

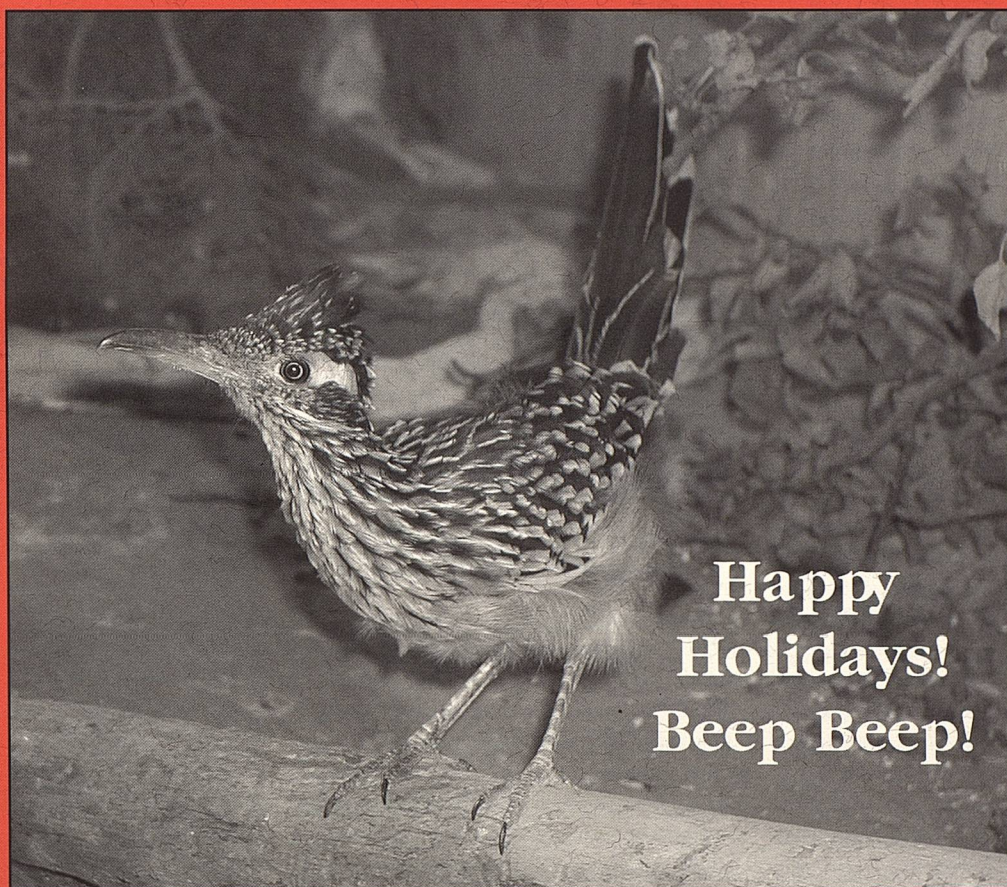
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The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 4 / 2003



**Happy
Holidays!
Beep Beep!**

Highlights:

Volunteer Spotlight	3
Busy Times	5
Our New Flight Cage	7
Counting Our Blessings	7
Lots of News	8



Letter from the Director

Too Much Information and the Endless "To Do" List

Rob and I returned from the 26th annual International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council meeting November 2nd after a week filled with wonderful field trips and intense and informative sessions. Meetings were 8-5 PM and for the first time this year, some lectures were scheduled during the evening. There were great speakers and topics, and overall the symposium was great. My brain was saturated by the time I returned, an occasion I dreaded in a sense, knowing there would be a pile of work waiting for me, and there was. I spend a minimum of six and usually eight hours on average virtually every day working on Wildlife Center "things." In spring and summer, 12-hour days are the norm during the seemingly endless baby season. So what's going on besides the animal admissions at the Wildlife Center? Administrative duties are ongoing. Quicken must be done in time for our Treasurer CPA Pat Harris to prepare her report prior to our monthly board meeting. Adoption packets, memorial and gift acknowledgements go out weekly, along with many thank you letters for contributions, and for help with a project or services donated. Several times a month I conduct tours of the Wildlife Center for visitors. New Eagle Scout projects wait in the wings, or paperwork must be completed to transfer a non-releasable animal to a permanent facility. There's e-mail, and plenty of it. Mail on two Listservs on rehabilitation and raptors respectively must at least be perused for new information. E-mail can be both a blessing and a curse, but must be dealt with since information exchange is critical to what we do. Almost daily, there's a new product, diet, formula, caging recommendation or idea, and one must stay current to provide and maintain the highest level of care for our charges.

Always on the back burner is our quarterly newsletter and bills to pay. There are lots of phone calls with questions or concerns about wildlife. As time permits I do education programs, and during the summer I love raising baby songbirds - an activity going by the wayside as the Center grows and changes demanding ever more of my personal attention. Most of the time I begin and end my day with my head spinning, the result of scores of bits of information that pile up daily. Some things inevitably fall between the cracks that I never even know about.

Surely I'm not the only one suffering from "information overload" - the Age of Technology is indeed wonderful, but sometimes, it would be nice to go back to basics, and enjoy life the way it was, 'the old fashioned way' and that, for me, would be throwing out my computer and replacing it with about two dozen little robins, mockingbirds and Blue Jays on my desk!

Carol

Cover: The tarred Roadrunner recuperating and growing new feathers

Upcoming Events

Third Annual Valentine's Ball on Valentine's Day February 14, 2004 at City Bank's elegant Griffith Room at the main bank location on Brownfield Highway. Mike Pritchard and his Blue Thunder and Lightning Horns will delight us again with their music. The evening includes a no-host bar, a wonderful gourmet meal by Chef Angela Vasquez, and of course, dancing! Donation \$75.00 each

Black tie-optional

Details inside!

The Mockingbird Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. (SPWRC). The Wildlife Center is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization 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 entirely through the support of private donations and volunteer service, as no SPWRC staff member is paid. Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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REGARD TO SPECIES, SIZE,
COLOR, TEMPERMENT, OR
POPULARITY**

Volunteer Spotlight: Peggy Mulcahy

by Mindy Rice

The Wildlife Center is proud of our volunteer for this quarter, Peggy Mulcahy. Peggy is a dedicated volunteer for the last three years, since moving from her 30-year home in Minnesota. There she worked as secretarial support at an insurance agency along with other office jobs. She now works at home in Lubbock, and looks after her husband Michael and their two girls, Maggie (14) and Kellie (7).

