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no. 3

2007

The Mockingbird Chronicles



er of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 3/ 2007



Spring and Summer filled with
many hundreds of releases!

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Letter from the Director

The real Empty Nest Syndrome is in store come 2008

Believe it or not, when I put the previous newsletter together, I was only **hoping** to retire, not planning it. It

was a few weeks later, on July 31st, that the idea hit me like a bolt of lightning midmorning, and at that moment I knew it was the right thing to do and there was no turning back. I hadn't even thought about a successor, but knew things would fall into place for the Wildlife Center, like they always did before, during the past two decades.

Doing everything in seemingly reverse order, it was, nevertheless, a winning formula. As it happened, it was for the best that I didn't have a clue what I was getting myself into as a passionate wildlife rehabilitator in the mid-1980's. Each little success gave me the encouragement I needed to take the next step, and so we grew, and grew, and grew.

After twenty three years of raising baby birds and nearly twenty years of cultivating a regional refuge for wildlife, I realized it was time to pass the torch. I asked my assistant, Dr. Dorothy Tinkler, if she was interested, and I needed an answer prior to our August 15th Board Meeting. Several days later, Dorothy said she welcomed the challenge and was happy to take over my role. She was already helping with almost all of the administrative duties, and was well qualified in all areas, including the computer programs we use.

I knew Dorothy was capable and had every confidence in her abilities. She showed up and was always ready for work – whatever that entailed. Sometimes it was computer work, sometimes it was only bird care. At one time this summer there were fifteen baby doves on a bottle, and between the doves and all the other songbirds, that's all we were able to do in a four or five hour session for days at a time. She never failed to ask, "What else can I help you with before I leave?" If there were a few things, she stayed to help do them – namely, feeding a bird, answering the phone, making formula or changing a cage. Going the extra mile for the wildlife made me look

at her as an extraordinary person who can take our small non-profit to the next level, and she never shirks hard work.

Long story short, I'll officially retire June 1, 2008, when I turn over the title of Executive Director to Dorothy. Meanwhile, she's making decisions, signing checks, paying bills and overseeing the day-to-day activities at the Center.

We'll continue to work closely for as long as I'm needed, but I'm a proponent of "the best way to learn is jump right in with both feet" and have back up help at the same time, if needed. I've been to many national and international wildlife symposia, bought innumerable books and journals, but what taught me the most over the past two decades was my personal experiences with wildlife – and with the administration of the various components of nurturing and growing a non-profit organization.

Can I cope with a summer with no baby birds? I hope so. I know even "one" means total encumbrance until an individual bird is raised, and is release-ready. Even post release, it's weeks until many species like Blue Jays and American Robins stop returning for back up food and those periodic handouts throughout the day. I'm going to do my best.

Where does the organization go from here? Forward. I'll be watching, listening, and most of all, engaged in the big picture and the smaller snapshots. I'll be available to help in any way I can, to answer questions and be a guide for those who follow in my footsteps.

Why? First and foremost, I want what I created to be around for another twenty years and well beyond. I want the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc. to be a viable entity on the Texas South Plains for years to come, so wildlife will always have a safe place to land, and orphans, casualties and residents alike will be able to count on us in the future – even if I'm not always personally always in the picture.

Carol

Cover: Black-necked Stilt released during September at a Lubbock playa lake.

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 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, memorial contributions, "wildlife ambassador" sponsorships and fundraising events. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

Wildlife is accepted without regard to species, size, temperament, or popularity with the human race.

Executive Director	Carol Lee
Assistant Director	Dr. Dorothy Tinkler
Manager	Gail Barnes

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Dr. Gad Perry
Ms. Leanna Smith
Mr. Bill Van Pelt, Washington, D.C.

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 spwrc@suddenlink.net or learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org

Spotlight : Board of Directors and Advisors 2007-2008

This issue goes to press just prior to our yearly election of Officers. That slate and a Board photo will appear in our Holiday quarterly newsletter.

Beth Bartley became an Executive Secretary for a major oil company after the untimely death of her spouse in 1965. After a three-year period in Europe and subsequent retirement in 1987, Beth was able to become a producing artist working out of her home studio. She's our current Secretary.

