

SWC  
SF996.45  
.M63  
2014  
no. 4

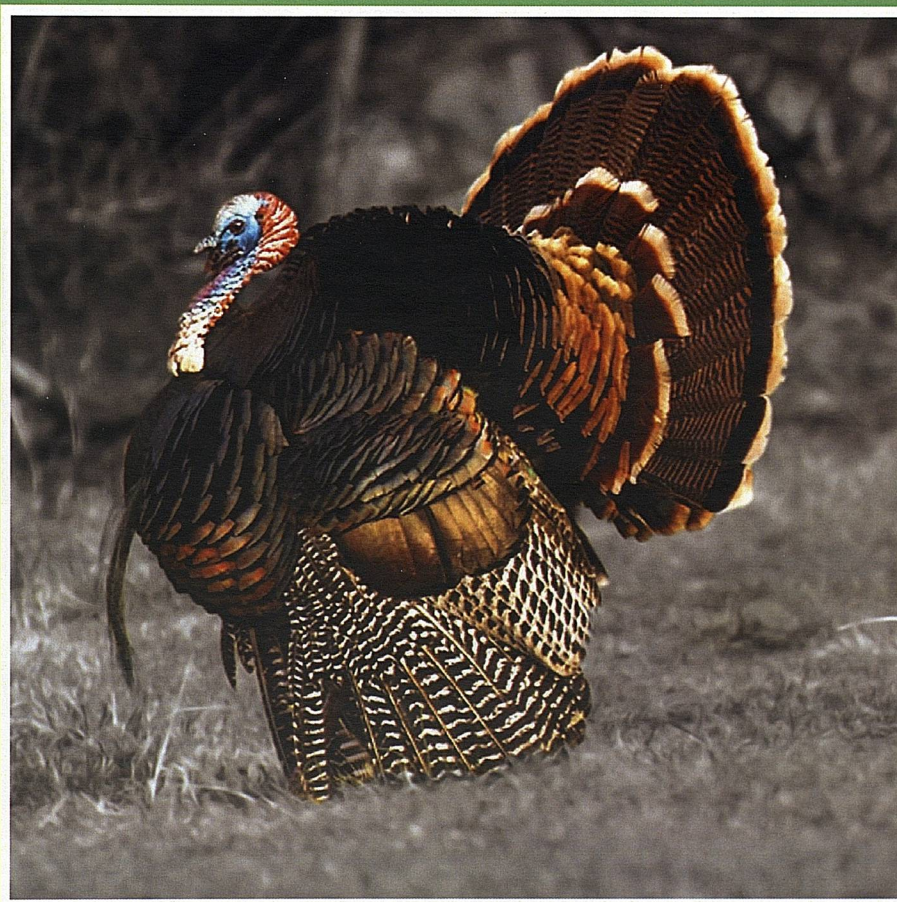
# The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 4/ 2014

*Happy Holidays!*



Bayer CropScience is a proud sponsor of  
"The Mockingbird Chronicles"



## Letter from the Founder



Carol Lee

It's hard to believe 2014 is quickly drawing to a close. It's been an exciting year, starting with a January gift from the J.T. and Margaret Talkington Foundation, our seed money to begin planning and executing renovation of our unfinished 27 year old 3-story barn. We're also adding a waterfowl facility for the many dozens of ducklings and water birds we admit each year.

Also in January, National Geographic photojournalist Joel Sartore visited and spent the day in Lubbock photographing some of our birds and bats.

As the year progressed, we selected an architect (Mary Crites) and a construction company (Teinert Building Services) and began brainstorming, committing ideas to paper, and meeting periodically to hammer out major and minor details for our two projects.

We received several other grants throughout 2014 that helped with animal food and care costs, veterinary expenses, and operating costs. Other funding allowed us to buy additional caging units and helped fund our two employees' rabies vaccination and blood titer level costs. Help also came in the form of grants to be used for education, for equipment, supplies, printing of materials, an education intern and other expenses.

We are sincerely appreciative for help in these areas. Collectively, these funds allow us to continue our work to serve wildlife and residents from near and far.

During the summer, two more Eagle Scout projects were completed, bringing the total number of projects done at SPWRC to 54 since 1992.

This year, as in the past, we'll be sending a Holiday Appeal – donations will help us with our expenses over the winter months, because in September when 'baby season' ends, our donations drop off sharply.

If you don't receive a Holiday Appeal, you can donate using PayPal (on our web page at spwrc.org) or at [www.GoFundMe.com/Help-us-help-wildlife](http://www.GoFundMe.com/Help-us-help-wildlife)

See page 8 for other ways you can help, even when you shop!

During 2015 we'll finish our two major building projects, and hope to plan a fun "Barn Raising" event come spring.

2015 will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> year for our Junior Volunteer Program, and early sign-ups are encouraged. Call Gail Barnes at the Center for more information.

We remain indebted to the veterinarians who serve us at several area clinics, to Board Members and Advisors who help oversee the work and direction of the Wildlife Center, to our dedicated staff, volunteers, interns, and to all of you, our donors, supporters and friends!

We look forward to 2015 with all its surprises and challenges, new experiences, new people, and the opportunity to constantly improve our level of wildlife care for our many species of patients.

