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2012
no. 4

The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

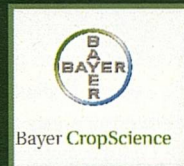
Number 3 / 2012

Happy Holidays!



Highlights:

- Holiday Open House.....p. 3
- Upcoming 25th Anniversaryp. 4
- Our History, Part One.....p. 6
- Meet "Trooper," our newest Ambassadorp. 8



Bayer CropScience is a proud sponsor
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Letter from the Founder



Carol Lee

The last quarter has been a little bit of "back to the future" for me.

Executive Administrator Christa Threet resigned September 30, 2012 to return to nursing school classes and work.

Daniel Andrews, part-time Operations Manager moved into the full time position, and volunteer Ami Knox moved into his part-time position, so all days of the week remain covered by a staff member.

We chose not to replace the paid Executive Administrator position, but instead, divide the workload among several of us. For the third time, I'll be "un-retired" and return to some administrative duties of SPWRC. I'll continue to do our quarterly newsletter and make weekly donor deposits. Volunteer Gail Barnes will take care of sending thank you postcards and letters, and longtime Board Treasurer and CPA Patricia Harris will pay our bills, prepare our monthly financial reports, and keep us financially on track.

When I wasn't "in charge" the past eighteen months I didn't do deposits, check our PayPal account or keep the newsletter mailing list up to date, among other things. Now, however, I will strive to get and keep everything up to date again. Please contact me if there are any errors whatsoever in your name, address, mailing label/expiration date, or if you have a question.

Congratulations to my husband, Rob, on the birth of his first grandchild: Perry Olivia Lee, born November 12th to his son Jonathan Lee and Charla Lee of Dallas. We're looking forward to meeting her soon!

I don't think I ever appreciated Lubbock as much as I did November 4th.

On October 22nd, I flew home to Pennsylvania for what I thought would be nine days. It was a long anticipated vacation and I hoped to spend time working in the family history library and courthouse, finding more information about my ancestors who settled there during the early 1700s.

Suddenly, Hurricane Sandy was in Jamaica, and it was certain the Northeast would be hard hit within days. Even when ominous weather was approaching, I, like many other travelers, thought the worst would be over by the time I was ready to return home. That was wrong, and in quick succession, my next two flights were scheduled and cancelled. I couldn't get out until Saturday, November 3rd. That didn't happen either, as we sat on the ground 90 minutes in Houston causing me to miss my connection to Lubbock until the following day.

So, of my two entire weeks there, I managed only four days of research thanks to the weather, and came home sick. Now, the "vacation" is a memory, and I'm ready once again to re-take the reins of the Wildlife Center, and help steer us into our 25th year of service to wildlife and to this community.

I know with your help, it can be the best year ever!

Carol



Front Cover:

**Pygmy Nuthatch on a Douglas Fir
Taken in Angel Fire, NM, in the Southern
Rockies and the Sangre de Cristo
Mountains, at about 8,500' elevation
Front cover: Inca Dove, a seldom seen
visitor in Lubbock**

**Back Cover: Canada Geese in flight
(All three photos by Danny Hancock)**

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

SPWRC holds state and federal permits but receives no funding whatsoever from either regulating agency.

SPWRC operations are maintained through donations, gifts, education programs, quarterly newsletter subscriptions, memorial contributions, "wildlife ambassador" sponsorships and fundraising events. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

Founder	Carol Lee
Operations Manager	Daniel Andrews
Asst. Operations Mgr.	Ami Knox
Education Coordinator	Gail Barnes

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Dr. Mark Wallace, Texas Tech University

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

SPWRC can be reached by e-mail at spwrc 2@yahoo.com Learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org and follow us on Facebook.

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

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

Join us for our annual Christmas Open House!



Come and visit during the Wildlife Center's annual Christmas Open House!

Have a look behind the scenes on Saturday, December 22nd, 2012. Come and go between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM.

SPWRC is located at 95th and Indiana Avenue, East side. There's ample free parking directly to our south at Indiana Baptist Church.

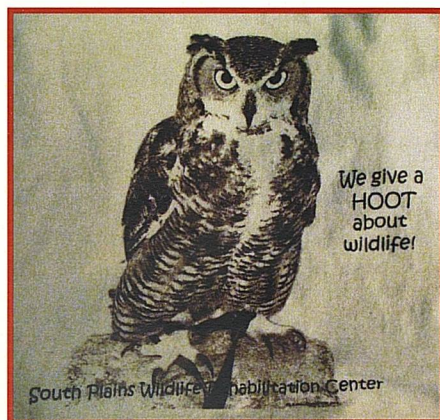
We'll have holiday refreshments and something for children, adults and everyone! Bring your holiday guests, too.