Peggy loves animals, but also volunteers at her daughters' schools and her church. She enjoys the book club she joined with her older daughter, as well as hiking in the areas surrounding Lubbock. Although she's not a "serious" bird watcher, she enjoys watching birds around town at places like Buffalo Springs Lake.

Peggy came to the Wildlife Center via one of the training sessions and now works six hours each week. Her favorite job is working with the baby mammals, especially squirrels and



Peggy holds a Prairie Dog

rabbits, and her favorite animal, the Prairie Dog. She also likes feeding and helping raise baby songbirds in the spring. Like the rest of the volunteers, her least favorite task is having to euthanize suffering animals that cannot be "fixed."

Peggy believes the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal does a good job providing positive publicity about wildlife. Peggy also likes working with other volunteers in an environment where everyone has the same goals for wildlife. She says, "It's nice to give money but I like to help in a more tangible way." Her volunteering at the Center allows her to give this kind of help and the Wildlife Center is a better place because of Peggy's being there! Thank you!

Help For A Gopher Snake



Kate LeVering assists Dr. Polk in keeping the snake anesthetized

Last month my husband Rob was returning from Buffalo Springs Lake east of Lubbock. There was a large snake in the road in front of him, and it was suddenly grazed by the car just ahead. Not many people would stop to help a snake but Rob did just that, and put the snake into the car. At 6 feet long, the beautiful Gopher snake wasn't happy, but Rob persisted. He kept the snake quiet and covered for three days per Dr. Farley's advice to see if he would live. He lived, but his jaw was misaligned – maybe the focus of the trauma. Rob also noticed his tongue came out, but not go back. The snake's carrier was placed in partial sunlight so he could bask on warm days. Rob offered food, but the snake wasn't biting – except for Rob's finger. Very aggressive, we hoped this animal would have a second chance. While we were in Chicago at the wildlife meeting, volun-

teer Jeremy Hull talked to Tech herpetologist Dr. Gad Perry about him. Gad was in the British Virgin Islands collecting lizards, but took over the snake's care upon his return. A bulge developed in the snake's side, and Gad feared an intestinal problem. On November 13th, Dr. Tim Polk performed surgery. Under anesthesia they discovered the snake's body wall was breached where the car hit him resulting in, according to Gad, "a big hole under the skin." They cleaned up the area and put in stitches. He'll need several months for (hopefully) a full recovery, with feeding starting mid-December. Gad presently has the snake at home recuperating under a heat lamp. Stay tuned for an update in the next newsletter, and we sincerely hope it will have a happy ending. He's doing well at the moment!

A Very Big Thank You to the Chapman Forestry Foundation!

Good things have been happening at the Wildlife Center all year long, and the day before Thanksgiving a wonderful gift arrived in the mail. It was a check from the Chapman Forestry Foundation in the amount of \$5000.00. Christie Billing, who oversees Mr. A. Dale Chapman's (her father's) Foundation, would like the funds to be used toward our outdoor learning center, and indeed, they will. Plans are already underway for this project that will hopefully be completed between now and spring. Landscape architect Tom Boudreau has some ideas on what we want, and has constructed a number of water gardens around Lubbock, including our own.

The Ann Bowman Lee Estate also contributed toward this project and it will be named after her. If you or your organization would like to help sponsor this project, please contact us, and all donors will be acknowledged in some special way on the outdoor amphitheater site.

An Error of Omission

We inadvertently omitted Board Member Mark Luchsinger's name in last issue's article about "Shaft," the duck from Ransom Canyon that had an arrow through its neck. Mark was the person responsible for going to the lake and helping with the bird's rescue!

News and Notes:

Llano Estacado Winery hosted "Grape Day" October 18th to celebrate the grape and end of the harvest. Russell Gillentine graciously invited the Wildlife Center to set up a table, bring a bird, and our donation jar. Thanks to volunteers Sam Hambright, Beth Bartley, Debbie Tennyson, Mark Luchsinger, Jeff McKito, and Mark's canine companion, "Levi" for helping. In addition to \$144.00 in donations, volunteers enjoyed food, wine, entertainment, and a classic car show. The event was well attended, with visitors from all over Texas. Thanks, Russell, we enjoyed being part of your celebration!

Congratulations to volunteer Angie Wilkins, who is opening a new store at the Kingsgate shopping center. The new store will be "Lil' Footprints" located in Kingsgate shopping center next to United Grocery. It will be an upscale children's shoe store carrying Stride Rite, New Balance, Weebok, Keds and other name brand shoes and accessories. Her target opening date is the third week of February 2004. They'll host a grand opening and be giving away prizes. If you have small children, (or even if you don't) please stop by and say hi. We wish you much success in your new venture!

Congratulations to volunteers Stephanie Zurinski and Lindi Van Hueklon who both moved into new homes recently. There's a wedding in Lindi's future too!

Ryan Lowry of Troop #157 received his Eagle Scout Award at the Eagle Court of Honor and Awards Banquet November 10, 2003, at the Frazier Alumni Center on the Tech campus. Ryan's project was to renovate our deteriorating waterfowl containment area. Ryan was profiled in our last newsletter. He worked long and hard during the very hot weekends to complete his project, and funded much of it with money he earned while working full time during last summer. His parents are Kristy and Jeff Lowry of Lubbock.

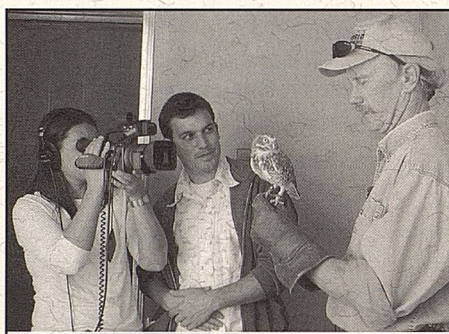
Welcome - to our newest volunteer Raymond Nitzschke of Lubbock. In addition to computer skills, he is fabulous with a digital camera! Ray is entering all our state and federal wildlife data for 2003 - already over 2160 admissions. This is a big job, and we thank you!