Pat Harris has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Louisiana State University and a master's degree in accounting from Texas Tech. Pat was a CPA at Mason Warner & Company, P.C. until her retirement in 2004. Pat has been our Treasurer since the Board was created.

Dr. Mike Hooper is an associate professor of environmental toxicology at Texas Tech University. He studies how chemical contaminants affect wildlife inhabiting contaminated areas and works with stakeholders to mitigate those effects. Mike offers advice and help with our birds that are lead poisoning cases.

Rob Lee is a retired Special Agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a wildlife biologist. As a former federal wildlife law enforcement officer, he spearheaded the open oil pit investigation in Texas in the late 1980's that annually caused the deaths of many thousands of migratory birds. This became a national investigation. Rob received the prestigious Guy Bradley Award recognizing outstanding law enforcement contributions to conservation.

Dennis McDaniel is a retired attorney, having served as an assistant city attorney for Washington, D.C. and as an appellate and legislative attorney for the U.S. Department of Labor. In the latter capacity, he wrote congressional testimony, provided legal counsel for the Secretary of Labor and drafted legislation for the U.S. Department of Labor. He wrote the signing statement for President Clinton on the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and is author of "Lost in the American Dream," a Christian book, scheduled for release in late 2007.

Dr. Jim Moyes is a retired Anesthesiologist. He's been interested in wildlife and the outdoors all his life. He's volunteered at the

Center, but values his time as a Board Member most of all. Jim also volunteers with Friends of the Library, and he and his wife Dee enjoy traveling.

Judy Pesetski retired from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after 27 years in 1995 and accepted a position in Lubbock as Surgery Director at Methodist Hospital (now Covenant.) She retired from that position in 2003. Her interests include TTU Theatre, the Osher Life Long Learning Institute, travel, baking, aging-in-place technology, "green" living, and wildlife preservation. Judy and husband Bill are new Board Members.

Bill Pesetski is a retired civilian employee of the Department of Defense. He attended Drake University and the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. His interests are historic preservation, travel, and wildlife preservation.

Dr. Jeanette Lubenau is a veterinarian with Above and Beyond Pet Care Hospital in Lubbock. "Dr. J." has a passion for wildlife, and has been caring for some of our patients for a number of years, both before and after she opened her own practice in January, 2004. She agreed to serve as a Board Advisor.

Robin Adams Parks is a new Advisor, and served previously as a Board Member. She's a twenty-five year resident of Lubbock, and married to Don Parks of Parks Printing Company. They have one son, Michael. Robin has a long time passion for animals. (Parks Printing prints The Mockingbird Chronicles).

Dr. Gad Perry, Advisor, is a conservation biologist at Texas Tech University. His research focuses on endangered and invasive species in Texas and around the world. He's been associated with the Wildlife Center since 2002, and often offers advice to our staff about some of the reptiles we admit.

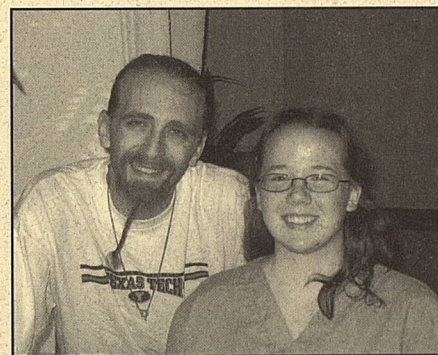
Leanna Smith, Advisor, is an associate professor of biology at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. She's originally from Kansas and received her bachelor and masters degrees from Emporia State University.

She's had an appreciation for wildlife most of her life and is an avid birdwatcher for over 25 years. She was involved in Audubon chapters in both Kansas and Texas.

Bill Van Pelt, our newest advisor, has been helping behind the scenes for several years and particularly for our "Raptors on the Prairie Conference" last November. He's Manager of Congressional Relations and Programs at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and member of a three-person team whose work focuses on keeping Congress informed of UNICEF priorities, and lobbying for \$130 million from the Congressional Foreign Appropriations Committee. He manages donor relations, volunteer activities and the college campus initiative for UNICEF in the Washington, D.C. area. Recently he was selected as a Keynote Speaker to a UN Congressional delegation hosted at the UN building in New York City. Previously he managed a human rights advocacy non-profit in Washington, D.C. and prior to that was an International Manager with the world's largest staffing firm, Adecco. Bill received his degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Mark Wallace is an Associate Professor, Wildlife and Habitat Management at Texas Tech. His research interests focus on wildlife-habitat relationships. He joined the Department of Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, at Tech in 1996. He's mentored over thirty graduate students and serves as faculty advisor for the undergraduate Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Club. Mark also coaches the Wildlife Quiz Bowl team.