Take pictures, meet our "wildlife ambassadors," staff, and wonderful volunteers.

We ask a \$1.00 donation for everyone four years old and over, or bring something from our "Wish List," found on our web site at spwrc.org We hope to see you there!

Need a last minute Christmas gift that helps wildlife at the same time?

Our "Give a Hoot" tee shirts are available in several colors for \$15.00 in adult and children's sizes. Call Gail Barnes at the Center at (806)799-2142 if you'd like to order one or need a special size. They'll also be available at our December Open House.



2012 Holiday Appeal

A HUGE thank you to Board Advisor William Van Pelt, who expedited our 2012 Holiday Appeals.

Bill donated the holiday cards, envelopes, return envelopes, inserts and most of all, his personal time, effort, and the printing. We are sincerely appreciative of all his past and present efforts in the Center's behalf.

During my trip, Gail Barnes and Daniel Andrews folded and prepared the Appeals for mailing. I had to re-learn "mail merge" and work several hours on it until I got it right. The address labels were printed when I returned home and the Appeals were mailed November 28th.

You'll notice "or Current Resident" on each mailing label under your name - this is a bulk mail postal regulation, and isn't optional.

Bill and my daughter Kim both visited over Thanksgiving and were recruited to help the following day to do the next steps.

Another major thank you goes to Linda McDowell, who helped with the Center's bulk mail for the past five or so years, and her assistance is also very much appreciated!

Our donations always drop off sharply after "baby season" ends in fall, but our expenses don't.

Holiday Appeal funds greatly help us through the winter months.

We appreciate every gift, large or small, and the support of everyone since 1988. The efforts of thousands have allowed us to keep our doors open.

The Wildlife Center receives no funding from our state or federal regulators.

We depend entirely on donations, gifts, grants, fundraising events, education outreach programs, newsletter subscriptions, wildlife ambassador Adoptions, Tributes and Commemorative Brick purchases to meet our expenses.

We accept Pay Pal, and you can click on the PayPal icon on our web page at spwrc.org to donate at any time of the year.

Thank you CH Foundation

The CH Foundation granted SPWRC \$10,000 earmarked for several improvements, including lighting and a sound system for our outdoor amphitheater where we do many education programs; new energy efficient windows for the on-site education center; a classroom air conditioning and heating window unit; new paint and flooring.

We are sincerely appreciative of these funds coming in 2013 and hope to have the Education Center up and running by next spring.

This provides a wonderful opportunity enabling us to accelerate our long-term plan to enhance all aspects and facilities of our education outreach program. We'll have an update on this much-anticipated project in our Spring 2013 quarterly newsletter.

Thank you to CH Executive Director Don Graf and to Kay Sanford, Grants Administrator.

Bayer CropScience: Proud Supporter of SPWRC



Thank you again to Bayer CropScience for their gift of \$2,000.

These funds are earmarked to help with production costs

of our quarterly *Mockingbird Chronicles*. It is our conduit to donors, friends, and the public since 1995.

It's important for donors to know what is being done with their funds and for us to provide an overview of what we're doing beyond wildlife care and rehabilitation.



Thank you again to John Frullo, Melissa Boone and the staff at Midtown Printing & Graphics in Lubbock for their great job on our quarterly newsletters.

Our Upcoming 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Wildlife Center's 25th Anniversary celebration and spring fundraiser, "Night on the Wild Side" is set for Friday, April 12, 2013, from 6:30 - 9 PM at McPherson Cellars in Lubbock (1615 Texas Avenue). Owner Kim McPherson has graciously donated the venue and their fine wines once again, and we are sincerely appreciative! "Ambrosia" (David Reed and his staff) will cater for the third time. Kyle Abernathie will provide music and we're delighted to have him back again this year.

Tickets are \$25.00, and you can hold your reservation by sending your check for ticket(s) to SPWRC 3308 95th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423. Two complimentary glasses of wine are included in the ticket price. Space is limited to 200, and we encourage early reservations.

As always we'll have our silent auction. If you can donate a new item (artwork, gift item, culinary gift, book, personal service, etc. we'd be delighted. Items must be collected no later than April 5th, 2013). If you pay with PayPal via our web site (spwrc.org) be sure to indicate your payment is for ticket(s). If you're unable to leave a comment at the PayPal site, let Carol Lee know by email (spwrc@suddenlink.net).

Anniversary Fundraiser Chairperson Needed

Donor Sara Tubbs McGee has agreed to serve on our fundraising committee. We would like several more people to serve and help on this committee.

We still need a Chairperson, whose main responsibility will be to solicit donations from area merchants.