Our 25-year-old volunteer Chris Funk had surgery on his ear on October 31st to remove a tumor on his eardrum. This makes his 53rd operation. Chris is disabled and in a wheelchair, but that never slows him down as he is able to feed baby birds, clean pet carriers, and participate in most of the activities with the help of his dad, Terry. Chris is from Shallowater, and has been volunteering for 19 months. We are so happy you are both part of our "family!"

Thanks to Animal Services new director with the City of Lubbock Jamey Cantrell, for clarifying with us provisional changes in the new animal codes that will be adopted when they are hammered out and completed. Because we are a somewhat unique organization, we wanted to be sure everything we do coincides with the city's regulations. We gave him a tour of the center.

Thanks to the Miniaturists of Lubbock for their generous donation again this year. Their show and sale of exquisite miniature displays was held at the Lubbock Garden and Arts Center October 4th and 5th, 2003. We so appreciate their \$500.00 gift to our organization!

On October 24th, two University of Texas graduates (Aaron Dubrow and Lisa Kaselak) visited the Center to take footage of our resi-

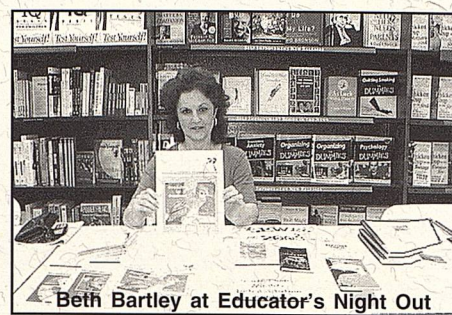


Lisa and Aaron photographing Rob Lee as he holds "Hootie" our resident Burrowing Owl

dent Burrowing Owl. The duo is doing a documentary film about Prairie Dogs and the many other species that depend on Prairie Dog colonies for their survival. They had a fun day getting footage, and enjoyed their visit to the Wildlife Center.

Center Volunteers Gail Barnes, Jerrie Rodgers, Jeremy Hull and Jo Unrein did a presentation October 18th for Science Day at Texas Tech. Other programs were presented at Maedgen and Honey Elementary Schools, Lubbock Adult Day Care Center, The Lubbock Stroke Club and Second Baptist Church.

"Educator's Night Out" October 23 was hosted by Barnes and Noble Booksellers for representatives from area agencies that do education to get together and share their printed materials with area school teachers.



The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's twenty-sixth Annual meeting was held in Chicago the week of October 27th. Concurrent meeting sessions began October 30th, 8-5 PM plus evening sessions this year. Four veterinarians spoke on Chronic Wasting Disease (the fatal neurological disease found in deer and elk), clinical pathology, wildlife toxicoses, and informative lectures and panel discussions on West Nile Virus. There were the usual talks on songbird and mammal care, reptile husbandry, volunteers, and zoonoses, and in-depth programs about bird and mammal diets and formulas. Dr. Janine Perlman spoke on animal nutrition and the comparison of (mammal) milk replacers and the sophistication wildlife rehabilitators are expected to have when it comes to making the correct choices for wildlife food and formulas. I did my first two PowerPoint presentations, and thank Leanna Smith, and Tech graduate student Mindy Rice for their help in teaching me to use this program. It was a great meeting, filled with new information, informative lectures, and a sampling of the treasures in the Chicago area.

Join us Tuesday January 27, 2004 at the Audubon Society Meeting at 7 PM at the Garden & Arts Center, 44th and University and meet all of our wildlife ambassadors!

An American Kestrel and two Barn Owls were transferred to the Santa Barbara Zoo in California and the Puerto Rico Zoo, respectively on Monday, November 10th 2003, and both arrived safely!

Thanks to Dr. Lane Preston and wife Terri who made a late house call October 21st, after our Bald Eagle began hemorrhaging from what we at first thought was a "blood feather." It proved instead to be an old lesion in his injured right wing, and our efforts, including a stitch were to no avail. A few more stitches and pressure bandaging was applied. Happily "C.C." was none the worse for wear.

Goodbye to Bob and Carol Wylie of Bluebonnet Feed. The Wylies retired, and Jeff



**Jeff Chisum, New Owner,
Bluebonnet Feed**

Chisum has taken over the business. Jeff carries the baton, and will continue to donate grain, pine shavings and seed to the Wildlife Center for the care of our animals.

Pam Hewett painted one more mew in Ambassador Row before cold weather arrived. She'll finish up in spring. Her latest mew was that of our resident Burrowing Owl. It's represented with a sign for "Bluebonnet Feed" (photo above) in honor of its past and present owners. When Jeff visited recently, he was able to see her latest painting.

Did You Know?

Feathers are what make a bird a bird. They are the only creature that grows feathers and every bird has them. Most birds have between 1500 - 3000 feathers. A swan has over 25,000 feathers.

Risky Business



**Jerrie in her hospital bed with
her new "pet" rat sitting on her
bandaged finger**

Volunteer Jerrie Rodgers spent six days in the hospital at University Medical Center in Lubbock after being bitten in her finger joint by one of our breeder rats. She refused to go to a Doctor early on like so many of us, but an infection worsened, as did the size of her finger. After a Science Day program at Texas Tech October 18th, volunteers convinced her to get attention so she reluctantly went to the Emergency Room. Much to her chagrin, from the ER she was promptly admitted to the hospital. (This was only after she went home to feed her pets). Dr. Toby Risko at UMC made her feel at home right away, though, after he "borrowed" a black rubber rat from the Halloween decorations and gave it to Jerrie to help her feel at home. Jerrie remained in excellent spirits despite her long hospital stay with a throbbing fingertip, and of course she was right back at the Wildlife Center the same afternoon she was dismissed. She took a lot of teasing, but she won't ignore injuries like that again. We are so happy this ended happily. Jerrie never ONCE whined or complained! In mid-November she tripped over her dog and landed flat on her face on the hard tile floor. Black and blue from forehead to neck, this accident didn't slow her down either! Be careful, Jerrie, we can't do without you!

A big thank you to Kathy Beach who has offered her help with the monthly bookkeeping. Numbers are not my strong suit, and she will take over the entries into Quicken. Kathy is a CPA and I am very appreciative of her help!