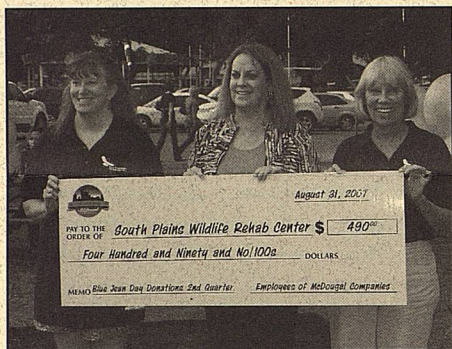
Thanks to our Summer Staff



**Daniel Andrews and
Shannon McIntire**

NEWS and NOTES

Thank you to McDougal Properties for their gift of \$ 490.00. Employees of McDougal Companies were able to wear blue jeans on Fridays if they contributed five dollars. A charitable organization is selected each quarter and funds raised are donated to them. On Friday, September 7th, Director Carol Lee and Assistant Director Dorothy Tinkler were invited to join the McDougals, company employees and their families for dinner, a photo op and presentation of their gift at Joyland Amusement Park. Thank you to company founder Mr. Delbert McDougal and family for their gift in our behalf!



Dorothy Tinkler, Debbie Iseral, McDougal representative, Carol Lee

Recovery of one of our banded Mississippi Kites

On July 23rd of this year, I received an e-mail from Dr. Clint Boal, USGS Texas Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at Texas Tech, a federally permitted Master Bander. Clint told me, "A nestling Mississippi Kite I banded at your Center in 2001 was recovered last week at Ransom Canyon. I don't know the cause of death yet, but we do know that one of your rehabilitated kites not only survived to be six years of age, but made six round trips from Lubbock to its wintering grounds in South America, and most likely nested a few times." He went on to say that this might be a "first" for kites raised and/or cared for in a wildlife rehabilitation center.



2007 JV's and Moms Row 1: Evanne Smith, Landon Collier, Justin Lambert; Row 2: Nick Isett, Gail Barnes, Adian Gordon, Peggy Mulcahy; Row 3: Olivia Bushy, Madison Weaver, Adrian Smith, Shonnie Collier.

On Friday, August 17th, we had a pizza party to thank all our Junior Volunteers for their service to the Wildlife Center during the past summer. They donated 701 hours, and that doesn't include the hours given by coordinator Gail Barnes and the two moms who helped supervise them - Shonnie Collier and Peggy Mulcahy.

I brought the idea of a JV program back to Lubbock in 2003 after attending a wildlife rehabilitation meeting in California earlier that year. A JV program was alive and well at the Lindsay Museum in Concord, California, and their young people took great pride in their assigned duties. Gail agreed to help launch the program here in Lubbock, and the Juniors are a valuable source of volunteerism ever since.

The purpose for starting the program is to teach appreciation and understanding of our native wildlife species to young people ages 12-17, since they'll become our future conservationists, good stewards of the environment, and perhaps even a future wildlife rehabilitator or two.

Additionally, it allows young people the opportunity to become exposed to wildlife in a safe, non-threatening way.

Special thanks to Domino's Pizzas, Manager Christine Bloedel, and assistant Manager Gilbert Bejarano. They gave us a discount on ten pizzas and Gilbert cooked them. This helped make our sendoff party fun and easy!

The award-winning "Texas Techsan" magazine, a publication of the Texas Tech Alumni Association, featured our own Gail Barnes in their September-October issue. The full color picture on the cover shows Gail with "Jasper" our Common Barn Owl wildlife ambassador. The five-page full color story was titled, "Winging It" and focused on Gail's passion for owls and bats.

Features represent a mixture of topics and emphasize, among other things, alumni accomplishments.