If you can help with this, please contact Carol Lee at spwrc@suddenlink.net

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



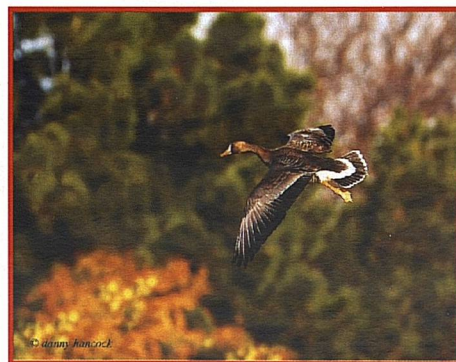
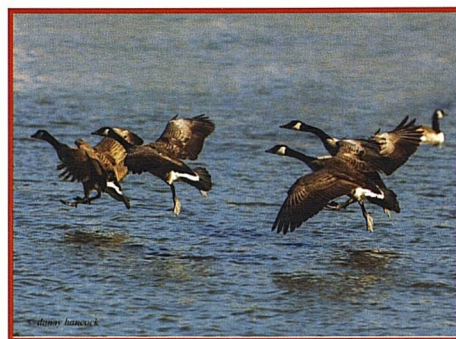
Shutterbug

Our favorite Shutterbug, volunteer Danny Hancock, shares more of his wonderful bird photos with us: A Bald Eagle taken in New Mexico at 8500 feet elevation. Danny said, "Yes, the sky was really that blue!"

The following photo is Canada Geese, now coming into our area to spend the winter.

The third picture is of a Greater White-fronted Goose.

Thank you so much for sharing!



Commemorative Brick Walkway

If you'd like to purchase a commemorative 4 x 8" brick along the walkway at the Wildlife Center, visit our web site at spwrc.org and click on the "Dedicate a paving brick" link in the left column. You can print and mail instructions for your brick(s) along with your donation. Each brick will accommodate 3 lines and 15 characters, including spaces.

This will continue until all bricks are sold and is a great way to support SPWRC while honoring or remembering a family member, friend or beloved pet. The walkway is adjacent to our outdoor amphitheater on the property.

Brick purchases this quarter:

*The Pharmacy Department of Covenant Hospital in Lubbock purchased a brick in Memory of Kathy Glyn Phillips who passed away August 28, 2012. Kathy was a registered pharmacist and also a volunteer at SPWRC for many years prior to her passing.

*Dr. Guy and Stephanie Wells purchased a brick in Honor of their daughter Ashley Shelton.

*James Volker of Martindale, Texas, purchased a brick in Memory of Fred and Laura Volker.

*Cindy Burkes of Denver City, Texas, purchased a "Thank You" brick in Honor of Carol, Gail and Daniel of SPWRC. Thank you!

These new bricks will be in place by our December Open House on the 22nd.

We hope more bricks will be sold over the next weeks and those purchased will be engraved and placed prior to our June 2013 open house.

Note:

If your donation arrived after November 29, 2012, it will be acknowledged in our Spring quarterly newsletter. If any information was inadvertently omitted or incorrect (including your mailing label) please notify Carol Lee at spwrc@suddenlink.net

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

"Nature reserves some of her choice rewards for days when her mood may appear to be somber."

Rachel Carson - The Sense of Wonder

Donor Spotlight



Keystone Donors Jody and Cindy Burkes visit SPWRC for Cindy's Birthday

Three weeks before an upcoming, special event for his wife, Jody Burkes sent me an e-mail asking about a possible visit to SPWRC. The couple lives in Denver City, Texas, and have been "Keystone Donors" for years.

Jody said his wife would love nothing more than to visit and tour the Wildlife Center one day, and asked if we could surprise her on her birthday October 15th. He'd figure out how to get her to Lubbock and we'd do the rest!

We wanted to make the day special for Cindy, too, buying cake and candles, and assembling everything just prior to their arrival.

We "played dumb" when they walked through the door, asking, "Can we help you?" and I'm sure for a moment she thought they'd be 'run off' since we're not open to the public except during special events like Open House.

However, we couldn't keep the surprise any longer, and started singing Happy Birthday. She was genuinely surprised!

The Burkes spent several hours with us, not only getting a personal behind-the-scenes tour, but Cindy got a short lesson on how to properly glove and hold our newest ambassador, "Trooper."

Following their visit, Cindy purchased a Commemorative Brick, and brought us a very generous gift card from PetsMart.

This turned out to be a special occasion for all of us, and we hope Jody will bring Cindy back every year on or around her birthday so they can see first hand "what's new!"



Our American White Pelican "Percy" in his finest Holiday Attire



**A sleepy winter resident
Great Horned Owl
taken at
Ransom Canyon, Texas
(Photo by Danny Hancock)**

Thank you for offering creative talent!