Thanks to Karen and Gary King, owners of Buffalo Beano in Lubbock, and Gyna Cole (the Ad Shoppe) for a fundraising opportunity during the Texas Tech-Iowa State homecoming game October 11th. Contestants got three dart throws for each dollar donated to the Wildlife Center. Hitting near or in the bulls eye got the player a chance to draw for a 15-20- or -25% discount on store merchandise. It was a fun afternoon!

I took two eight hour Saturday classes in Adobe PageMaker, the software used to put our newsletter together. Thanks to Shirley Ryle for helping me with this program, and to Jay Reichard for maintaining our web site. A big thank you to and Gene and Deb Ortiz for donating our web page space!

Thank you to our Caprock Winery Fundraiser sponsors:

Animal Medical Center
Lou and Erika Densmore
First Class Awards
C. Mitchel Putman
Robinson Burdette Martin &
Seright, L.L.P.

We will update everyone who helped with the Caprock Winery fundraiser in the next newsletter, since this issue goes to press three days prior to the event. We appreciate the local merchants who donated auction items!

"Samson" Is Still Missing

On Sunday November 20th, one of our volunteers was bringing our Chihuahuan Raven "Samson" inside for the night; as she went to snap the hardware in place on his anklets, the bird flapped his wings and in an instant was airborne.

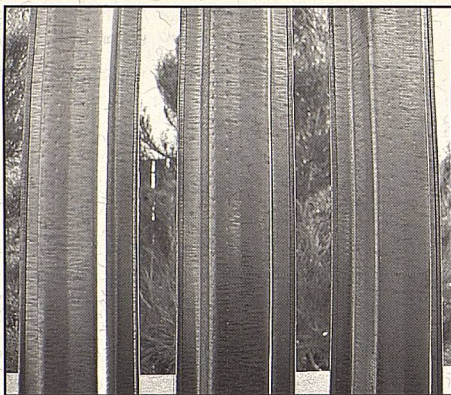
Chihuahuan Ravens are 17-21" long. Samson is likewise a large bird with iridescent black plumage and a wedge shaped tail. He has a thick black beak, leather anklets on both legs, and he talks. Since he is not afraid of people, he might go up to anyone and hop on their arm or shoulder. His mate, "Edgar" is depressed. It is illegal to keep ravens without permits.

Please call the Wildlife Center at (806) 799-2142 if you see a very big black bird that fits Samson's description. As this goes to press December 4th, he has not yet been found.

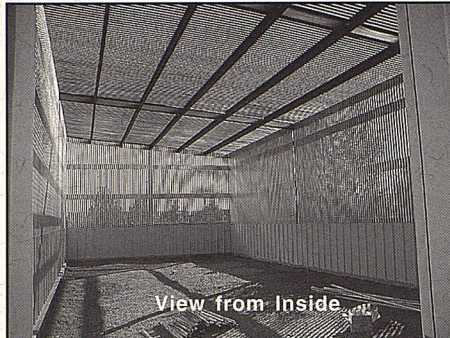
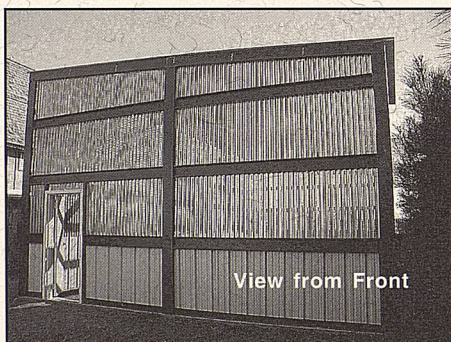
Counting our Blessings

Our New Flight Cage is Finished

Our long-awaited project is completed! Thanks to Gary Horrell for the great job, and to Rob Lee for his help with a revolutionary new idea. Instead of a structure with wooden slats, we used metal. Spaced 3/4 inch apart, the 50 x 55 x 16 foot high structure can be used to exercise and condition all bird of prey species from the diminutive kestrel or screech owl to a Bald or Golden Eagle. The roof is partially covered and much to our delight, plenty of light shines through, even reflecting off the metal to make it bright and inviting. No sharp edges or splinters to worry about either - the close up photo of the slats (below) shows the



smooth surface to prevent birds from hanging on the side walls or top.



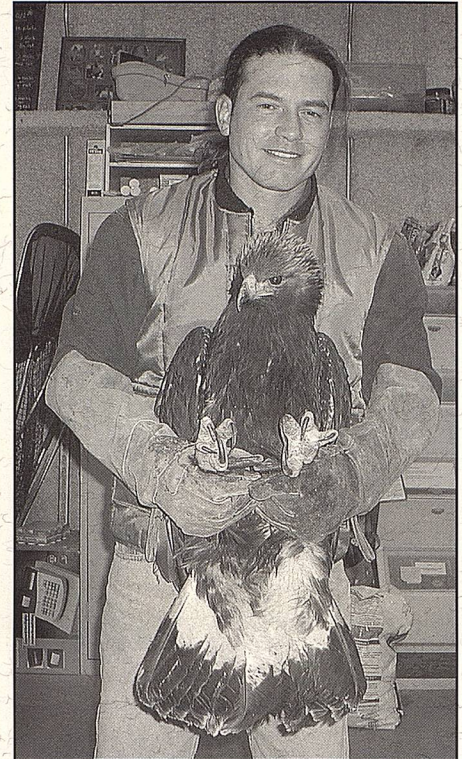
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!

Join us between 2-4 PM on Saturday, December 20th for our Christmas Open House. See the new flight cage or Ambassador Row if you missed it in June. Bring your cameras, and if you'd like to donate something for the animals, check our Wish List on our web page at spwrc.org

ONE LUCKY HAWK!

We admitted a Swainson's Hawk that center volunteers Kathy Phillips and Angie Wilkins picked up from Cotton Center in late November. A thorough exam revealed probable entry and exit wounds as a result of being electrocuted. The first-year hawk was down at a residence, and this may just be the first electrocuted raptor we've been able to save. Often, a bird is not found in time for us to salvage it, and much of the damage is internal. We're keeping our fingers crossed for this one - so far so good. A Sandhill Crane was not so lucky after coming in with symptoms of aflatoxin or organophosphate poisoning. He did not improve after treatment, and had to be euthanized.

