

The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 1/2010

Golden Eagle gets a Second Chance



Highlights:

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Letter from the Founder



On February 22nd, our Executive Director resigned, so I'm back out of retirement for the second time in the past eighteen months. We've faced challenges in the past, and we'll undoubtedly face challenges in the future, but we'll work together and continue on as we have for the past twenty-two years. We have very capable, loyal and dedicated volunteers staff and Board Members who assure me there will be no interruption of services until we find a new Director.

I've always been compulsive about maintaining a sound donor database (one we don't share with anyone), thanking people, and acknowledging Adoptions and Tributes promptly. This has always been of particular importance to me during my tenure as Executive Director, because our donors make it possible to provide our service to wildlife and to the community.

It's come to my attention that some of our donors did not receive a prompt thank you, or in some cases, no written thank you at all. In looking over data from the past few months, some Adoption recipients may not have been recognized or aren't listed.

My sincere apologies if you, a friend or loved one was missed (and therefore not included in this newsletter issue) so please notify me. Also notify me (spwrc@suddenlink.net) if anything listed in this newsletter is incorrect and I'll make it right. I'll be away from Lubbock April 1-14th, 2010 so please send any email notifications before or after that period.

Donations during December were astounding, and I am so grateful to each and every person who took time to write a check, come by our Holiday Open House, or leave a donation for an animal they brought to us for care. Our donors, veterinarians, staff, volunteers and Board Members are our lifeblood.

We have another "Night on the Wild Side" fundraiser coming up April 30th, and special thanks go to Danny Hancock who has spearheaded donations from area merchants and businesses. Manager Katie Stafford, Gail Barnes, Maggie Hancock and Barry Johnson have all pitched in to solicit items, and we're looking forward to a fun-filled evening.

Meanwhile, our busy "baby" season is coming up quickly again, and as always, we need volunteers. Even if you'd like to volunteer only two hours a week, you can help us feed baby squirrels, baby birds, or assist with laundry, dishes, errands, food preparation, or education programs.

Until the house on the property is occupied again by the next Director, I plan to work there a few hours a week - as well as from home - to keep the business component of our organization running smoothly. Meanwhile, we're advertising for an enthusiastic person with lots of initiative to step up to the plate and carry the organization forward. The position isn't "rocket science" but demands computer skills, attention to details, accurate record-keeping, letter and grant-writing, reporting and other duties. If anyone would like more information, please email me and we'll also post the position publicly during the next weeks.

Our summer Open House is Saturday, June 19th between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM. As always, we'll have refreshments, and this is a great opportunity for the public to see what goes on behind the scenes at a busy, regional wildlife rehabilitation center. Volunteers and our wildlife ambassadors will be on hand, and there will be refreshments. Photography is always welcome.

With heartfelt thanks,

Carol

Thank you again to South Plains Veterinary Medical Association

A very big thank you to South Plains Veterinary Medical Association again this year for their generous gift of \$1,500.00.

We are sincerely appreciative of the Association's assistance in our efforts for wildlife for more than the past decade.

SPVMA Officers are: our own Dr. Tim Polk of Animal Medical Center, President; Vice President Dr. Casey Carrothers; Dr. Don Hegi, Secretary/Treasurer and Dr. Shelli Wolfe, Continuing Education Chairman.

Cover: Golden Eagle on Release Day
February 19th, 2010
Photo by Karen Copeland

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 |
| Executive Director | Position Open |
| Executive Director, Retired | Carol Lee |
| Operations Manager | Katie Stafford |

Officers and Directors

Board of Directors and Officers

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Dr. Jim Moyes, President |
| Charles Swift, Vice President |
| Rob Lee, Secretary |
| Mrs. Pat Harris, CPA, Treasurer |
| Beth Bartley |
| Carol Lee |
| Cindy Martin |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Advisors | Dr. Mike Hooper, Avian Toxicologist, Columbia, MO |
| | Jeanette Lubenau, D.V.M. |
| | Dr. Gad Perry, Texas Tech University |

Consultant to Board of Directors

Mr. William 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 spwrc2@yahoo.com Learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org

You can reach Carol at spwrc@suddenlink.net or (806) 745-8120

Volunteer Spotlight



Dawn Slekis

Dawn Slekis is a new volunteer, and someone we're proud to have on our volunteer staff. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, transplanted to Northern Virginia, Dawn started volunteering at the Wildlife Center December 1st, 2009. Last fall she was named one of 23 "most promising future researchers and scientists" welcomed to The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University. She's presently in her second semester of graduate school working towards her Masters degree in Environmental Toxicology.