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season, and look forward to keeping everyone updated as the barn and waterfowl enclosure near completion, and hopefully we can host a real "open house" soon!

**Cover Photo:****The Proud Wild Turkey**

(Photo by Danny Hancock)

Palo Duro Canyon, Texas

"Percy" our Pelican on Mail Page,  
decked out for the Holidays

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

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

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

Founder	Carol Lee
Education Coordinator	Gail Barnes
Operations Manager	Daniel Andrews

**Officers and Directors**

Dr. Jim Moyes, President
Rob Lee, Vice President
Carol Lee, Secretary
Patricia Harris, CPA, Treasurer
Gail Barnes
Sheila Johnson

**Advisors:** Blaine Oden, D.V.M.  
Mr. Bill Van Pelt, Austin, TX

**Development Consultant**  
Stacy Keith, MA, CFRE

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

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

SPWRC can be reached by e-mail:  
[spwrc2@yahoo.com](mailto:spwrc2@yahoo.com)

Founder Carol Lee can be reached  
at [spwrc@suddenlink.net](mailto:spwrc@suddenlink.net)

Learn more at our website: [www.spwrc.org](http://www.spwrc.org)



## Barn Renovation and Waterfowl Facility Construction Update

As this newsletter issue heads to the printer December 2nd, we know work will begin any day now on our two projects – the barn renovation and construction of a new facility for our water birds and waterfowl.

It's been almost a year in the planning stages, and now work is just about to commence.

On October 7th, Carol and Rob Lee met again with architect Mary Crites, Chad Henthorn and Daniel Horton from Teinert Construction, the great people who are spearheading our projects.

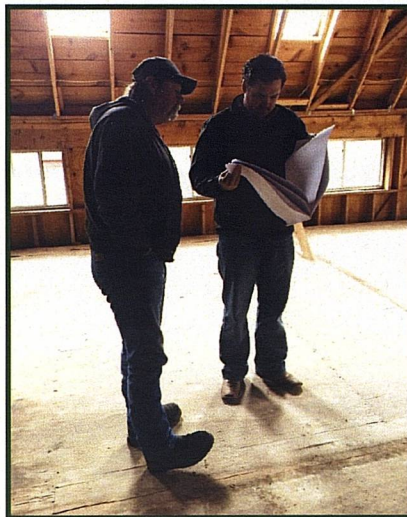
Discussion centered on lighting, concrete, insulation, plumbing, flooring, paint and finishes and a multitude of other topics. It will be an energy-efficient facility.

Rob met again with them in November, and a contract was signed before Thanksgiving.

We've been saving for this upgrade for twenty-five years, and now it's finally going to happen, thanks to help from many sources!

Even though another newsletter won't be out until March 2015, you can follow our progress on our primary Facebook page, Carol's FB page, and on our web site at spwrc.org

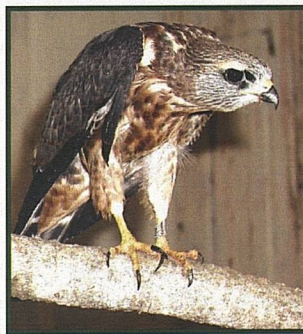
We'll post photos and updates, and we trust everything will go smoothly!



### *Thank you Ed and Kay Sones of Cedar Park*

Special thanks to wildlife rehabilitators Ed and Kay Sones of Cedar Park, an Austin, TX, suburb, for accepting two of our juvenile Mississippi Kites in October. The birds were young when SPWRC admitted them and thus would miss migration this year.

Ed will winter the pair, and they'll be that much farther south come spring when the kites return to Texas from southern South America. An immature kite is pictured below.



Special thanks also to volunteer Matt Sager for building new Burrowing Owl burrows for our two diminutive Wildlife Ambassadors "Yoda," and "Oden."

## *Thank you for Grant and other funds!*

In mid-September we received a \$1000.00 grant from the Diekemper Family Foundation for general, non-restrictive operating costs.

In October we received \$22,000.00 from the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation in Midland, Texas, for animal food and veterinary care.

In November, we also received a grant from the McCrary and Franklin Charitable Trust in the amount of \$2000.00 "to be used for education, operating costs, or wherever it is needed most."

Grant funds received earlier in the year from South Plains Foundation were earmarked, in part, for rabies vaccinations and blood titers for our two employees, and this was completed.

Also a big thank you to Midge and Woody Erskine of Midland, Texas, for their gift of \$2,720.21, earmarked for our barn renovation. Midge is a very special lady, who influenced me during my early days of wildlife rehabilitation.

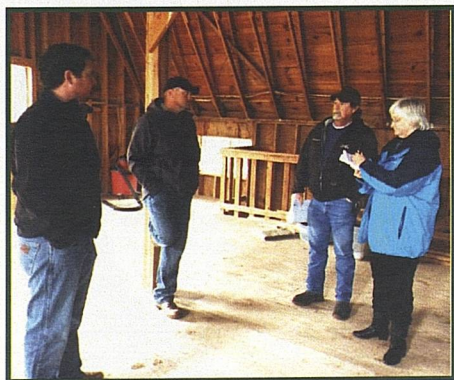
We are sincerely appreciative of all these funds that help us advance our twofold Missions of wildlife rehabilitation and Environmental Education and assist with our facilities improvements!