Special thanks to Mr. Rico Vega, Senior Art Director at the Thomas Agency in Lubbock, for offering his time and talent to help us develop invitations, posters and tickets for our upcoming 25th Anniversary Fundraiser in April, 2013.

Thank you to former Board Member Charles Swift

Thank you to former Board member Charles Swift who served SPWRC as an officer and member since January, 2008.

He recently resigned and is presently enjoying retirement and travel. We all wish him well.

You can see our new slate of Board Officers and Members on page 2.

Did you know?

An individual Eastern Gray Squirrel spends late summer and fall picking up and burying hundreds of acorns and nuts. It buries each one individually, digging the hole and then tamping the soil down carefully to hide the nut.

Studies show these squirrels recover about 85% of the nuts they bury, and probably find them by scent, rather than memory. Many of the remaining nuts germinate and eventually grow into trees. (From *enature.com* Sign up to get their free and informative e-mail newsletters).

We ask for your name and address and other information when you bring an animal to us or contribute supplies.

Your information is never shared (nor is our mailing list) but used to enter into our state and federal records or to thank our donors. All donations of \$20.00 or more will be acknowledged in the upcoming quarterly newsletter.



Our History in a Nutshell

This issue features a look back at our early history, as we service to wildlife and residents of the Texas South Plains throughout this year. Our December newsletter covers 1988



One of the first baby Blue Jays raised in the mid 1980s

I didn't set out to raise baby birds that part-time in the mid euthanized, including



I started bringing the little birds home – a starling here, a sparrow or cardinal there. After all, I'd successfully raised a mockingbird two years earlier. Any chance for the orphans was better than no chance at all. I had success. A woman in New Jersey I'd written to said, "You seem to be able to do what eludes most people: provide a good healthy diet for the birds, have good instincts, good intentions and a lot of common sense." I guess I'd really found my niche, and loved working with baby songbirds.

In the early days, the first task was to apply for state and federal permits; the latter necessary if migratory birds are cared for, which in my case was the primary reason for starting a wildlife center. I first applied in 1986 to Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin, and received my state permit April 7, 1987. About an hour later, my first baby squirrel arrived. My federal application was applied for and received in 1988.

Educator Charles Swift is to thank for our name, "South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center." I already knew one day we'd distribute a newsletter, and it would be called, "*The Mockingbird Chronicles*" in honor of the first wild baby mockingbird I successfully raised and released.

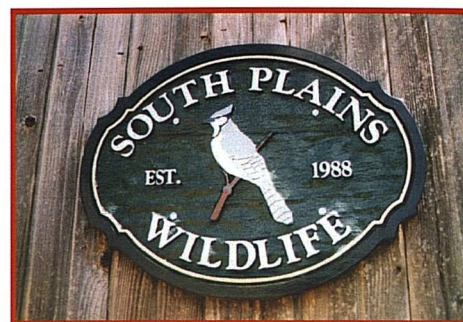
approach a milestone in 2013 of twenty-five years of We'll continue to add to our history and evolution through spring, 1995.

"start a wildlife center." In fact, all I wanted to do was were brought into the veterinary clinic where I worked 1980's. Without anyone to care for them, they were healthy ones. That made my heart hurt, and without a

clue, I started bringing the little birds home – a starling here, a sparrow or cardinal there. After all, I'd successfully raised a mockingbird two years earlier. Any chance for the orphans was better than no chance at all. I had success. A woman in New Jersey I'd written to said, "You seem to be able to do what eludes most people: provide a good healthy diet for the birds, have good instincts, good intentions and a lot of common sense." I guess I'd really found my niche, and loved working with baby songbirds.

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Our sign was custom made by Bratton's Woodcraft in Intercourse, Pennsylvania, in the heart of "Pennsylvania Dutch Country" in September, 1995

I also knew who I'd ask to design our Mockingbird Logo: Texas Tech graduate, artist and illustrator Michael Nickell. I met Michael at one of our local Audubon meetings soon after moving to Lubbock.

In September, 1989, I visited with Virgil Wade of Lubbock ISD for permission to present wildlife education programs in the school district. I turned in an outline and my ideas and his permission was granted. I also made application to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a Special Purpose Possession Permit to retain several non-releasable migratory birds for educational purposes, including a Great Horned Owl and Common Barn Owl.

In 1990 I attended my first National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association Symposium at Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York. I bought everything I could get my hands on to read and digest. 1990 was also the year our first Eagle Scout project was completed, and our first Internship Program with Texas Tech University was planned and started with the help of professor Dr. Nancy Matthews.