Her undergrad degrees are a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Mathematics that she received from Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, VA.

While there, Dawn took advantage of their International Study Program and spent ten months abroad. Her travels began at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and taking in as many castles as she could was among her favorite pursuits. Her family joined her for Christmas break that year and they visited Great Britain and Germany.

On her break between the semesters, Dawn joined the Sub Aqua club on a scuba diving trip to Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, for a week of diving in the Red Sea, where she went on one of her deepest dives to a depth of thirty meters.

She also went galloping across the Egyptian desert on a 3 year old gray Arabian horse named "Whisky." During her second semester, she visited the Scottish Deer Center, near Edinburgh complete with falconry displays.

She also took in Aberdeen, Loch Ness, Glasgow, London, and Stonehenge during spring break.

After exams, she packed up her dorm room and took off for Bergamo, Venice, Rome and Pisa; then off to Barcelona, Spain. Before her trip back home, she visited the Louve, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower and the Paris Opera House.

"I'm glad I decided to travel on my breaks instead of flying back to the States." Dawn wrote, "I know what's there if I return; it's the new I am craving, the exploration and exhilaration of seeing things I haven't before laid eyes on." She says, "That's what I would tell anyone who is thinking about studying abroad anywhere. Just go. Go while you can because it is an experience like none other and worth every second. It was an opportunity I would have been a fool to pass up, and if I had I would have missed an experience that cannot be replicated."

You can read Dawn's travelogue at http://www.promise.sbcedu/international_study_slekis.html

Dawn is also working toward her Congressional Gold Award that she started on some years ago. Through The Congressional Award program, the U.S. Congress recognizes excellence in initiative, achievement, and service among young people age 14 through 23.

One is challenged to set and carry through goals in voluntary public service, personal development, and physical fitness, and then undertake an expedition or exploration. Dawn completed the expedition component when she toured areas of Europe after her studies.

Thus far, Dawn earned the Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates and the Bronze and Silver Medals, and now she's going for the Gold, and we know she'll accomplish that with flying colors.

Her favorite task at the Center is "organizing" and we always need that! She also likes feeding our vultures and working with our Barred Owl ambassador, "Shadow."

Her least favorite tasks at the Center are doing laundry and dishes, "just like at home."

We thank you for your service, Dawn!....Ed.

April fundraiser features musician Mike Prichard

On Friday evening, April 30th, from 6-9 PM, the Wildlife Center will host another "Night on the Wild Side" celebration at McPherson Cellars Winery in downtown Lubbock. (1625 Texas Avenue). As always, there will be lots of Silent Auction themed baskets as well as individual items, just in time for Graduation and Mother's Day gifts.

Guests can enjoy fine McPherson wines and Hors d'oeuvres while listening to music by Mike Prichard from 7-9. Visit with friends, eat, drink, bid on auction items and be merry!

Tickets are \$25.00 per person donation, made payable by check to SPWRC in advance or at the door. (Some tickets will be available at the event, but please make a reservation by April 25th so we can make arrangements with the caterer). Bonnie Bart at Mason, Warner, & Co., is kind enough to take our reservations again this year, and you can call her at (806) 797-3251. Call between 8:30 AM and 5 PM Monday through Friday. Invitations will be mailed shortly!

Another Thank you to Mr. William Van Pelt

Another big thank you to Mr. Bill Van Pelt of Washington, D.C. for helping with our year-end Holiday Appeal. Bill donated the time, energy and personal funds to mail, first class, 378 cards. His efforts raised over \$8,000.00.

William Van Pelt is the Assistant Director, Strategic Partnerships for UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) responsible for managing public awareness campaigns and fundraising in the Washington, D.C. area.

Bill is also a lobbyist responsible for in excess of a \$132 million annual Congressional appropriations for UNICEF.

Thank you for supplies

Bebe and Art McCasland of Big Spring, TX, donated many pounds of beef heart

Other donations were given by:

Marla Carver, Lewrie Close, United Grocery Stores (82nd & Boston Avenues; 82nd & Frankford Avenues; Market Street at 98th & Quaker locations) and Beef 'O' Brady's.

Release – our goal – and what our efforts are all about

A Golden Eagle was admitted January 26, 2010, from Vega, Texas, found on property owned by Richard and Judy Forrester. Emaciated and weak, Gail Barnes' sub-permittee Linda Durante of Amarillo picked the bird up and transferred it to us.