Special thanks to Stacy Keith, our Director of Development, who has been instrumental in securing grant funding for us!



A big thank you to John Frullo, Crystal Donnell and the staff at Midtown Printing for doing a great job with our annual Holiday Appeal and quarterly newsletters!

**"The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness." – John Muir**



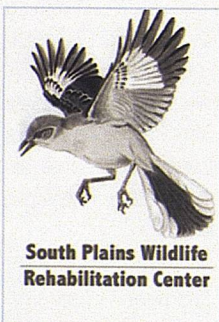
**It's all in the details!**



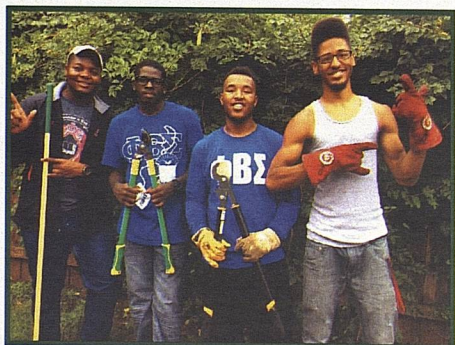
## "Hike for Health"



The Strovas family joins Gail and "Titan" during the September 28th "Hike for Health" event at Lubbock Lake Landmark



We were proud to be listed along with all their other partners for the event again this year!

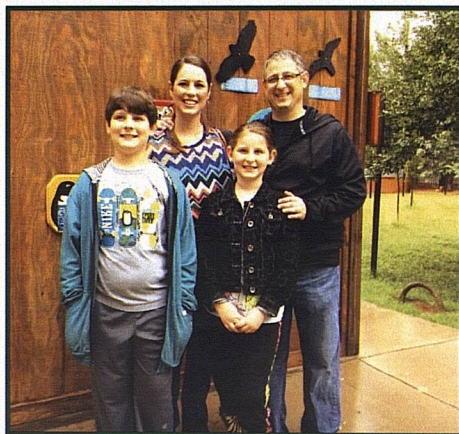


On September 20th, a group of young men from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Texas Tech University, joined us for a morning of grounds maintenance.

## News and Notes

Brady Jacobs and about a dozen friends and adults came to the Wildlife Center for a tour in Honor of Brady's 11th Birthday. Brady attends Cooper South school in Lubbock.

Guests donated \$170.00 and we are very appreciative of their kindness!



Brady Jacobs 'Birthday Tour' September 6th. (Front) Brady, and sister Kinley Parents Angela and Matt Jacobs, (Rear)



HOSA Students from Texas Tech

Also on September 20th, a group of students from Texas Tech met to help Rob Lee (Back row, center) remove all remaining built in structures on the second floor of the barn.

The students are all members of the Health Occupation Students of America at Texas Tech. HOSA is an organization for anyone in a Pre-Health degree plan.

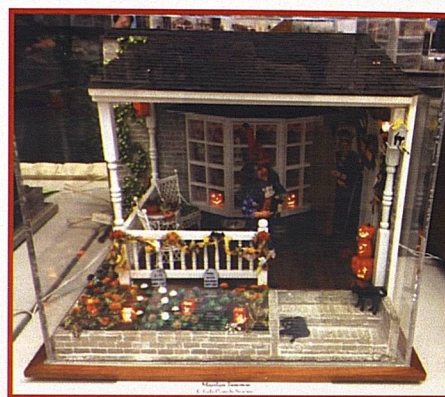
We are thankful for everyone who has helped clear out our barn and around the property during the last quarter!

## Miniaturists Annual Show and Sale in October

Thank you once again to the Miniaturists of Lubbock for their generous donation of \$500.00 to SPWRC. Proceeds are generated thanks to their annual sale and show the first weekend in October.

"Yoda," our Burrowing Owl, was our wild-life ambassador this year.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and to Julian Biggers, Treasurer!



"Decorated for Halloween" miniature house created by Marilyn Jamison



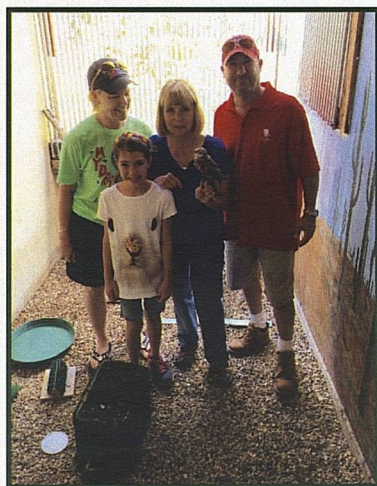
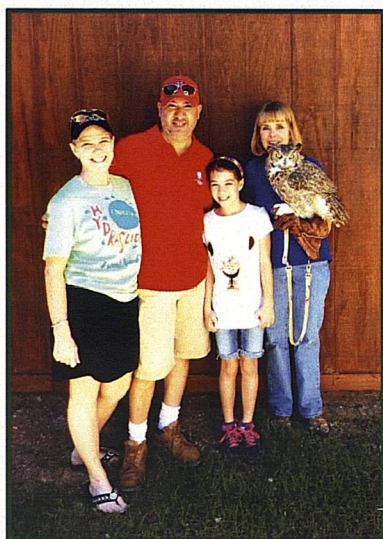
Gail Barnes and Burrowing Owl "Yoda" meet, greet and talk with guests at the Miniaturists annual October event





## More News and Notes

Claudia Tepper is 9 years old and in 3rd grade at Miller Elementary. She had presents donated to the Wildlife Center for her October birthday. Her parents are Carl and Robyn Tepper. Thank you Claudia!