Congratulations, Gail!



Gail Barnes is the magazine's cover story this fall

Upcoming events

*Annual Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Party: Saturday, December 1st from 6-9 PM at Carol and Rob Lee's (3101 77th Street, corner 77th and Flint). This is for all volunteers, benefactors and donors. Simply bring a dish and a \$10.00 gift to exchange, and have fun!

*Holiday Open House: Saturday, December 22nd between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM. Come and go. Meet our wildlife ambassadors and volunteers. Holiday refreshments. Photos welcome. If you'd like to bring something for our animals, select from our Wish List on the web site at spwrc.org

Our Focus and Goal : Release

On August 4th, weeks of care and frequent feedings culminated in a perfect release of five Chimney Swifts. This was a dual effort. Carol received them in June and already had one youngster. The newcomers were a mother swift and three of her own babies. Although they were kept separated for a few days, mom later accepted the juvenile into her family unit, and accepted the newcomer as her own.

Initially kept in a lined basket, the swifts ate frequently, and grew by the day. Bristly pinfeathers all over were soon replaced by smooth, soft feathers that felt more like fur, and the feathers would eventually change yet again into glossy, smooth, beautiful plumage.

By the time they were very vocal and active mid July, the birds were moved into the chimney built by Eagle Scout Wade Goolsby in the Center's outdoor aviary to have ample room to fly. Dorothy Tinkler continued their frequent feedings, as the birds grew stronger.

The swifts spent about two weeks here, getting used to their surroundings and flying more each day between two screened aviaries. The fine mesh screens were an Eagle project of Andrew Ritchie. Dorothy soon knew the swifts were "antsy" and ready to go; no longer satisfied with their life in captivity. Somehow, now they knew they were meant to live their lives aloft in the sky, and free to go wherever they wanted to.

At 6:00 PM she arrived with the five birds in the covered transport basket. We walked across to the now empty schoolyard across the street, and picked a spot with good visibility all around, opportunities for vertical perching on the school if needed, a little wind, sunny skies, and perfect conditions for a release of our five swifts.

Dorothy removed part of the basket cover. The mother was out in a shot, her sentence served. She flew west. The next oldest flew opposite, east; then the third, leaving the two younger birds behind.

They knew it was "time" too, though, and inched, chattering, to the top of the basket.

"The sun shines not on us, but in us."
John Muir (1838 – 1914)

Within another minute, those two took wing, flying easily on the air currents. Before long, wild swifts from the area joined in to welcome them. First two, then four, and it was hard to keep count as suddenly the swifts were flying and darting everywhere.

It was an exhilarating release – watching all your work literally fly out of your hands, and that thrilling feeling can't be replicated.

We watched for over twenty-five minutes and knew that these birds, too, would likely make it to their winter destinations!

Another success story for a Harris's Hawk by Gail Barnes

In late July a three-month old Harris's Hawk was brought to the Wildlife Center by rehabilitators BeBe and Art McCasland. The Hawk came from Stanton, Texas, and was raised for two months in a children's fort and fed only stew meat. The hawk couldn't stand up, let alone fly. It weighed 635 grams. After examination by our vets, it was determined that with supportive care, good nutrition and physical therapy, the hawk might be able to be returned to the wild. Volunteers at the Wildlife Center fed the bird twice a day adding extra calcium and vitamins to his food. KMAC-TV and KLBK-TV on "Wildlife Friday" did special coverage on the hawk. Six weeks later the bird was placed in our flight cage to start building up his muscles. At that time he weighed 915 grams. This fortunate Harris's Hawk was released back to the wild September 20, 2007.

It took the efforts of volunteer Ray Nitzschke who drove the Hawk to Lamesa, Texas, to meet the McCaslands who drove the bird to Midland, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden Robert French who drove the Hawk to his final destination on the Crane, Ward and Ector County line. There he was already on his way south to migrate with other Harris's hawks. It was a wonderful, suc-

cessful release, and we thank all the volunteers involved. This is what wildlife rehabilitation is all about, and our reward!

Below is our resident Harris's Hawk - a beautiful bird with rusty colored wings and "breeches."