In fall, 1990, I began planning for the "Super Saturdays" series at Texas Tech, and we continued teaching spring and/or fall wildlife education programs throughout 2000. In January, 1991, we entered the computer world with software especially created for our wildlife records. In November, 1991, *Texas Country Reporter* television producers did a story about our Wildlife Center and Canada Geese on the South Plains.

In June, 1992, the Wildlife Center incorporated with the help of Lubbock attorney J. Edwin Price. In fall, 1992 we transferred a diminutive Flammulated Owl to renowned owl rehabilitator Katherine McKeever in Ontario, Canada. She was the first person ever to breed this species in captivity and our owl, named "Tex," was used in her breeding program.

During November, 1993, Debbie and Rick Tennyson and son Josh moved into the house on Center property as on-site managers. Rick passed away January 5, 2005, and Debbie left September, 2006, for a job at "Medieval Times" in an Atlanta suburb.

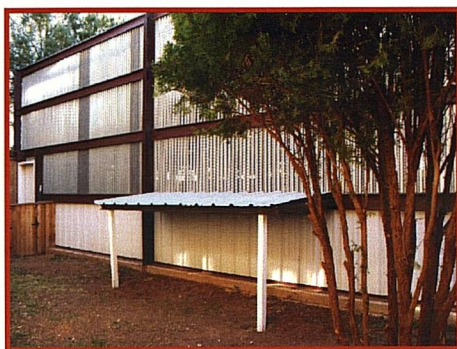
In April, 1994, the Wildlife Center was one of three local non-profit organizations to receive the J.C. Penney Award for \$1000.00, for our wildlife work and utilization of volunteers. In fall, 1994, three Lubbock High School "Leap" Honors students did internships at the Wildlife Center, our first high school interns. Along the way, many thousands of dollars, volunteer hours and projects were planned and executed, including a new work building, outdoor aviary, "Ambassador Row" to house our raptors and an outdoor flight cage. Following this was the construction of our outdoor amphitheater, garden pond and baby bird building over the next years. (All done without incurring any debt.)

More milestones will be in Spring 2013 issue!

Two More Eagle Scout Projects Completed and one in the Works

Chris Messenger is a junior at Cooper High School and planned an outdoor lean-to for our deer fawns, so they'll have shade while outdoors. He also remodeled our large mew inside the barn on the first floor including the ceiling, window, and outside door opening into the deer yard. This was a much needed project to accommodate the many deer fawns we admit each summer.

His parents are Ralph and Cindy Messenger. His dad is the Scoutmaster Troop # 505. Chris's hobbies are camping, scout work and he's interested in conservation. He plans two years at South Plains College after high school and then go to Texas Tech to study Forensic Science. This was our 48th Eagle Scout project.



The lean-to is adjacent to the flight cage in our deer yard
Bottom: Exit from barn to outdoor yard



On October 27th, our 49th Eagle Scout Project was completed.

Jeff DeGraw's project was to place plastic coated mesh netting and shade cloth in each mew (enclosure) in Ambassador Row. This covered the hard wire netting already there.

Birds of prey can easily break a beak or talon in the other netting, and we decided to replace it before we had a mishap.

Jeff is a junior at Monterey High School. He's in Troop #510 and the Scoutmaster is Mark Waddoups.

At present, Jeff is undecided on his plan to attend a university, but is interested in computer science.

His hobbies are video games, camping and skate boarding.

His parents are Betty Ann and Garth Thomas of Lubbock.

We thank Jeff and his fellow Scouts for choosing SPWRC for this great project.

50th Eagle Scout Project scheduled for February, 2013

Lubbock High School student Matthew Stewart is planning our 50th Eagle Scout project.

It involves a proposal for an on-site outdoor Box Turtle area, since we admit a dozen or more annually. (In 2011 we admitted 23 Ornate Box Turtles).

Often Box Turtles need a prolonged convalescent period, depending on the time of year they're admitted.

While they have specific needs for diet, heat and sunlight, we prefer to let them get well outdoors in a protected area as opposed to in an artificial environment, like an indoor terrarium.

We'll have an update on Matthew's project in our spring quarterly newsletter; it will be completed around the end of February.

Matthew's parents are Randy and Amy Steward, and he's in Troop #406.

He said, "I like cross-stitching pixel video game characters, playing video games, and reading. I also enjoy making costumes of some characters. After I graduate from Lubbock

High School, I want to start programming video games."

We'll have an update on Matthew's project in our spring newsletter.