If your donation arrived after 11/29/2014, it will be acknowledged in our December newsletter. If your name, gift or other information was inadvertently omitted or incorrect, please notify Carol Lee at [spwrc@suddenlink.net](mailto:spwrc@suddenlink.net). If the expiration date on your newsletter label is not correct, please tell me. Donations of \$25.00 receive a subscription of 1 year (4 quarterly issues).

## Tributes

### Gifts to Honor

\*Jane Stuart of Lubbock made a generous contribution in Honor of Carol Lee. (Thank you very much, Janel)

Pam Taylor of Ralls, TX, made a generous donation in Honor of the following for the holidays:

\*Ken, Dixie, Katy and Kelly Welch of Baird, TX.

\*Josh and Amy King and Girls, Cisco, TX

\*Clay McDuff and Family, Spring Hill, FL

\*Mark McDuff and Girls, Colora, MD

\*Justin and Kelley Kubly and Boys, Louisville, KY.

### Gifts to Remember

\*Katherine Masters of Taos, NM, made a generous Memorial donation in the name of Rafaela Bela Dominquez of Levelland, TX.

Katherine wrote, "Rafaela was a wonderful woman who loved animals. She would not tolerate their suffering. I doubt she was aware of your organization, but she would have approved whole-heartedly with your mission." Rafaela passed away at the age of 91, September 26, 2014 at her home in Levelland, surrounded by friends, relatives and the animals she loved. Acknowledgement of Katherine Masters' gift was sent to the Dominquez family in Levelland, TX.

\*Susie Williamson (Williamson Interiors, Inc., Lubbock, TX) made a Memorial gift in the name of "Mattie." An acknowledgement was sent to Cathy and Allan Haynes and family, also of Lubbock.

\*Susie Williamson and Ruben Castillo also sent a gift in Memory of "Hank." Acknowledgement was sent to Kathy and Frank Phillips of Lubbock.

\*Keystone Donors Fidel and Twila Ortiz of Hart, TX, made a Memorial donation in the name of Linda Ochoa.

Acknowledgement was sent to Josh and Aariva Ochoa of Beaufort, South Carolina.

\*W.G. and Mary Jane Davis of Artesia, NM made a Memorial gift in the name of Hallie Carlo. Acknowledgement was sent to Joe and Jawna Carlo, also of Artesia, NM.

\*W.G. and Mary Jane Davis also made a Memorial gift in the name of Wesley Davis. Acknowledgements were sent to Stanley, Denise and Phelan Davis of Lubbock, TX.

### Gifts to Remember (continued)

\*Former volunteer Peggy Mulcahy and family of Lewisville, TX, made a Memorial gift in the name of our volunteer Marla Carver who passed away during the last quarter.

\*Carl and Kaye Robertson of Lubbock made a Memorial donation in the name of Karen Avery's brother, Tom Ballard of Lubbock.

\*The Robertsons also made a Memorial contribution in the name of Malcolm Pate's wife, Dorothy Pate, also of Lubbock.

\*Kim and Barry Galley of Sinking Spring, PA, made a generous memorial donation in Memory of Kim's sister Diane Arndt of Allentown, PA.

\*Carol Lee also made a donation in Memory of her cousin Dianne Arndt.

### Swainson's Hawk Transferred

by Gail Barnes

Two Swainson's Hawks were admitted in October 2013, with their primary and secondary feathers on one wing cut back to the feather follicle. The birds were likely nest mates and had been stolen from their nest. Texas Parks & Wildlife game wardens found the birds in Muleshoe, Texas.

SPWRC over-wintered the hawks, and one bird was finally able to be released.

The other Swainson's Hawk couldn't fly straight but flew sideways instead. We decided to place the hawk for education and it was transferred mid-November to Wild Wings Rehabilitation Center, in Centennial, Colorado. Like SPWRC, Wild Wings is also a nonprofit 501(c)3 tax-exempt educational organization.

Thanks to Operations Manager Daniel Andrews for driving the hawk to its final destination!



Bayer CropScience

**Bayer  
CropScience:  
Proud  
Supporter  
of SPWRC**



## Adoptions

\*Jo Ann and Albert Tatkenhorst of Lubbock adopted "Jasper," our wonderful Common Barn Owl.

\*Betty and Steve Warring, also of Lubbock, adopted "Athena," our beautiful little Eastern Screech Owl.

\* Mary Asbell and Allan Mackenzie adopted "Humphrey," our newest Peregrine Falcon.