Please Note:

If your donation arrived after October 2, 2007, it will be acknowledged in our Holiday newsletter. As always, if your name or gift was inadvertently omitted, I apologize. Please tell me so it will be included next time. Hundreds of slips of paper pass through our Center monthly.

Holiday Tributes:

Please note: All year-end gifts, Memorials and donations must be received by Friday, November 30, 2006 to be included in our year-end quarterly issue. My goal is to take the newsletter to our printer on or before December 4th, 2006, so it will be distributed prior to Christmas.



Two more ways to donate:

You can now adopt a wildlife ambassador directly from our web page at spwrc.org. This makes a great gift to Honor someone or a gift for yourself. We accept PayPal for your convenience.

You can also shop at igive.com and if you designate us, the Wildlife Center will receive a percentage of the proceeds.

Release back to the wild is....

During the last quarter, scores of animals were returned to the wild.

In addition to many species of songbirds, we released an unusually high number of wading birds and shorebirds.

Four more Chimney Swifts were released the third week in August.

Many raptors were among those to regain their freedom, among them Barn Owls, Mississippi Kites, American Kestrels and others.

People sometimes ask, "Isn't it difficult to let them go? The answer is definitely "no!"

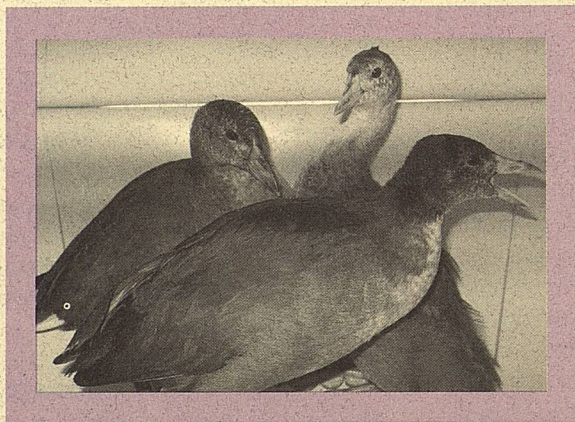
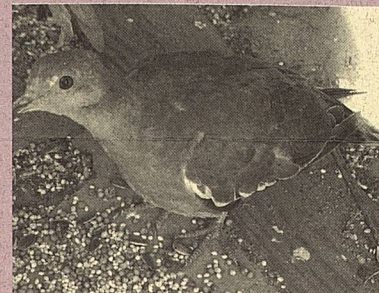
It's ever so gratifying to return an animal to freedom after it's raised and grown and virtually independent, or after days, weeks or months of recuperation after illness or injury.



A juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron went on his way in September. Within moments he was high in a tree

While it's wonderful to release a magnificent raptor to return it to the skies, it's just as fulfilling to watch a little coot that we raised from a chick, slip into the water with two buddies and float out of sight behind the reeds.

A few of the songbirds I raised continue to return, namely Blue Jays and American Robins. Most of the Mourning, Ring-necked and White-winged Doves, like the one pictured below, stay close for weeks, foraging around the back yard, and never far from their seed bowl and water dish. We were able to help many hundreds of birds go on their way again during 2007.



**Three American Coots packed up in a carrier
"I'm the spokesman: We're ready to go!"**



Three little coots swimming away, heading for the safety of nearby cattails

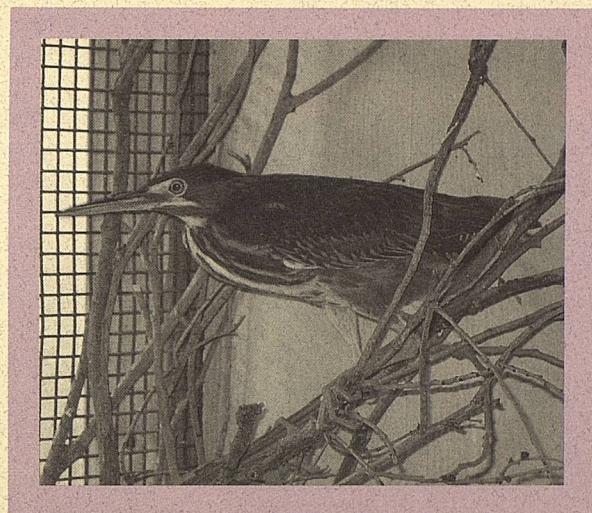
.... the goal of wildlife rehabilitation



After a few minutes spent getting oriented to its new surroundings, this Black-necked Stilt ventures into the water
(photo by Dorothy Tinkler)



A minnow catches his eye, and we know he knows what to do, and when to do it!