The eagle was taken to Dr. Lubenau's veterinary clinic here where Dr. J. started intravenous fluids and administered antibiotics. He spent two days in an oxygen chamber and had to be force-fed for several days. Antibiotics were continued when he was released from the clinic and taken back to the Wildlife Center. It's a two-person job to medicate and force-feed an eagle, but our staff and volunteers got the job done.

February 19th, when the bird was ready for release, Linda, husband Richard and son Nicholas took the eagle to Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Umbarger, in the Texas Panhandle, after getting permission for release there. Refuge Manager Lynn Nymeyer and several other employees enjoyed the release, along with the Forresters and two photographers.



Needless to say, we were all thrilled that this magnificent bird could resume its rightful place back on the Texas Panhandle landscape!

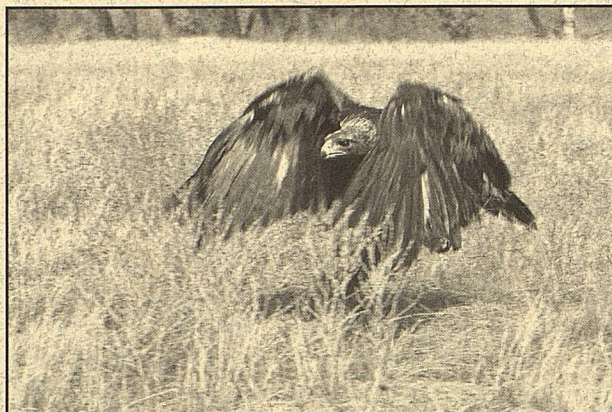


Photo above by Sherry Adkins

Photo (left) by Ray Nitzschke during the eagle's stay at Lubbock's Wildlife Center

Postscript:

On February 20th, volunteer Gail Barnes learned from landowner Judy Forrester that the eagle had returned to their property.

Richard Forrester, who found the Golden Eagle, used Google Maps to determine the distance between the rescue location and the release point for the eagle: it was 32 miles.

He said there are two eagles that appear to be nesting on a platform or windmill. He said the one that was downed (if, in fact, it's the same bird, and they believe it is) is the darker, smaller one, the male. (In most raptor species, the male is smaller and weighs less than the female).

The Forresters are very sure it was the same bird, since an eagle hadn't been seen on their property since the downed bird was brought to Lubbock in January.

Special thanks to falconer and Wildlife Center volunteer Terry Funk for providing food for the eagle during its stay with us.

This is the highlight of wildlife rehabilitation, and what it's all about - achieving our goal every time an animal is returned to the wild!

Courtship

A bird without a mate is a bird that won't have offspring. Avian courtship and mating rituals are among the most varied and fascinating of all bird behaviors.

Love was in the air around Valentine's Day in February for lots of couples, but March signals the beginning of courtship for many bird species.

This is the time of year when males try to impress females, but what does it take to win a mate that might be a bit on the choosy side? Sometimes it involves an air show, like the male osprey performs to impress a potential mate. If he wants to advertise to other males that a particular nest is taken, he flaps his wings fast and hard and may fly hundreds of feet straight up into the air. This may be followed by hovering with his tail fanned out and legs dangling, before a sudden dive back down to the nest.

Some males bring gifts to the object of their affection. A seabird might offer a fish; a Bower Bird may bring his lady love a glittery, bright object, and he's not above stealing a decoration from his neighbor's house. The Great Blue Heron brings gifts of sticks, showing his mate he'll help with nest-building. Other birds show off by puffing up or displaying feathers, like the peacock. Most male songbirds sing for a mate, and Red-winged Blackbirds spread their wing feathers so the colorful red patch is visible. Other species hop, strut or wave their wings.

Visit Palemale.com to follow the Red-tailed Hawks in New York's Central Park. Love is in the air, there too. Lincoln Karim's close-up photos of the hawks and other wildlife in the park are beautiful, and new photos are posted almost daily.

Speaking of Courtship....

Our Operations Manager, Katie Stafford, is recently engaged to Matthew Lee Garcia. Twenty-six years of age, Matt is from Alpine, Texas. We'll keep you updated on their plans in the future. Matt is a chef at a family sports restaurant in Lubbock. He won the hearts of ladies at the Wildlife Center, too, bringing lunches and food on a regular basis.

Congratulations!