## Shutterbug

Volunteer Danny Hancock is our favorite shutterbug and often shares beautiful images from his travels with his wife, Maggie, (also one of our volunteers).

This October photo of an Elk was taken at Rocky Mountain National Park.

Thank you for sharing your photos and allowing us to use them in our quarterly newsletters!

Danny also has a beautiful website at <https://500px.com/whisp>



**Majestic Elk**

## Visit ARKive.org

Sign up for their informative emails, or visit the web site for free education resources for 5-18 year olds.

There are lots of links to wildlife information, photos, conservation information, videos, activities and lots of other fun stuff.

It's not just for educators, but any parent with kids at home (as they will be over Christmas vacation!)

## Perhaps a new companion for "Percy"



Percy finally has a friend after fifteen years. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, an American White Pelican was admitted from Slaton, Texas, with a left wing injury.



It remains to be seen if this pelican will be able to fly again, but in the meantime, Percy is delighted to have one of his own kind to pal around with!



Visit [www.http://spwrc.org](http://spwrc.org) and you'll find us. You can donate with Pay-Pal, get volunteer information, contact us, read updates and see our wildlife photos. We'll add more updates as the months progress.

## 2014 Marks the 115th Christmas Bird Count

and

How Frank Chapman made a difference for birds in 1900



First organized in 1900 by ornithologist Frank Chapman, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC" is the oldest and largest wildlife survey in the world. It began as an early effort with a group of 27 conservationists protesting the annual "side hunt," a tradition and hunting contest to see who could shoot the most birds and animals each year on Christmas Day. Chapman organized 26 friends in 25 locations on Christmas Day 1900, and instead of shooting birds, they counted them.

Fewer than 500 people participated prior to 1940. The Audubon Society implemented uniform standards in the late 1950s, and these are still in use. Presently many thousands of individuals participate in all 50 states, every Canadian province, Central and South America, the Caribbean and several Pacific Islands, providing critical data on avian population trends. Census periods are determined by the National Audubon Society, but the actual day/days are chosen by the local count coordinator.

Early on, CBC data marked the decline in several birds, notably the Peregrine Falcon, Trumpeter Swan, and Bald Eagle. CBCs also brought attention to over 100 species of other birds that significantly declined. Count results are integral in assessing the "Watch List," a record of birds that are either in decline or in potential danger.

The Lubbock County CBC will be 20 December 2014. Each team will have an experienced leader *and birders of all ages and experience levels are welcome.*

The Muleshoe Refuge CBC will be 21 December 2014, and the White River Lake CBC will be 3 January 2015.

Enthusiastic birdwatchers all don warm clothes, pack field guides and binoculars and head out for the fun annual counts.

If you're interested, contact Anthony Hewetson at [fattonybirds@gmail.com](mailto:fattonybirds@gmail.com) or 806-252-1213.



## Thank you Miller Owls!

The students from the new Jayne Ann Miller Elementary School (set to open January 6, 2015) adopted "Titan," a Great Horned Owl raised by Gail, as their school mascot.

"Titan" has the distinction of being the only 'live' mascot in all of LISD. Titan was also present at the school's groundbreaking last fall.

Each grade sponsored an animal and also collected many supplies for SPWRC, amounting to nearly a thousand dollars: Gift cards, baby blankets, bird seed, bleach, laundry detergent, paper towels, batteries, hand soap, and many other items from our web site's Wish List.

Pre-Kindergarten adopted songbirds; Kindergarten classes adopted deer; 1st grade adopted Jackrab-

bbits and Cottontails; 2nd grade adopted opossums; 3rd graders adopted reptiles including land and water turtles and any snakes that may be admitted; 4th grades chose any foxes we may admit and 5th graders adopted hawks, falcons, vultures and owls! A parent designed a very cute PDF

poster, depicting the animals and the Wish List, and the illustrations in these two columns are

from her handiwork. We are sincerely appreciative of all their combined efforts in our Center's behalf! (The new school was built at the site of the former Mae Murfee School erected in 1969).



## Environmental Education

Gail Barnes and other volunteers present approximately 100 environmental education programs in and around the Texas South Plains each year. Eighteen programs were presented since our last newsletter for the following: Lubbock Lake Landmark Hike for Health; a Lubbock County Clerks meeting; All Saints Episcopal School; Tornado Alley (First Friday Art Trail); K-Mart Safety Week; 4-H Club, Plainview, TX; Seven programs for the "Miller Owls:"

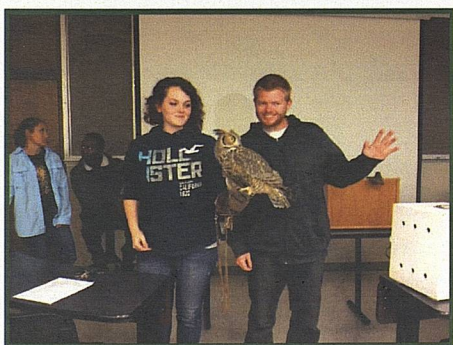
Also for West Texas A & M University in Canyon, TX; Cub Pack 402; Pack 114 "Bears;" Range, Wildlife & Fisheries Club at Texas Tech, and Center tour for a Home School group as

well as several private tours.