The Green Heron pictured above left arrived as a thin, malnourished youngster. Dorothy Tinkler, his primary caretaker, made sure he always had plenty of food and places to hide. Herons are secretive, and he had a pool and a mew to himself in our outdoor aviary when he was big enough to move outside. He thrived and grew, and he's pictured on the right as he was crated for release. Within moments, it, too was out of the carrier and up in a tree. Dorothy took both of these photos. Carol Lee took his photo featured on page 10, shortly after arrival.

The public is invited for October's "Creatures of the Night"

Everyone is welcome on Friday, October 26, 2007 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Join us for an evening of exploring the exciting world of owls and bats. Gather around the fire to hear stories, fascinating facts, myths and legends about these intriguing creatures of the night. Our owl ambassadors will be present, including a Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Burrowing Owl, Western Screech Owl and Common Barn Owl. For children we ask a \$1.00 donation and \$2.00 for adults.

The presentation will be held in our outdoor amphitheater at the Center, 3308 95th Street. (95th and Indiana) For more information, call Dorothy Tinkler at (806)799-2142.

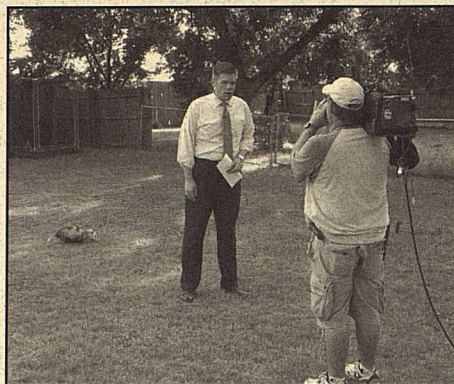


Focus on Opossums

On October 2nd, KCBD-TV, local NBC affiliate, filmed a segment at the Wildlife Center with a focus on opossums, since the station was getting calls about their rising numbers throughout the city. Gail Barnes did a great job of dispelling myths about these shy, gentle creatures. Read more on page 12.



KCBD-TV Cameraman John Berry and reporter Justin Michaels are pictured with Gail Barnes, the Center's Manager



"Ares," our opossum in residence, strolls around the lawn behind the reporter

Birthday Gifts benefit Wildlife

Taylor Tetens celebrated her 9th Birthday on June 30th, 2007, and she and her friends donated gifts to the Wildlife Center from our Wish List. She visited the Center and said she fell in love with the idea of helping the animals and then setting them free. She wants to be a biologist and work with dolphins when she grows up. She has two labs, a cat, horse, two calves and a turtle to round out her menagerie. Her parents are Darin and Jayme Tetens. Thanks to her and her seven friends for a gift card and the many supplies they donated! Taylor's photo disappeared when Carol's computer crashed in July.

Another big thank you to Adrian Smith, who celebrated her 13th birthday September 22nd, 2007. Over thirty guests attended her party, and brought gifts for the Wildlife Center. In addition to the \$275.00 in cash collected, there were numerous gift cards, baby blankets, and many other much-needed supplies. This is certainly the epitome of an unselfish and generous young girl, and we are sincerely thankful for all of the gifts for our animals! Adrian was also one of our Junior Volunteers this past summer.

Do you know how much it costs per day to feed just one Common Barn Owl?

Jasper, our Ambassador Common Barn Owl eats 3 ounces of food per day, or an average of 12 small mice at a cost of \$ 1.20 per day or \$ 36.00 per month.

If we have a barn owl chick for six weeks the cost will be around \$54.00. If there are six owls in a clutch, the cost jumps to \$324.00 for 6 weeks. Some barn owls we have for 2-3 months. Smaller owls like Eastern Screech Owls are a third of that cost or \$12.00 per month. The large owls, like the Great Horned Owl, would cost to feed than barn owls, because they eat 4 ounces of food per day.