"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before."
Robert Lynd



Brent Wilkins holds a young Golden Eagle just before another foot soaking

Our first patient to use the new flight cage will likely be a Golden Eagle, admitted just before Thanksgiving. The bird came from a ranch in Stanton, Texas after the property owner discovered him down on the ground. A game warden delivered him to rehabilitators Bebe and Art McCasland in Big Spring and they shuttled him up to Lubbock. The inexperienced eagle went after the wrong prey - a porcupine. His feet were and are badly swollen and of course, his hunting came to a screeching halt. Dr. Farley removed not only porcupine quills, but cactus thorns as well. The bird's feet are being soaked twice a day, and more quills are exposed and removed as the swelling subsides. When the infection is completely gone he'll be stretching his wings in our new enclosure. He will be released back in Stanton.

Each and Every Day!

Every day is a busy one, even during the months when our animal census is low. The year has been good to us, however, and we are thankful for the many blessings bestowed upon us.

Congressman Pays Us A Visit

We were delighted to be on the itinerary of Republican Congressman Randy Neugebauer while he was back in Lubbock October 27th. Board members Mark



Congressman Randy Neugebauer visits the Wildlife Center

Luchsinger and Beth Bartley were on hand to help Debbie with a tour. Randy said he was amazed at all we were able to accomplish with an all-volunteer staff and donations. He visited when the Center first opened, so the changes over fifteen years really were quite extraordinary! He had his picture taken with Debbie and "Sierra," our Golden Eagle, and above, he holds "Jasper," our Common Barn Owl. Thanks for stopping by, Randy, and meeting our wildlife ambassadors! I missed his visit due to the Chicago meeting. Another thank you to Congressman Neugebauer for donating an American flag that once flew over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The flag was a gift donated for our Caprock Winery auction.

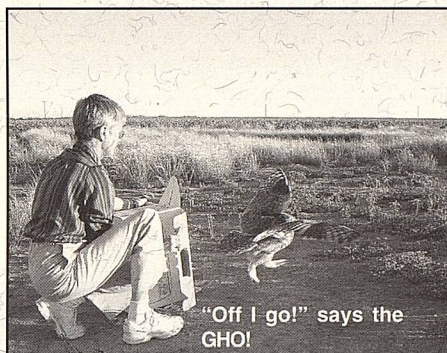
Great Kids Help the Wildlife Center too!

In the last issue we inadvertently omitted the story of some wonderful children.

Victoria Anderson, 10, daughter of Center supporters Brent and Susan Anderson and her two friends Kayla Hannon, 12, and Holly Hannon, 9, were on a mission to collect money for the Center. They sold Brent's beautiful wildlife art prints and raised \$145.00. We are sincerely appreciative of their efforts in our behalf, and so sorry we missed mentioning this in our previous issue!

Bebe and Art McCasland Release a Great Horned Owl

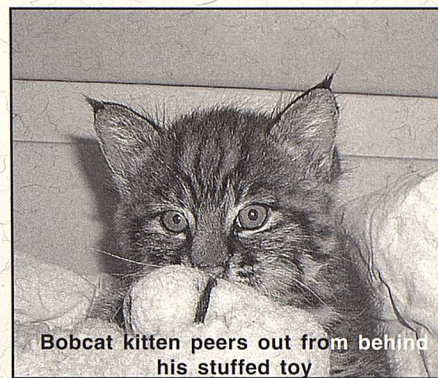
Bebe and Art have been helping wildlife for years, and most recently by bringing us the injured Golden Eagle on the previous page.



"Off I go!" says the GHO!

They often receive injured raptors, and after offering initial care, bring them to us for continuing rehabilitation. The couple is always happy to pick up the recuperated bird and return it to its home range. Here, Bebe is returning a Great Horned Owl to freedom. You can read more about Bebe and Art in our next issue, when the couple will be featured in our Volunteer Spotlight section. We appreciate all you do for wildlife - many creatures in the Big Spring area have had a helping hand, thanks to you both.

Amy Browder and husband drove 7 hours to bring an orphaned bobcat to Lubbock. He's growing up, and will be released come spring.



Bobcat kitten peers out from behind his stuffed toy

TPWD Photographer Visits Too!

Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine Photographer Tom Hicks visited the Wildlife Center November 24th to photograph our raptors. Despite the chill, volunteers helped Tom get great outdoor shots of our Great Horned, Barn, Barred and Burrowing Owls, as well as our Red-tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon. The Bald Eagle was cooperative and still as Tom



Lindi Van Heukelon, photographer Tom Hicks, Gail Barnes and Deb Ortiz

poked inside his mew door to get photos of him too. The photos will most likely be in the April issue of TPWD Magazine.

American Bittern Arrives via the Fast Lane

I saw an e-mail appeal that rehabilitator Terese Evans from the Black Hawk Wildlife Rehabilitation Project in Waterloo, Iowa, needed to get a recuperated American Bittern south. He suffered a fractured right wing, and spent a month with her. I offered our help, and suggested she contact the media to see if



American Bittern

anyone might be traveling to Texas. Within a day, a man called to say he was returning home to Odessa after a visit with his mother in Waterloo. He offered to bring the bird along. The bird was checked out for his flying ability and released a few days later at Lake Six. The story was immediately picked up by the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier, and before the man left Iowa, the media was calling the Wildlife Center here to cover the story when the bird arrived.

The release was also covered in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal by reporter John Davis. Visit

http://www.lubbockonline.com/stories/102803/loc_102803038.shtml

An Inspiration Visits Lubbock

We were delighted that Doris Mager, founder of S.O.A.R. (Save Our American Raptors) visited Lubbock again this year during a sweep of stops over several states doing her birds of prey presentations. She did one program in Lubbock at Carillon. Doris has been in Lubbock about 12 out of the last 15 years, and visits her friend Elayne Banks here. It was great to see you, Doris. Doris is 78 years old!