Gail is booking programs for 2015, so call her at 799-2142 to schedule a presentation for your school, scout, civic organization or club.



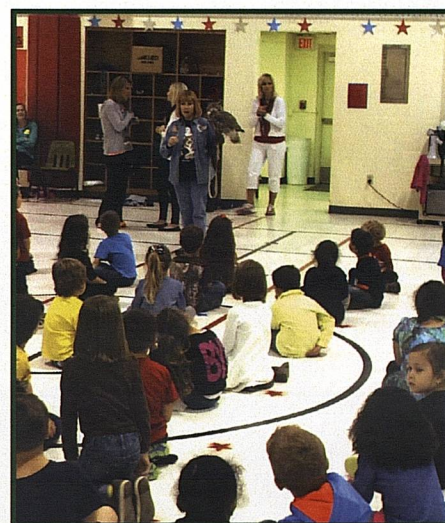
Left: Volunteer Courtney Hubbart and David Underwood, President of Tech's Range, Wildlife & Fisheries Club



## Education Programs

Photos:

Programs for the Miller Owls, top and center, November 4th.



## Thank you for Supplies!

Thanks to Bebe and Art McCasland, Big Spring, TX - Beef heart for our raptors  
Shirley Wade - Duck mash  
Lorna Ammons - Medical supplies  
Linda Henry - Paper towels



**In 2014, we cared for 367 more wild patients than in 2013!**

To donate using PayPal, visit our web site: [www.http://spwrc.org](http://spwrc.org)



## A huge Thank You to Xcel Energy!

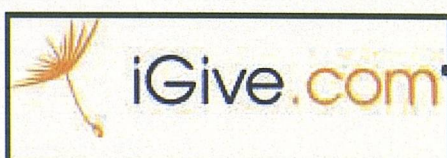
A huge thank you to Xcel Energy for sending out crew and bucket trucks to help us hoist a Barn Owl nest box high into a tree near the back of our property.

As barn renovation begins, the owls will likely relocate temporarily, and we hope they will use the new box for roosting and raising families.

The wild owls have been on the property since SPWRC was founded. We're extremely grateful to Xcel for their helpers and equipment!



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 Lee at [spwrc@suddenlink.net](mailto:spwrc@suddenlink.net)



## There are many ways you can help us help wildlife!

### GoFundMe.com



**Help us build our wildlife care facility**



Show your support at the link below...

↓

[www.GoFundMe.com/Help-us-help-wildlife](http://www.GoFundMe.com/Help-us-help-wildlife)



Visit using your phone!

Visit:  
<http://www.gofundme.com/Help-us-help-wildlife> to learn more.

## Commemorative Bricks

A commemorative brick was purchased this quarter by David Marshall of Lorenzo, TX and will be inscribed: "In Loving Memory of Vicki Marshall."

This is also a great way to support SPWRC while honoring or remembering a family member, friend or beloved pet.

Visit our web site ([www.spwrc.org](http://www.spwrc.org)). You can print and mail instructions for your brick or bricks.

Each brick can accommodate 3 lines and 15 characters per line, including spaces. Several bricks have been purchased over the past few months and should be laid in our walkway by year's end. If you'd like to purchase one, please let us know before December 10th.

To donate using PayPal, visit our web site: [www.spwrc.org](http://www.spwrc.org)

## Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to:

### South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center,

Get started

amazon smile

SPWRC is a registered at Amazon Smile for charitable donations  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2468445>

"When Amazon customers shop on a new version of the company's website – [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) – the company will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to charity. Customers pick their charity through the new website and there are almost one million to choose from."



## eBay Giving Works!

SPWRC is also an officially registered charity with **eBay Giving Works**. This program helps nonprofits by giving eBay sellers the ability to donate to a certified nonprofit of their choice. Anyone can select SPWRC as the recipient for a portion of their sale price of an item (minimum \$5 donation required), and any eBay seller can donate 10-100% of the final sale price.

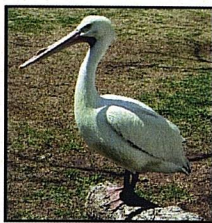
Board Advisor Bill Van Pelt set up this program for SPWRC and we *have* gotten donations as a result, as recently as last month (\$25.00). Every penny helps!



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

PERCY  
\$50

AMERICAN  
WHITE  
PELICAN



TOENAILS  
\$45

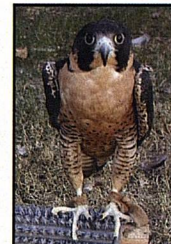
SWAINSON'S HAWK



EMPRESS  
\$45

PEREGRINE FALCON  
RIGHT, AND

HUMPHREY  
BELOW, RIGHT  
PEREGRINE FALCON  
\$45



BUBO 2

\$45  
GREAT  
HORNED  
OWL



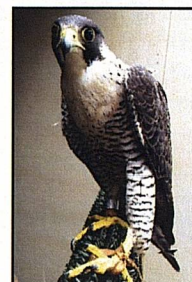
ATHENA  
\$25

EASTERN  
SCREECH OWL



JASPER  
\$45

COMMON  
BARN OWL



FARLEY

\$35  
BURROWING  
OWL



ODEN, RIGHT

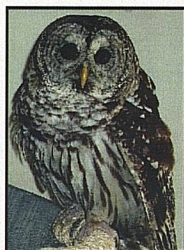
\$35  
BURROWING  
OWL



FESTUS  
\$30  
TURKEY  
VULTURE

SHADOW  
\$45

BARRED OWL



HAWKEYE,  
RIGHT  
\$ 45.00

MISSISSIPPI  
KITE



YODA, (ABOVE)