It must be noted that we have more than one source of mice, and the cost varies among suppliers and by mouse size. This sometimes adds a dollar or two to the overall cost per bird per day. Thus far in 2007, the Center's cared for thirty-three owls. Twenty-four were released, and nine died or were euthanized because of extensive injuries.

Thanks to raptor caretaker Gail Barnes who compiled these figures.

108th Annual "Christmas Bird Count"

The annual Christmas Bird Count is rolling around again for the local chapters of the National Audubon Society. The dates this year for the Lubbock County count is Saturday, December 15; the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge count on Sunday, December 16; White River Lake count on Saturday, December 29. These dates will mark all day birding followed by a potluck dinner/countdown for the Lubbock County count, half day birding followed by a potluck lunch/countdown for the Muleshoe NWR count, and all day birding followed by a restaurant dinner/countdown for the White River Lake count. This year LEAS will sponsor (cover the registration fee) the first twenty-five people who sign up for the Lubbock County count. For more information call Anthony Hewetson at 793-6315, or email him at terrverts@yahoo.com or visit the LEAS web page at <http://www.leas.bizland.com/> and click on "Calendar."

Adoption

There were two adoptions this quarter:

Karen Baggerly adopted "Hootie" for Judi Henry and "Maddie" for Linda Brown.

Note on our Adoption Page (p. 10) we have a new Wildlife Ambassador. It's a Swainson's Hawk who's named "Toenails" because he arrived with all his talons nearly cut off by someone who intended to keep him for a pet (this is illegal). The bird is very tame having imprinted on its caregiver and is unfit for release back to the wild. Volunteers will work with him so he can be used in future environmental education programs.

Education

Three education programs were given during the summer, to the Boys and Girls Club of Lubbock, Hodges Community Center and the Texas Tech Health Science Center Stroke Club. Our workload precludes doing more spring and summer programs, but come September, volunteers have a number of presentations already on the calendar.

A Clever Gull makes news from "across the pond"

A gull in Scotland developed the habit of stealing chips from a neighborhood shop. It waits until the shopkeeper isn't looking, and then walks into the store and grabs a snack-size bag of cheese Doritos. Once outside, the bag gets ripped open and shared by other birds.

The gull's shoplifting started early this month when he first swooped into the store in Aberdeen, Scotland, and helped himself to a bag of chips. Since then, he's become a regular. He always takes the same type chips. Customers started paying for the bird's stolen bags of snacks because they find it so amusing. You can see the video here:

<http://www.snopes.com/photos/animals/seagull.asp>

Memorials

Susie Williamson sent Memorials for Louise McEvoy. Kristie King and Family was notified of her kindness. Susie also sent a Memorial donation for "Lucy," and Mike and Sharon Harris were notified.

Alzada Malone sent a Memorial donation in the name of Bill Metz. His wife, Gwen Metz of Lubbock, was notified of Alzada's kindness.

Nancy Riches gave a Memorial contribution in the name of Linda Nesbit. Acknowledgment was sent to Pat Ellerman of Lubbock.

Greg and Tamara Duncan gave a Memorial contribution in honor of Robert Lee Veach. His family was notified of their kindness.

The David Penoli family gave a Memorial contribution in honor of Robert Lee Veach. His family was notified of their kindness.

Steve and Betty Warring gave a Memorial contribution in Memory of Frances Payne - a long-time friend and neighbor from when the Warrings lived in Kansas. Frances' family in Richfield, Kansas was notified of the Warring's kindness.

Western Spotted Skunk cared for in Cedar Park, Texas

Ed Sones, permitted rehabilitator in Cedar Park, Texas, an Austin suburb had the privilege of caring for a western spotted skunk this summer. It came from the Del Rio area and first went to a Dallas rehabilitator in June 2007. He was delivered to Ed in July to get him closer to suitable release habitat, and Ed and his wife



Kay saw only glimpses of his tail when it ran back to the den.

Spotted Skunks are leaner and more agile than the Striped Skunks we see here. Spotted skunks can jump, climb trees, rob bird nests, and are more carnivorous than striped skunks. They have very large ranges but are very shy, so even in their range they're seldom seen by people.