New Thrift Store To Benefit SPWRC

C. Mitchel Putman needed a change of pace from his construction business. He decided to turn his warehouse into a Thrift Store, donating proceeds (after expenses, of course) to the Wildlife Center. The store is located at 211 Broadway, set back on the corner of Broadway and Avenue A. Hours are 9-3 Tuesday-Saturday, and Mitchel will pick up items on Sunday and Monday if you need help. Call 765-7887 for more information, and meanwhile, save your clothing, baby items, sporting goods, household items, toys and furniture. Help wildlife at the same time you are simplifying your life by getting rid of unwanted items.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to our 12-page quarterly newsletter, "The Mockingbird Chronicles" make great Holiday gifts with memberships starting at \$20.00. You can also "adopt" one of our 14 permanent animals, send a Memorial, or make a donation in honor of a friend or loved one. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and the Center is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Thank you Lubbock for your support!

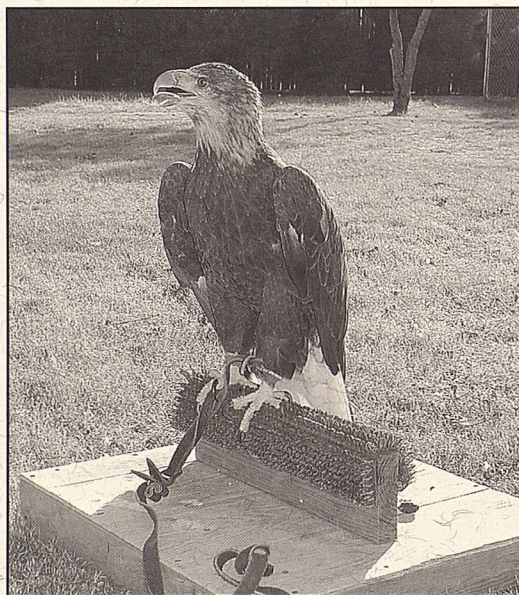
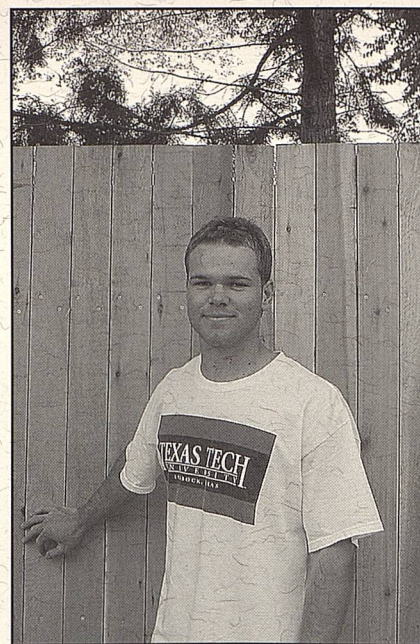


Photo: Bald Eagle "C.C"
sporting the white tail and nearly-white head plumage of an adult Bald Eagle. This takes about 5 years
On sunny days, he loves being out in the yard. Squirrels beware!

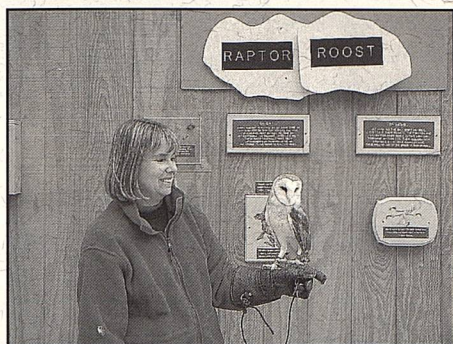
Jayce Lowe Completes Project



Jayce Lowe beside the new fence

Eagle Scout Jayce Lowe of Troop #505 chose the Wildlife Center for his project simply because "he's happy to help wildlife." Jayce completed a much-needed seven-foot section of wooden fence down our north side, replacing one that was falling down. This area covers about 220 feet and cost a whopping \$1400 in materials and which Jayce had most of the cost and materials donated. Jayce is a Lubbock High School student and enjoys playing baseball for the school team. Thanks to Norval Pollard and the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal for their contribution towards Jayce's project. Jayce's sister, Joelle Lowe, earned her (Girl Scout) Gold Award with a huge "Supply Drive" for the Wildlife Center in Spring, 2002. She is currently enrolled at Texas Tech University.

RAPTOR ROOST A.K.A. "AMBASSADOR ROW" GETS NEW INTREPRETIVE SIGNS



Gail Barnes holds "Jasper" in front of the Intrepretive wall on Ambassador Row

On a visit to the Rio Grand Zoo, Manager Debbie Tennyson got the idea to make intrepretive signs for the side of our raptor building. The signs, painted by Debbie and artist Pam Hewett, display pictures and short explanations of how raptors "work."

A big Thank You to the Reynolds family - Jakob, Kelsey, Mark and Ruth for collecting \$21.00 in coins for the Wildlife Center.

Manager Debbie Tennyson and volunteers Brent Wilkins and Jeremy hull attended the recent North American Falconer's Association meeting in late November in Amarillo. Over 300 falconers from across the country attended the national meeting.

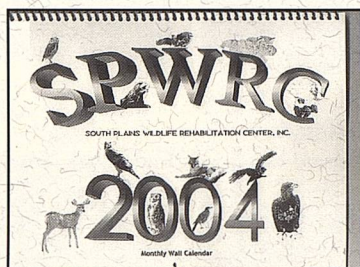
Valentine's Ball

Mark your calendars now for February 14th, 2004 for the Third Annual Valentine's Ball at City Bank's elegant Griffith Room. Chef Angela Vasquez will prepare another delicious dinner, and Mike Pritchard and his Blue Thunder and Lightning Horns will provide great music once again. In addition to fine cuisine and great music, there will of course be dancing. Reservations can be made by calling Bonnie Bart at Mason Warner, Co., P.C. at (806) 797-3251. Tickets are \$75.00 donation per person for a fabulous romatic Saturday evening!

New Items Purchased

In June we decided to use some of the proceeds from our Open House to purchase another incubator. Joe Freed's "Pet-i-attric" model is tried and true, and several of their incubators have been chugging along for fifteen yeras. We added a new one, and come spring, it, too, will be full of baby birds or mammals. We also bought perch warmers for our raptors, and two 6 x 6 mesh enclosures that pop open and can be used for enclosing small animals so they can get sunshine.