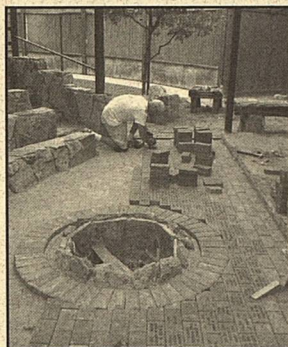
January and February Memorial Walkway Donors

Fifteen bricks were purchased since the first of this year. The list below lists everyone who's purchased a brick since this campaign started. Hopefully we'll have fifty more bricks sold by the end of May so they can be inscribed and set in place by the end of May - in time for our summer Open House the third Saturday in June. (Hours: 11 AM to 2 PM)

If your name is not on this list and should be, notify me at spwrc@suddenlink.net

Ann Asbell
Warren and Katherine Bacon
Beth Bartley
Gail and Larry Barnes
Carlton Bell
Travis and Lisa Bruster
AJ and Cindy Burkes
Deborah Carter
Marla Carver
Rick and Terri Cohen
Pat Conover
Donald and Gail Davies
Peggy Davis
Stanley, Denise Davis
Jerry Dobbs
Sam and Gwyn Dobbs
Dolores Buscemi Dominick Casadonte
Tom F. Hall & Janie Sue Ellington
Dentler Erdmann
Larry and Lisa Gilliland
Freda and Ron Glauer
Maggie and Danny Hancock
Jim and Pat Harris
Marcie Hartman
Glenn and Valerie Hill
Dr. Guy Hirsch
Dr. Hakam Kayasseh
Fred and Jackie Kennedy
Richard and Lois Kroeker
Rob Lee
Carol Lee
Don and Mary Lewis
Judy Miles
Jimmie and Linda McDowell
Bebe and Art McCasland
Tom McLaughlin
Leroy and Marty Montoya
Jean Morrison
Jim and Deanna Moyes

Beverly Odell
Dr. Lola Page
Beverly Odell
Dr. Lola Page
Stan and Sue Partee
Mayme Allen & Chris Powell
Judy Rainger
Sabrina Robbins
William and Deanna Schwartz
Henry and Sellie Shine
Leanna Smith
Brent L. Suther
Josh and Angie Stephens
Richard and Cathy Tinkler
Dorothy Tinkler
Hal and Darla Troutt
William Van Pelt
Fred and Dr. Cheryl Weber
Susie Williamson
Pat and Bob Wise



First batch of bricks being set in place

Memorial Brick Walkway

Visit our web site at spwrc.org and click on "Order a paving brick." You can print and mail the instructions for your brick or bricks. The 4"x 8" size accommodates up to 3 lines with a maximum of 15 characters per line. The walkway was started October 2008, and will be ongoing until all bricks are sold. Sadler Monument Company inscribes the bricks in lots of fifty, so as each batch of fifty bricks are sold, they'll be inscribed, delivered and set in place. Please make a tax-deductible donation and communicate your own love of the wildlife of the Texas South Plains and the Wildlife Center that has been caring for wildlife for the past twenty-two years.

The Scoop from "Bird Poop"

by Bebe McCasland

Four and a half years ago, the publisher of *Big Spring Herald* asked if I would write a column about birds. With education in mind, she had an unusual look on her face, then a smile, when I told her my thoughts.

First, it would be about the wild, migratory birds my husband, Art, and I have rescued and rehabilitated since 1974. Second, the title of the column would be BIRD POOP. Letting readers know what had happened to the birds and the outcomes would be the gist of each week's column.

The publisher not only supported me, she justified the educational benefits and the name of the column with her staff and corporate headquarters.

During the first two years, numerous readers suggested compiling the columns into a book. Already well received, the stories would increase awareness of avian wildlife, and could appeal to birders, wildlife volunteers, and those who relish seasonal migrations.

Accepted by Bright Sky Press for publication, *The Scoop from "Bird Poop"* made its debut at the Texas Book Festival last fall. My dream of having BIRD POOP on coffee tables and in the hands of bird lovers was becoming a reality. Giving information, or poop, relating to the predicaments, efforts of rescue, and final results, might save even more lives.

Striking watercolor illustrations by Don Collins enhance each column. South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Lubbock is well represented by thirty-six stories and three educational raptors.

Through the purchase of my book, guests who attend "A Night On The Wild Side" on April 30, can become even more aware of these gifts of nature, with proceeds from the sale going to support wild bird rescue efforts at the Wildlife Center.

Bebe, we are sincerely appreciative of your efforts in our behalf!.....Ed.