The Eastern Spotted Skunk lives east of the Austin area, and the Western Spotted Skunk lives south of San Antonio and west of Johnson City. The photos were taken by Annie Peterson of Austin Area Wildlife Rehabilitation, and used with permission. Ed supplied information for this feature.

One thing is certain - they're adorable!



Did You Know?

The first commercially available hummingbird feeder was put on the market in 1950 by Laurence Webster of Boston. He first designed it for his wife sometime between 1929 and 1935 after she read a National Geographic story about feeding hummingbirds from small glass bottles. Webster's design was then produced by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology laboratory glassblower and later offered for sale by the Audubon Novelty Company of Medina, New York.



Acknowledgments

Thanks to everyone who helps supports our efforts. We appreciate every penny, and with donor contributions, we can continue to help injured, dispalced, ill and orphaned wildlife.

Our Keystone Donors:

Care Avian
Joyce Badger
Lisa and Travis Bruster
A.J. and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, TX
Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
Joyce Komkov
Joyce Lisenby
Tom McLaughlin
Dave Melton
William and Deanna Schwartze

Keystone Donors are our Monthly Benefactors who help assure that adequate care will be provided to our patients, like the young Green Heron, pictured below.



\$490.00 - \$500.00

Deborah and Phillip Cole
Mr. W. T. Probandt, Midland, TX
McDougal Properties

\$300.00

Karen Bosscher
Steve and Betty Warring

\$200.00

Dr. Jaye Cole
Paula Richardson
Margaret Gates, Artesia, NM

\$100.00 - \$150.00

Vic and Judy Coker
Diesta Kuhn
Lucia MacGregor

\$75.00 - \$100.00

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bethea
Vic and Judy Coker, Muleshoe, TX
Beverly Odell
Eleanor Porter, Amarillo, TX
Julie K. Scarbrough
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Whitney Wallace, San Antonio, TX
Kyle and Carol Wargo
Sharlene Wells
Kristin Whittenburg
Linda Wilson
Melany Young

Thank you for Supplies!

Special thanks to Jerry Dobbs who made Carol a great bird feeder. Pecans (no name left) Thanks also to Linda Steffey for produce; Patricia Simpson for pet supplies; Robert Brown for a bird cage. Patrice Johnson donated Dawn detergent. Louise Reynolds donated canned food. Ronda Russell gave trash bags and sheets; Morgan O'Brien g; Ron Mouser donated syringes; Lou Ann Nye donated bird feeders; Leo and Liz Padgett gave pet supplies. Ann Norris gave cat food. Keith Tipton donated a dog carrier. Other supplies were contributed by Bill Van Pelt, Washington D.C., Pat and Jim Harris; Lewrie Close; Leanna Smith; Lila Arnold, Wichita Falls; Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, donated a Hoover steam vacuum and a new printer.

Adopting a Wildlife Ambassador Helps Pay For its Annual Care

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Virginia Opossum

"Opossum" means "little white animal." The name originated from the indigenous Native Americans living in Eastern Virginia. It's unique because it's the only North American pouched mammal, or marsupial. Nocturnal, it's also solitary, except during the breeding season. Infants remain in the mother's pouch about two months, and an entire litter of



sixteen fit in a tablespoon. Opossums are scavengers, so keep pet food in at night if you must discourage them. However, they're harmless, beneficial animals and eat insects and mice, among other things. Consider sharing your space, modify the attractants, and observe this interesting animal when the opportunity presents itself. Opossums are almost disease free, and rabies is virtually unheard of in this species. When faced with danger, the opossum successfully feigns death by 'playing possum.' Its eyes glaze over, the heart rate slows, and it drops to the ground. This is a totally involuntary reaction, and resembles a catatonic state that eventually passes.

Opossums' enemies are the Great horned owl, fox, and coyote. Even though they can be relocated, this is usually ineffective, as other opossums will move into the territory to replace the ousted one. Relocation to already opossum-occupied areas causes prob-

lems for both the relocated animal and the resident population.

If you must resort to live trapping an animal, consult with local wildlife authorities for proper legal and humane methods. If you use a trap please check it frequently, as the animal will die of exposure or starvation if left unattended. The Virginia opossum is protected by Texas state law and can't be bought or sold, or kept as a pet..



Mr. David Marshall
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