Environmental Education

Gail Barnes and our volunteers did seventeen outreach programs in and around Lubbock during the last quarter, including one during the Arts and Crafts Festival at the Garden and Arts Center in October. Other presentations were done for Women's Protective Service; All Saints Episcopal School; Whiteside Elementary (for Advanced Readers group); Ramirez Charter School; Harwell Elementary Science Fair; Northridge Elementary in Frenship ISD and a program for Cub Pack #593. Outside Lubbock, programs were given at Idalou Elementary and for Petersburg FFA. More Playa Lake Festivals were done in Terry County at Brownfield and Meadow, Texas. Other Playa Lake Festivals were held at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge with groups from Amherst, Sudan, Pep, Nazareth, and Kress, Texas.

Education outreach programs help generate much needed revenue for SPWRC during the year, and we appreciate Gail's volunteer service in this area. Call Gail at the Center if you'd like to sponsor (or help fund) a program for your civic, school, scout or other group.

SPWRC is an officially registered charity with eBay Giving Works.

We're also a registered charity with iGive and you can shop at over 1200 stores.

By November 26th, 2358 wildlife orphans and casualties were admitted to SPWRC during 2012

If you'd like to receive The Mockingbird Chronicles in pdf format by e-mail instead of as a paper document, send your request to Carol at spwrc@suddenlink.net

A New Incubator is purchased, thanks to Lubbock Lions Club



This is the new incubator purchased with funds donated by Lubbock Lions Club during the last quarter

On August 21st, SPWRC received a check for \$425.00 from Lubbock Lions Club to purchase a new incubator for our young baby birds and small mammals.

We appreciate the financial help in being able to purchase this much needed equipment!

A Nice Way to Start the Day

One September 8th, I sent one of our donors the September issue of our newsletter as a pdf file, as requested.

I opened my e-mail the following morning and the first post I read was the following, from longtime Keystone Donor Joyce Badger: "Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the wildlife of the South Plains that needs help. But more, thank you for the model you established of cooperation, coordination and outreach with so many facets of our community that can help and care for wildlife. Other agencies in the community can learn from your example!"

It goes without saying, this "Thank You" is also to the many thousands of volunteers, staff members, veterinarians, educators, Scouts, state and federal game wardens, Board of Directors, past and present donors, local media, Texas Tech, local Audubon chapter, and the scores of other community partners who helped make our organization what it is today!

News and Notes

Thank you again Miniaturists of Lubbock

Another huge thank you to the Miniaturists of Lubbock, who donate a portion of proceeds from their annual show and sale to SPWRC for many years. This year's October event was at the Garden and Arts Center.

The group again donated \$500.00 and we send special thanks to J.L. Biggers, Treasurer, members Marilyn and Bill Jamison and the other members for their continued support.



Society of Environmental Journalists visit Lubbock

Last summer I was contacted by a representative of the Society of Environmental Journalists to host a field trip to Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge October 18th.

Texas Tech was host to their 22nd annual meeting and the international group of several hundred people who convened in Lubbock for five days of conferences, field trips and other activities.

There were thirty-two people in our group from the Associated Press, Bird Watching magazine, Greenpeace, free-lance writers, National Geographic, travel magazines, New York Times, news media, journalism students and professors, and others. About twelve field trips were offered.

We were met at the refuge by Manager Jude Smith, who gave a history of the area and accompanied us to several areas to look for birds. By the time we left, 46 bird species were documented, including several Sandhill Cranes and three raptors. Thanks to Rob Lee and Cameron Carver for helping ID birds! Weather was lovely, and a good time was had by all!

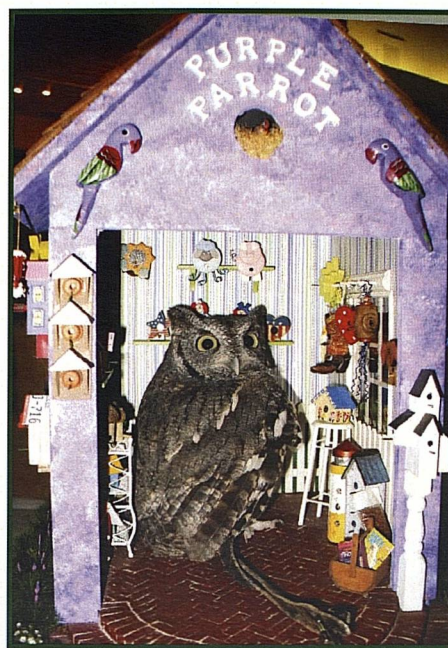
Meet our newest Ambassador "Trooper" who's also up for sponsorship!

Meet "Trooper," our newest Wildlife Ambassador. She is an adult Eastern Screech Owl brought in by a Texas State Trooper. He had one request: If the owl couldn't be released, please "name her after me" so, she was named Trooper.

The owl had a right wing injury and can only fly short distances, and therefore not able to be released. She loves being a companion to "Athena," our other education Eastern Screech Owl.