\$35  
BURROWING OWL



VINCENT  
\$30

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION OR GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Membership amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Adoption of \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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) \_\_\_\_\_



## Food for Thought

...Carol Lee

Do you get tired of sending money to a charity you like or support, only to have them send you a "free gift" and then contact you several weeks later asking for more money?

Over the past years, I've limited the number of charities I contribute to. I don't want a thank you gift, and prefer that money stay with "the cause." Many times, donations may also go toward high salaries and administrative fees.

The Wildlife Center was 100% volunteer and paid no salaries until 19 years after our founding, and only then because we needed reliable people to work when we needed them as we grew. Now we have only one full time salaried person who works 5 days a week caring for animals, and 1 person who fills in the other two days. We have **no** "administrative fees."

We're very protective of our donors and funds. Board Members map out a budget each year. We never sell, share, or give out any donor information. We don't share our mailing list with anyone. If someone doesn't want their name acknowledged in our newsletter, their gift is listed anonymously.

We've published a newsletter since 1995 and for many years, issues have been quarterly. *The Mockingbird Chronicles* is our conduit to the public, and lets donors know what their contributions are being used for.

All our expenses continue to rise: utilities, insurance, printing, postage, and annual food, treatment and care costs for our ever-increasing number of wildlife admissions....that number up significantly this year.

Thanks to former Board Member and current Development Director Stacy Keith, we've had the good fortune of receiving a number of grants in 2014 that provide help we need for operations, food and veterinary expenses, utilities **and** also to improve our overall facilities: to finally finish and renovate our 27-year-old barn that still has a dirt floor, no heating, cooling or plumbing - and add a much needed addition for our waterfowl and water birds.

Everyone's gift makes a difference for the Wildlife Center!

## From the Wildlife Society's e-Newsletter:



"Just outside San Antonio, Texas, resides the world's largest bat colony.

Approximately 20 million migrating Mexican Free-tailed Bats roost in Bracken Cave every summer, but urban sprawl and the accompanying light pollution threatened their habitat-- until now.

Last month, the Nature Conservancy of Texas and Bat Conservation International--with help from other groups -- purchased a swath of undeveloped and unprotected land adjacent to the cave for \$20.5 million ending a developer's plans to construct 3,500 homes on the property and ensuring the skies around the cave remain dark.

Bracken Cave's Mexican Free-tailed Bats comprise nearly one-fifth of the species and play an important ecological role.

At summer's peak, the colony consumes 140 tons of insects each night, saving farmers \$23 billion in reduced crop damage and pesticide use, according to the Nature Conservancy. You can read the entire article at <http://wildlife.org/worlds-largest-bat-colony-saved-by-land-deal/> "



**2015 marks  
the Wildlife  
Center's 27th  
year  
of service!**

## Do You Know?

\*SPWRC raises all its funds to keep our doors open. (Donations when animals are brought in; gifts; grants; newsletter subscriptions; wildlife ambassador adoptions; Tributes; education programs; fundraising or special events and sale of Commemorative Bricks. **We get no funds from our state or federal regulatory agencies and have no "parent" organization.**

\*For the first 19 of our last 26 years we were 100% volunteer.

\*Wildlife admissions arrive from all over the Texas South Plains, and often beyond. Our goal is release back to the wild.

\*Printing and mailing costs are high and keep rising. If you give a \$20.00 donation, you'll receive one complimentary newsletter acknowledging your gift. Gifts of \$25.00 or more receive four issues - Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec. Our Holiday issue usually goes to the printer around December 1st.

\*Your gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law; SPWRC receives many year-end donations for this reason.

\*Our annual Holiday Appeal is also mailed in December. Once September arrives, **our animal donations drop off sharply** (because "baby season" and breeding season is over, so our admissions drop, too). One thing doesn't drop: our expenses.

**Our Holiday Appeal message is: "If we helped you in the past, perhaps you can help us now."**

If your name isn't in this issue, it will be listed in the March 2015 issue.

\*During 2013 we cared for 2013 animals. By November 30, 2014, we had admitted and cared for 2380 wild patients, and the year isn't quite over!





