleaning ambassador row - the corporate office made a donation to the Wildlife Center for every hour they worked. We are doubly grateful! (All photos on page 8 by Dorothy Tinkler).

Hawks and Bird Feeders

You may not be pleased that a raptor set up a sentry post near your bird feeders, but there's not much you can do to prevent raids by these predators. You can place your feeding stations near dense shrubbery, where songbirds have a chance to escape if one of these hawks drops by for lunch. These raptors don't kill enough songbirds to impact or reduce their population, and it's but one of nature's ongoing survival dramas unfolding. Birds of prey don't survive on seed, and do have a vital role in our environment. Watch the predatory birds the same way you watch other birds; learn from and appreciate them. They are one more member of your backyard wildlife community, and are all part of nature's equation.

"Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand."
—Henry David Thoreau

Tributes

109th Annual Christmas Bird Count coming up this month

Pam Taylor of Ralls, Texas, sent a donation in Memory of Cleta Ellison. Ginger Robertson of Lubbock was notified of her kindness.

Angie Click of Seattle, Washington, gave a donation in Honor of Wildlife Center volunteer Chris Funk of Shallowater, Texas.

Susie Williamson of Lubbock gave a gift in Memory of Dyke Enabnit. Doak Enabnit and family of Lubbock were notified of her kindness.

Susie Williamson also sent a donation in Memory of Robert "Bob" Littlejohn. Linda Grimes and family of Lubbock were notified of her kindness.

Susie Williamson also sent a donation in Memory of "Bump." Kristie King of Lubbock was notified of her kindness.

Vicki Bunting, Barbara Murphy and Ann Casstevens of Lubbock sent a donation in Memory of Jose N. Lujan of Los Alamos, New Mexico. His daughter, Marty Montoya, of Lubbock, was notified of their kindness.

Stanley and Denise Davis sent a donation in Memory of Blaine Haines. Mr. and Mrs. Steve Haines of Artesia, New Mexico, were notified of their kindness.

Margot Walker of Ransom Canyon sent a donation in Memory of Ann Boudreaux. George Boudreaux of Ransom Canyon was notified of her kindness.

Beverly Odell of Lubbock sent a donation in Memory of Charles Taylor. Wilma Taylor of Lubbock was notified of her kindness.

Volunteers Larry and Gail Barnes sent a donation in Memory of Modena Mayfield, Lubbock. Mike and Rhonda Mayfield of Lubbock were notified of their kindness.

Stanley and Denise Davis of Lubbock sent a donation in Memory of Carol Posey. A.J. and Marty Posey of Artesia, New Mexico, were notified of their kindness.

Jacqueline Russell and Jane Miller of New Braunfels, Texas, sent a donation in Memory of Randall Clyde Irwin of Lubbock.

Jim and Arlene Mayfield of Clayton, New Mexico, sent a donation in Memory of Randall Irwin of Lubbock.

We are sincerely appreciative of your gifts.

Every December the National Audubon Society sponsors the "Christmas Bird Count." (CBC) Enthusiastic birdwatchers don warm clothes, pack field guides and binoculars and head out for annual counts. CBCs take place in all 50 states, every Canadian province, Central and South America, the Caribbean and several Pacific Islands. Since over half the avian species that breed in the U.S. and Canada also winter outside their political boundaries, the CBC is of significant value in these areas. Early on, CBC data marked the decline in several birds, notably the Peregrine Falcon, Trumpeter Swan, and Bald Eagle.

First organized in 1900 by ornithologist Frank Chapman, the CBC is "the oldest and largest wildlife survey in the world." It began as an early effort with a group of 27 conservationists protesting the annual "side hunt," a traditional hunting contest to see who could shoot the most birds and small animals on Christmas Day. Chapman was the editor of "Bird Lore," a conservation magazine, and proposed a contest to 'count' rather than 'kill.' He organized 26 friends in 25 locations on Christmas Day 1900, and they counted birds they heard or saw in their neighborhood. Fewer than 500 people participated in years prior to 1940. The National Audubon Society implemented uniform standards in the 1950s, and they're still in use. Presently tens of thousands of individuals participate in the CBC. There are no limits to the number of people who can participate in a CBC, or qualifications for their abilities to identify birds; it's definitely not limited to "experts."

Data are collected on foot, in cars, or by people watching birds coming to feeders. Some counts employ bicycles, boats, canoes, snowmobiles, and even planes to count birds.

CBC results are submitted to the National Audubon Society, which has compiled the data since the inception of the survey. CBC data received considerable use during recent decades, primarily directed towards two topics: winter distribution patterns and population trends. With nearly 100 years of data, the CBC is a valuable source of information on historic and recent changes in the status and

distribution of birds during the early winter period in the U.S. and Canada.

In 2007, thousands of volunteers counted nearly 60 million birds across the Americas and beyond. "Counting is the first step in learning how environmental threats are affecting our birds. The proverbial 'canaries in the coal mine,' birds provide an early warning indicator of the health of the world we all share."

"Last year these birds sent us a clear message that their fate is determined by human activity more than anything else," according to Audubon President John Flicker when announcing "WatchList 2007."

Using CBC and other data sources, WatchList identified 178 species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are imperiled. In June, 2007, CBC results were pivotal to the Common Birds in Decline Report which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, with some down as much as 80%.

Even though this date coincides with our annual Holiday Open House, you might consider going for a few hours. Contact Anthony Hewetson at terrverts@yahoo.com for more information. Remember, you don't have to be an "expert!"

Thank you for supplies

Special thanks to the following people for supplies for our patients:

Charlotte Cummings; Linda Dunn; Raymond and Virginia Bringham; Denine and Lea Criswell; United Grocery, 82nd and Boston; Wal-Mart store #861; Michelle Smith; A. J. Shropshire; Jane Schwartz, Manteca, California; Bill Van Pelt, Washington, D.C.; Dr. and Mrs. David Close; Lisa Louder; Leanna Smith, Levelland, Texas; Angie Gibley.

Thanks also to longtime supporter Sue Hill of Morton, Texas, who kept our deer fawns supplied with fresh goat's milk.

Thanks also for a gift of raptor food given by one of our anonymous donors. Thanks to Jay Reichard, Big Spring, for help with our web site and to Linda McDowell for bulk mail help.

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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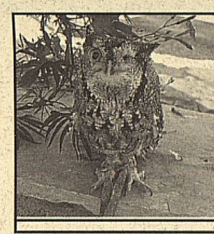
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Some changes on our Adoption Page

Some of our Wildlife Ambassadors have passed away, and we've made a few changes on our Adoption Page on page 10.



"Vincent" the Raven

We've added "Vincent," a Chihuahuan Raven that has been with us several years. An intelligent creature, Vincent is a member of the Corvid family that includes jays, magpies, crows and several other species.

These birds have many skills and can use their strong beaks to crack, pry, chisel, hammer and dig.

They're also sometimes called White-necked Raven because the base of their neck feathers is white, and is revealed when wind blows the feathers, or a handler fluffs them in an upward motion.

We added "Windie," a Mississippi Kite that arrived in the middle of winter last year. Since kites migrate south in October, Windie was most likely kept by someone as a pet. With shabby feathers and undemourished overall. Windie is now a beautiful, thriving bird of prey who goes with volunteers to education programs.

Last but not least, a better picture of "Percy," our American White Pelican, was added.

All our birds will be on hand to greet visitors at our annual Holiday Open House.



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