If you'd like to adopt (sponsor) "Trooper" for one year, she is available for \$25.00, payable to SPWRC.

Trooper made her public debut during the Lubbock Miniaturists show in October. She had to go inside and check out one of the house interiors!



"Trooper" checks out one of the miniature houses during the Miniaturist's annual show



Find us on
Facebook

Adopting a "Wildlife Ambassador" helps pay for its annual care

PERCY, RIGHT \$50
AMERICAN
WHITE PELICAN



TOENAILS, CENTER \$45
SWAINSON'S HAWK



EMPRESS, RIGHT \$40
PEREGRINE FALCON



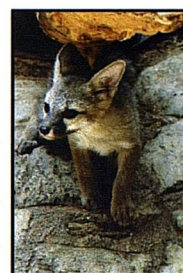
BUBO 2, RIGHT \$45
GREAT HORNED OWL



BOBBY, FAR RIGHT \$50
BOBCAT



GRACIE, RIGHT \$50
GRAY FOX



JASPER, FAR RIGHT \$45
COMMON BARN OWL



FARLEY, RIGHT \$35
BURROWING OWL



MISS HOARY, RIGHT \$40
HOARY BAT



FESTUS, FAR RIGHT \$30
TURKEY VULTURE



SHADOW, RIGHT \$45
BARRED OWL



MADDIE, FAR RIGHT \$35
AMERICAN KESTREL



ATHENA, RIGHT \$25
EASTERN SCREECH OWL



VINCENT, FAR RIGHT \$30
CHIHUAHUA RAVEN



YOUR NAME _____

ORGANIZATION OR GROUP _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ Total amount enclosed _____

☐ Membership amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____

Amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____

Membership levels: ♦ Millennium Member \$5000 ♦ Life Member \$1000 ♦ Benefactor \$500 ♦ Patron \$100 ♦ Supporting Member \$50 ♦

☐ Gift ☐ Gift in memory of _____

☐ Membership amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

☐ Gift ☐ Gift in memory of _____

☐ Membership amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

Thank you for grant funding!

A huge thank you again to the following for grants received during the last quarter from CH Foundation, South Plains Foundation, Betenbough Homes and the James "Buddy" Davidson Foundation.

These funds are earmarked for various things: improvements, wildlife food and supplies, operating funds and salary assistance. We'll have updates on all projects in our Spring quarterly newsletter.

Remember the birds during the Holiday Season

Many birds supplement available natural foods in winter by visiting bird feeders for seed and other offerings. Fill feeders in the morning so birds have sufficient time to feed during our shorter winter days. Buy seed mixes containing black-oil sunflower, (preferred over black-stripe sunflower seed), white proso millet, peanut hearts, cracked corn and safflower (safflower is a Northern Cardinal favorite).

Cracked corn and mixed seed scattered on the ground or on a tray type feeder will attract juncos and doves. Black thistle or Niger seed is relished by finches and several other species, and is best dispensed from a mesh bag.

Read the label and beware of 'bargain' brands that contain seed birds usually won't eat, like wheat, oats, rye or rice.

Be sure your feeders are easy to fill, and keep them clean. Use feeders with designs that protect seed from rain, snow, or sprinklers. Look for a manufacturer's guarantee.

Dispose of moldy food to avoid possible harm to the birds. Don't let seed accumulate on the ground or you'll attract mice.

Do remember to provide fresh water daily.

Troubleshooting Around Bird Feeders

Provide lots of places for small birds to seek shelter, like dense shrubbery. Eliminate hiding places around feeders where cats and other predators can hide.

The presence of even one cat near your feeder can take the enjoyment out of your

Troubleshooting continued

bird watching or bird feeding experience.

Several species of hawks prey on small birds in our area. The most common are Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks.

While it's upsetting for some to watch a hawk carry off a dove or sparrow from a feeder, it is the scheme of predator-prey relationships in nature.

If a hawk is present, cease feeding for a few days. If Blue Jays in the neighborhood are sounding loud alarm calls, and no birds are at the feeder on the coldest of days, it's usually an indication that a hawk or other predator is nearby.

Often birds at feeders get frightened and fly into a window. If a bird hits one at your house and falls to the ground, stay calm. They don't break their necks in most cases as many people think, but can sustain a serious or lethal head injury.

Sometimes they recover in a few seconds or minutes and fly off.

If a bird is still alive but "out" after five or so minutes, take it to the Wildlife Center as soon as possible. (A shoebox lined with tissues is a great way to transport small birds). Be sure to secure the lid in case it revives during the trip.

A Cooper's Hawk, below, is one raptor species that preys on birds at bird feeders in and around Lubbock.

(Photo by Danny Hancock)



Adoptions

Loyd and Lois Shrout of Manor, Texas, adopted "Hootie," "Harris," and "Shadow."