# Acknowledgements

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

## Our Keystone Donors:

Carre' Avian  
Joyce Badger  
Judy Billman, Seattle, WA  
Cindy and Jody Burkes, Denver City, TX  
Becky and Jason Cooper, Cambridge, MA  
Stanley and Denise Davis  
Terry Gail Hooper  
Mark Jones  
Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX  
Joyce Komkov  
Sherri Mason  
Tom McLaughlin  
Davis Melton  
Fidel and Twila Ortiz, Hart, TX  
Jose and Tracey Pineda, Shallowater, TX  
Vicki Schellhase  
Deanna and William Schwartze  
Dr. John and Debbie Zak

*These Donors send a check  
every month to SPWRC!  
Thank you!*

## Additional Gifts:

### \$22,000.00

James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable  
Foundation, Midland, TX

### \$5000.00

Cheryl and Tom Shubert – Earmarked for  
upgrade of our barn facility

### \$2,720.21

Midge and Wood Erskine, Midland, TX  
Earmarked toward our new wildlife facility

### \$2000.00

McCrary and Franklin Charitable Trust,  
Post, TX

### \$1000.00

Christie and John Billing  
Diekemper Family Foundation

### \$750.00

William Van Pelt, Board Advisor,  
Austin, TX

### \$500.00

Miniaturists of Lubbock  
(J.L. Biggers, Treasurer)

### \$300.00 - \$350.00

Mike and Janette Faris, Lovington, TX  
Dr. Mary Lochbaum  
Lori and Gordon Wilkerson

### \$250.00

Steve and Betty Warring

### \$100.00 - \$200.00

Mary Asbell and Allan Mackenzie  
Shirley and Stanley Cebull  
Dr. Donald and Mrs. Gail Davies  
Jeanne and Jim Davis  
Elen Deering  
John Feaster, Abilene, TX  
Kim and Rev. Barry Galley,  
Sinking Spring, PA  
William Hase and Alice Young  
Terry Gail Hooper  
Kaye B. Horchler, Midland, TX  
Kelley Jennings and Marion Miller  
Stephanie Jung, Amarillo, TX  
Cassandra Morrow  
Joli and Michael Nelson, Wilson, TX  
Emerson E. Tucker

### \$75.00 - \$99.00

Angela and Matthew Jacobs  
JoAnn and Albert Tatkenhorst

### \$50.00 - \$74.00

Susan and Per Andersen  
(GoFundme.com account)  
Cheryl and Darryl Bateman  
Susan and Gary Bishop  
Rebecca Bullock  
Janice Green  
David Marshall, Lorenzo, TX  
Sarah Oden  
Randy Ransom  
Karen Solomon, Big Spring, TX  
Jacob Teague  
Helmut and Camelia Wierzba

### \$25.00 - \$40.00

Ruth and Terry Briscoe  
Sarah Doerr  
Ray Freda (name inadvertently misspelled  
last issue), Ransom Canyon, TX  
Syndi Lofton  
Tonya Phifer  
Susan Radle

### \$25.00 - \$40.00, continued

David and Jenni Rogers  
Sherly and Bob Sandvick  
Patricia and Patrick Shaw  
H. Tran  
Jennifer and K.D. Wright, San Angelo, TX  
Stacey and Robert Zube

### \$20.00

Nikki Carter  
Sharon Daniels  
Ronda Doe, Big Spring, TX  
Toni Farrell, Meadow, TX  
Stephanie and David Gerhart  
Susan Gillette and Bryan Camp  
Dawn Green  
Christy Lovelace  
Kevin McCormick  
Kelvin Myers  
Mike and Harriet Richardson  
Kelly Robinson  
Sandy Shannon  
Kathy Sherrod, Wolfforth, TX  
Daniel Spray  
Shiela and Steven Stewart  
Tanya Thomas  
Nell Whitehead



**Need a last minute Holiday gift?**  
We still have many styles, colors and sizes  
of owl and bobcat tee shirts. Call Gail or  
Daniel for more information

If you shop online at Amazon.com you  
can designate SPWRC to receive 0.5% of  
the purchase price. See page 8 for more.

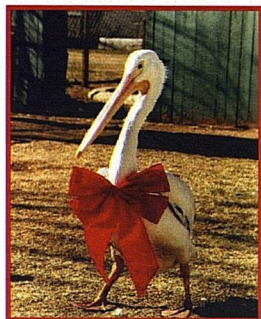


## The Mockingbird Chronicles

Newsletter of South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

c/o SPWRC, Inc.  
3308 95th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79423

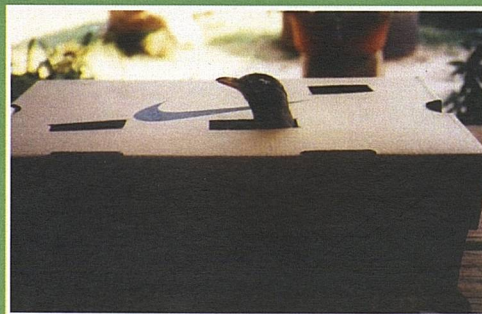
NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Lubbock, TX  
PERMIT NO. 591



I love looking through all my wildlife photos from time to time, and of course I have some favorites. Here are just three. Yes, we know to not be "chummy" with our patients, but sometimes, you just can't help it. Gail Barnes, the volunteer who holds it all together at SPWRC day-to-day is shown here with a deer fawn a few years ago.



All the years I raised baby birds, so many arrived in a "Nike" shoebox. For 20 + years I came home from the Wildlife Center every night in spring and summer to find as many as nine shoeboxes on my front porch - each housing one or more baby birds, like this robin.



The little guy on the left is a juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron, still sporting lots of down on his head!