**If your gift arrived after March 4th, it will be acknowledged in our June quarterly issue.*



Goings On

The day of our December Open House, volunteer Gail Barnes received a phone call from her subpermittee Linda Durante in Amarillo, TX, telling her an adult Bald Eagle was found on the ground on a ranch in the Texas Panhandle. She and her friend captured the bird and transported it to Lubbock. The eagle was in respiratory distress when it arrived at the Wildlife Center, and was taken within minutes to Above and Beyond Pet Care Hospital where Dr. Jeanette Lubenau and staff placed the bird in an oxygen chamber and went to work. Despite their heroic efforts over the next two days, the bird died. Necropsy and blood studies revealed the bird had more than one problem including high levels of lead in its system and was likely sick for some time.

Even though we're well aware we "can't save everything" we know it was preferable for this bird to pass away in a warm, safe environment as opposed to becoming a victim of the elements outdoors in winter.



Bald Eagle pictured inside oxygen chamber at Above and Beyond Veterinary Hospital
(Photos this page by Carol Lee)

Record Time

By law, the Wildlife Center is required to submit state and federal "annual reports" to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin and also to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Total numbers of migratory birds and bird species, their admission dates, disposition and disposition dates must be submitted to both regulatory agencies, but mammal and reptile species, dates and totals are submitted only to TPWD. As permit-holder, Carol is required to fill out paperwork pertaining to her/the Center's "rehabilitation activities."

The "Possession Permit" allows some animals to be retained for education; and bird's band numbers all must be listed, as issued by the state.

We had a great crowd for our December Open House and almost \$900.00 was donated by guests. Thank you! Thanks also to Sheila Johnson and the following for Open House donations: Betty & Stan Foster (Yellow Daisy Crafts, Plainview, TX; Gift Baskets (Shelley Martin, Owner); Dr. Jeanette Lubenau (Above and Beyond Pet Hospital); Linda & Luddy Faris, (My Cup of Tea); Starbucks Coffee; Pam Marshall (Box of Rain Floral); Nabisco Foods; Linda Kirk, (Bakery Creations). Thank you!



Another winter patient

In early February Carol received an invitation from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin to attend a committee meeting as a representative to address "issues and concerns associated with the wildlife rehabilitation program." Carol has been to two other such meetings in the past, and will attend if at all possible. The date has yet to be announced.



"Miss Hoary"

A Hoary Bat was brought to Bat Rehabilitator Gail Barnes, by Lubbock Animal Control in September, 2009 with an open compound fracture of its right wing.

She was taken to Above and Beyond Pet Care Hospital where Dr. Jeanette Lubenau amputated the affected wing.

The Texas South Plains is home to twelve species of bats with the Hoary Bat being America's largest and most handsome bat. They have long, dense, white-tipped fur with a frosted appearance. They're foliage bats and live in trees and shrubs.

She's been named "Miss Hoary" and is now available for adoption (see page 10).

Hoary bats eat a variety of insects and can eat up to 650 insects per hour during prime time.

All native bats are insectivores and very important to our ecosystem.

Miss Hoary is our newest educational bat and will be visiting many area schools.

Over the Winter

The Mayor's Luncheon

On January 12, 2010, Mayor Tom Martin presided over Lubbock's State of the City Address, hosted by the Lubbock Apartment Association. The luncheon was held at the Overton Hotel and attended by about four hundred people.

Proceeds from this year's Address was designated to go to South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

For this, we are very grateful. When this issue went to press, we had not yet received the gift, so we'll announce that in our summer quarterly newsletter in June.



About four hundred guests attended the Mayor's Luncheon

Audubon Program

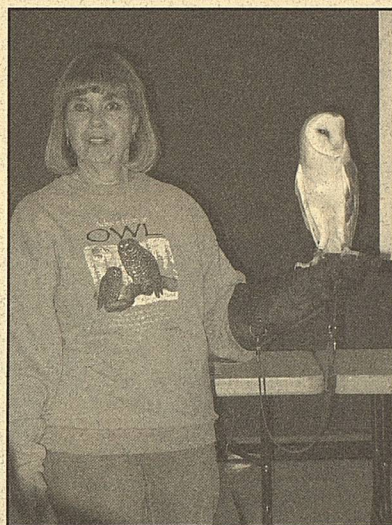
Guests at the Garden & Arts Center in January were treated to a presentation by the Wildlife Center, courtesy of our hosts, Llano Estacado Audubon Society. Jay Reichard did a PowerPoint program followed by an introduction of our volunteers and our wildlife ambassadors. Everyone was able to see and photograph our birds. As is always the case, "Percy," our Pelican, stole the show strutting around so guests could photograph him. You can see the fluffy white plumes on the back of his head, indicating he's beginning to develop breeding plumage - after all, it's spring!