2004 Calendars Arrive



If you are interested in supporting our efforts, consider a SPWRC 2004 calendar. Lubbock photographer Margaret Hamilton Freeman photographed twelve animals that are or have been our patients or are permaent residents. Calendars are \$15.00 each, and the web site takes PayPal.

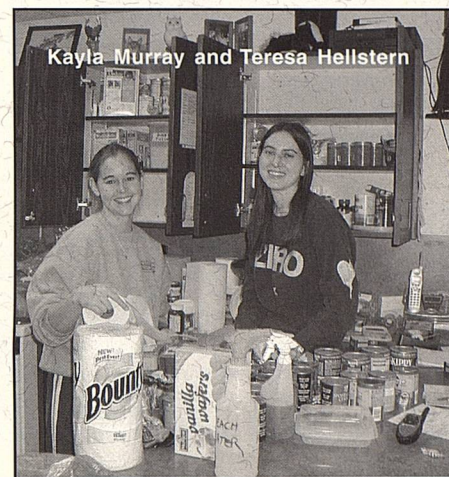
Please consider the Wildlife Center for your end-of-year Charitable Gifts. Our all-volunteer organization admitted 2190 animals of all shapes and sizes by December 3rd. This figure is up by over 300 animals for the previous year. We will have the Golden Eagle (page 6) to feed for the next few months. Goldens eat about 1/2 pound of meat each day. The Center is an IRS determined 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, and your gifts are tax deductible.

WELCOME!

Welcome to our new volunteer Ray Nitzschke. Ray has invaluable computer skills and has made some beautiful photographs of our animals with the help of Adobe Photoshop. We are very privileged to have someone on staff who is so computer savvy!

Help From Texas Tech's Environmental Legal Society

Nine young people from Texas Tech's Environmental Legal Society offered to do some voluntary community service the weekend of November 7th. Despite the chill in the air, the group cleaned the Barn Owl stable, and cleaned out our kitchen cupboards. We sincerely thank coordinator Kayla Murray, Teresa Hellstern, Chad Meintel, Matt Moore, Matthew and Nicole Myers, Markus Boenig, Eric Densing and Gary Prust.



CHRISTMAS IS FOR THE BIRDS!

Don't forget to keep fresh water out for the birds this winter. Shallow plant saucers work nicely and are easy to clean. Healthy birds also bathe on even the chilliest of days. Put an orange half on a skewer, secure with a cork, and hang from a tree limb with a bread tie. Once the Mockingbirds, House Finches and others discover it, they'll be frequent visitors. Some birds love peanut butter, too, including one Orange-Crowned Warbler that has been visiting our peanut butter feeder each winter for the past 4 years. These can be easily made with a small piece of wood-ours is 7 x 2 1/2 inches, and the screen is 1/2 inch x 1/2 inch and is on both sides. Add a hanger. By the time I'm back inside the front door, birds are chattering and are all over it. (I don't mix the peanut butter with anything). Black oil Sunflower and saflower seed, thistle and peanut hearts round out the menu. Bits of apple, grapes, other nuts and popcorn will be welcome too!

Acknowledgments

Thanks to everyone who supports our efforts. We appreciate every penny, and be assured that it goes directly to the care and housing of the animals in our care.

Special Thanks to Monthly Benefactors: Carre Avian, Travis and Lisa Bruster, Joyce Komkov, Joyce Lisenby, Tom McLaughlin, William & Deanna Schwartz, Jeff Chisum, (Bluebonnet Feed), and to Barbara Davis of Rising Star, Texas.

Thanks to the following for supplies and/or services: Mark Lucsinger for a new microwave oven; Mark and Janet Wallace, Willie Haragan, Pam Marshall (Box of Rain Floral), Mary Neal, Paula Beck, Pat & Fred Zimmerman. Cages were donated by Sarah Daghistany, Jackie Irwin and Tonya Smith. Gene and Deb Ortiz donated a refrigerator; the Reynolds family donated rabbit bedding, and Lahoma Moran donated pecans. Sean Durrett and Leah Sides donated supplies, also Bill Van Pelt of Washington, D.C.

A big thanks to Marcy and Terry Taylor for hosting our annual Volunteer-Thank -You Christmas Party this year on December 13th!

So much information passes through so many hands daily at the Wildlife Center - If I inadvertently omitted your name, I apologize. Email me at spwrc@cox.net if you were missed, and we'll include it in our next newsletter!

Memorials

Mary Beth and Robert Niehaus of Lubbock gave a Memorial for "Simba," beloved pet of our volunteer Jo Unrein.

Don Hicks of Littlefield gave a gift in Memory of Herschel Randall, "who was a lover of animals." His son, Mark of Plano, TX was notified.

The French Quarter Homeowners Association in Lubbock gave a gift in Memory of Lubbock veterinarian Valton Cox. His widow Elwanda was notified.

Memorials for Manager Debbie Tennyson's brother, Dale Risenhoover, were given by Bebe and Art McCasland of Big Spring, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Haragan, Debbie and Rick Tennyson and Carol and Rob Lee.

Laura and Patrick Gordon of El Paso sent a Memorial for Katy Gallagher, daughter of volunteer Gail Barnes.

We sincerely appreciate these gifts in the names of loved ones and friends.

GIFTS

\$5000.00

Chapman Forestry Foundation

\$500.00

Jane and Charles Peek, in Memory of their daughter Jasmyne Peek

Miniaturists Of Lubbock (and J.L. Biggers)

\$200.00

Ed and Kay Sones, Cedar Park, Texas

\$100.00

Dr. Hakam Kayasseh
Steve and Betty Warring

\$40 -50.00

J.P. Alexander, Afton, TX

Anonymous Gift

A.J. and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, TX

Debra & Walt Clark, Ransom Canyon

Morrie & Pat Hartman for a "Merry Christmas!"