The Shrouts rescued Shadow several years ago near Austin after she was found injured.

Tributes

Memorials:

* Matt and Elizabeth Bellamy of Lubbock made a Memorial donation in the name of Mike Wilson of Shallowater, Texas. Becky Wilson was notified of their kind gift.

* Ricky and Donna Walker of Lubbock gave a donation in Memory of "Chloe," a standard poodle who was the beloved pet of Candace O'Dell of Lubbock. Candace was notified of their kindness.

Gifts to Honor:

Pamela Taylor of Ralls, Texas, sent a generous Holiday donation in Honor of the following families at Christmas:

*Ken, Dixie, Katy and Kelly Welch of Baird, Texas

*Josh, Amy, Hannah and Hayley King of Cisco, Texas

*Clay McDuff and Family of Springhill, Florida

*Mark McDuff and girls from Colora, Maryland

*Kelley and Jake Johnson and Justin from Louisville, Kentucky

Did You Know?

For 19 years, SPWRC was 100% volunteer. Our Board decided we must hire 1-2 employees to work during peak periods: spring, summer, mornings and evenings. Our work is cyclical and peaks May - August. Babies are admitted during breeding season, but in fall it's animals in trouble: ill, injured, shot, poisoned, caught in traps, emaciated or inept at hunting or foraging. Without our help and intervention, many would not make it through the winter months. Our staff includes 1 full and 1 part-time Operations Manager at present, and these are the two employees who oversee and manage all aspects of the wildlife care.

Acknowledgements

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

Our Keystone Donors

(Those who make a monthly donation!)

Keystone Donors

Carre Avian
Joyce Badger (formerly Joyce Lisenby)
Karen Bosscher
AJ and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, TX
Becky and Jason Cooper
Ms. Terry Hooper
Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
Joyce Komkov
Ms. Katricia Lampley, Seminole, TX
Tom McLaughlin
Dave Melton
Fidel and Twila Ortiz, Hart, TX
Tracey and Jose Pineda, Shallowater, TX
Vicki Schellhase (A new Keystone Donor)
William and Deanna Schwartze
Debbie and Dr. John Zak
(New Keystone Donors)

My dream is to have enough "Keystone Donors" so our monthly budget of approximately \$6,000 is met each month.

\$10,000

James "Buddy" Davidson Foundation,
Midland, TX

\$1000.00

John and Christie Billing
Joe Hardin

\$600.00

Michael and Janette Faris, Lovington, NM

\$500.00

Miniaturists of Lubbock

\$350.00

Becky Byrne

\$200.00 - \$250.00

Cindy and Jody Burkes
Merle and Anna Karnes
Dr. Mary Lochbaum
Jean Way

\$100.00 - \$199.00

Justin and Laura Anderson

\$100.00 - \$199.00, continued

Jean and Daniel Cantore
Mary and John Gillas
David and Cindy Jones
Bill Lynch
Jon McRoberts
Charles Ruth
Lois and Loyd ShROUT, Manor, TX
Jean Way
Dr. Cheryl and Fred Weber

\$40.00 - \$60.00

Sharla Darter, Hands for You Massage
Robert and Mary Doss
Diesta Kuhn
James Volker, Martindale, TX
Patti Merritt
Cynthia Opaitz
Nanette Petersen
Samantha Rosenberg
James Spivey
Kyle and Carol Wargo

\$25.00 - \$35.00

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Camille Briggs
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Jamie Lankford, Spur, TX
Susan McIntire
Sandra Medina
Zafar Miller
Glenda Perry
Christine Ruffin
Sindee Simon
Kathi Smith
Johnny and Jennifer Warren, Spur, TX

\$20.00

Jeff Boatright
Beth Brown

\$20.00, continued

Andrea Cheney, Wolfforth, TX
Anne Epstein
Shawn Forbes, Wolfforth, TX
Larry and Janis Gailey
Kathleen Harper
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Paula Weldon
Mary Wesley



Thank you for Supplies!

Dr. Susan Bergeson
Morgan and Gerald Bottrell
Cindy and Jody Burkes,
Denver City, TX
Paula Grammas
Sue Hill, Morton, TX
Lucky Leaf 4 H Club, Wilson, TX
Bebe and Art McCasland,
Big Spring, Texas
Sonja Nash
A. J. Shropshire
Bill Van Pelt, Washington, D.C.
Grace Whittis

The Mockingbird Chronicles

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Canada Geese in flight

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the many
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us along during
the last twenty-
four amazing
years!

Thanks to you
and your
support, many,
many thousands
of wild animals
have gotten a
second chance
at life and have
been returned
to their natural
wild habitats.