Richard & Lois Kroeker, Levelland, TX

Marla Riddlespurger

Henry and Sellie Shine

Judy & Edward Stout, Ransom Canyon

Patsy Summers

\$25.00 - \$30.00

John and Belinda Ashe

Rita and Marcus Chapman

Ken Dixon

Glenn and Janie Forister

Mrs. Vernon Keese

Sali Tabor

\$20.00

Elayne Banks

Fran and John Dupre

Clay Graham

Susan Holtz

Marion Livingston

Sharlene Wells

ADOPTIONS

Emma and Fred Hintze adopted "Sierra" for Hunter Blake Lovering and Madison Taylor Lovering of Arlington, Texas for their December birthdays

They also adopted "Ricky" for Rowan Harrison Lovering of Fitchburg, Wisconsin whose birthday is December 16th.

For Christmas gifts, they adopted "Empress" for Jimmy & Tangela Lovering of Lubbock, "Fritz" for Greg & Kari Lovering of Arlington, TX, and "Bobby" for Andy & Sandee Lovering of Fitchburg, Wisconsin.

Christine and Calvin Carter of Abernathy, Texas, adopted "Ricky"

Wynette Choate adopted "Fifi" in loving Memory of Gerald Choate, Jr.

Dr. Lisa Dicke of Lubbock adopted "Mardigan"

P.J. Drexler of Lubbock adopted "Fifi"

Linda Steffey adopted "Ricky" for friend Linda Condon of Lubbock, in Memory of Irene Chapman

Valerie Komkov Hill adopted "Fritz"

Betty Edmonson of Slaton, Texas, adopted "Empress" for Suze Quiett's November 4th birthday, and "Fritz" for Alec Quiett's November 6th birthday. The Quietts reside in Alpine, Texas.

"Jasper" and "Flossy" were adopted by Tammy Motley for her students at Ramirez Elementary School. (Flossy is a resident opossum, and not on our regular adoption list). Both animals visited the school October 2nd with Debbie for a program, and the students were delighted.

Our permanent animals all thank you for helping to sponsor their ongoing care!



SIERRA
GOLDEN EAGLE
\$50

Each photo on this page is one of our non-releasable animals. Adopting (sponsoring) one of these birds or mammals is a wonderful way to surprise a friend or loved one for a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or other special occasion, and your gift will help wildlife at the same time.

Your donation is also tax-deductible, and any contribution or adoption of \$20.00 or more includes a one-year subscription to our quarterly 12-page newsletter, *The Mockingbird Chronicles*. Sponsors receive a full color Adoption Certificate with a picture of the animal you are sponsoring and is suitable for framing, a full color photo of the adopted animal, profile of the species, and a biography of the animal on this page explaining why it came to the Wildlife Center. The Wildlife Center is 100% volunteer and your gift is directly supporting the wildlife in our care.



PERCY
AMERICAN WHITE
PELICAN \$50



EMPRESS
PEREGRINE FALCON
\$40



FRITZ
GRAY FOX
\$40



BUBO 2
GREAT HORNED OWL
\$40



BOBBY
BOBCAT
\$40



HARRIS
HARRIS'S HAWK
\$30



MARDIGAN
RED-TAILED HAWK
\$30



JASPER
COMMON BARN OWL
\$30



FESTUS
TURKEY VULTURE
\$30



FIFI
STRIPED SKUNK
\$30



RICKY
ALBINO RACCOON
\$35



MADDIE
AMERICAN KESTREL
\$25



LOUIE
EASTERN SCREECH OWL
\$25

YOUR NAME _____

ORGANIZATION OR GROUP _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

☐ Total amount enclosed \$ _____☐ Membership amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____

Amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____

Amount \$ _____

Membership levels: ♦ Millennium Member \$5000 ♦ Life Member \$1000 ♦ Benefactor \$500 ♦ Patron \$100 ♦ Supporting Member \$50 ♦
♦ Organization or Group \$30 ♦ Family Membership \$25 ♦ Individual Membership \$20 ♦

☐ Gift ☐ Gift in memory of _____☐ Membership amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

(Addr) _____

☐ Gift ☐ Gift in memory of _____☐ Membership amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

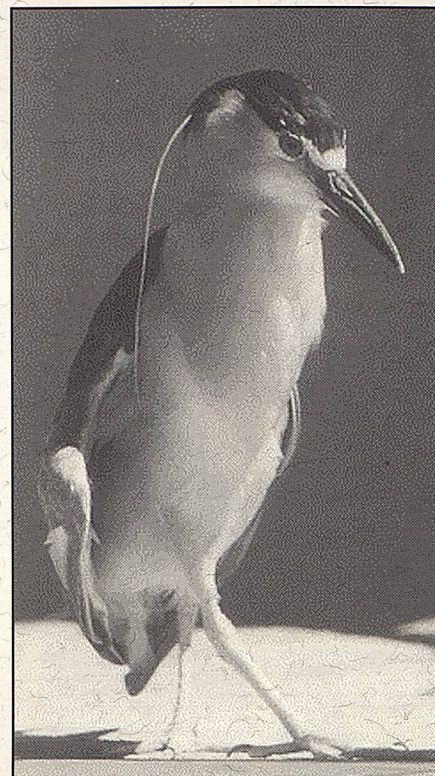
(Addr) _____

♦ Please make checks payable to SPWRC ♦ Send to: SPWRC ♦ c/o Carol Mitchell ♦ 3101 77th St. ♦ Lubbock, TX 79423 ♦ Thank you ♦

The Grass Isn't Always Greener

"Harry," our Black-Crowned Night Heron flew out of his outdoor enclosure October 15th as one of the volunteers entered to deliver food. For a bird with a permanent injury (a fractured elbow) he flew pretty well, but not well enough to ever sustain flight, or to migrate. We looked for him and were concerned about his being able to get along after almost 5 years in captivity. He was admitted as a fledgling, and had never had to fend for himself. Despite repeated checks of local playa lakes, Harry was nowhere to be found. Suddenly, five days later he was back in the big yard with "Percy," our American White Pelican, clamoring to get back inside his own personal pen and pond area, and climbing up the door. Welcome home, Harry, and we are happy you found your way safely back to home base!

The droopy wing is very apparent on the photograph, but somehow Harry did manage to fly off the property. He may not have been far away, but it would appear that the moral to the story is certainly "Home Sweet Home!" He is one beautiful bird with an attitude, and he was missed while away on his adventure!



Mr. David Marshall
Southwest Collection-TTU
P.O. Box 41041
Lubbock, TX 79409

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Newsletter of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

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