Thanks to LEAS and for their gift of \$100.00 to us. "Percy" and Gail are pictured in the next column.

Audubon Program, contd.



"Percy" is always a hit when he goes out in public



Gail Barnes holds "Jasper," our Barn Owl Ambassador

Nature is not benevolent; Nature is just, gives pound for pound, measure for measure, makes no exceptions, never tempers her decrees with mercy or winks at any infringement of her laws.

John Burroughs (1837-1921) American Naturalist and Writer

Nature of Art returns

The Nature of Art Benefit returns August 7, 2010 at the Garden & Arts Center in Lubbock and will be in conjunction with First Friday Art Trail. The Center has been named "Show of the Month" for August and will be able to keep artwork displayed for the duration of the month.

Board Member Beth Bartley is spearheading this fundraiser, and can be contacted at 806 797-8285 if you'd like to participate in the event or the help with planning.

Eagle Scout Candidate completes second phase of Project

Eagle Scout candidate Jakob Reynolds (Troop 536) held a successful supply drive for several hours to benefit the Wildlife Center November 14th, 2009 at Market Street (98th and Quaker location) in Lubbock. This was Phase One of his project.

Phase Two was recently completed when Jakob made new wooden perches for our aviary.

We're sincerely appreciative of your time and talent, Jakob, thank you!



Jakob Reynolds

Dorothy's Travels

Dr. Dorothy Tinkler resigned from the Wildlife Center in June 2009, and relocated to Boise, Idaho. She left Texas in January and drove through Albuquerque, up from Salt Lake City to Boise with three cats and a bird in tow. "I felt like I was going home because my first 'wildlife' job was in Page, Arizona, on the Arizona-Utah border. My job at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area involved Peregrine Falcon observation and I'd explored the canyons of Southern Utah while living there. The red rock country of Moab, Utah, was as beautiful as I remembered. Driving across the brilliant snowfields of Colorado was dazzling and ravens were there in profusion.

After settling into my apartment, I left for The Raptor Center in Roseville, Minnesota. We were inside for the most part, but ventured out to see the resident educational Bald Eagles in their mews. My Master's degree involved putting satellite transmitters on fledgling Bald Eagles, so working with the eagles at The Raptor Center harkened back to my days in Florida. The class I attended was "Care and Management of Captive Raptors." For four days, I ate, drank and slept raptors. I met one of the new U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service permit administrators for Texas who took over part of the job Kamile McKeever left when she retired as long time administrator of Region 2. By attending the class they're now better able to understand wildlife rehabilitators and educators to whom they issue permits.

During the week we learned to make a falconer's knot; how to safely transfer birds from glove to glove; coping (trimming) beaks and many other skills including doing necropsies. We also practiced our Operant Conditioning skills. One of the birds being trained was a Boreal Owl that was handled without equipment - no jesses or leashes - only a glove and a lot of trust. Another was a juvenile Bald Eagle just learning what was expected of it behavior-wise.

Some things I knew and some things I didn't, but the passion of all the people attending the workshop was infectious and I looked forward to each day. It was a thrill to see some of the more northern species like the Snowy Owl.

I'll be working with Wildlife Rehabilitators in Boise.

The World Center of Birds of Prey is located in Boise and I hope to lend my talents to their worthy endeavors. I know what I learned at SPWRC and at the Raptor Care Class will be of great value as I begin my work with both organizations. So greetings to you all from a state that has been warmer than Lubbock for the last month! Good luck, Dorothy!

Goodbye to Tate Marshall

On February 3rd, we said goodbye to volunteer Tate Marshall. He graduated from Texas Tech University in December and after a visit to his family in East Texas, traveled to Los Angeles, California, to team up with a few friends who are in the graphic arts business.

Tate's degree was a Bachelor of Fine Arts, and he did artwork for our 2009 fundraiser invitations. Tate's brother Jason also volunteered with us for several years. Jason and Tate both had a passion for opossums, and Maggie Hancock didn't miss that when she ordered his cake adorned with a picture of his favorite animal! We all wish you the best of luck!....Ed.



Tate Marshall with Maggie Hancock and Jerrie Rodgers

2009 Wrap Up

Last year SPWRC admitted 961 songbirds, wading and water birds, with dove species making up the majority. All but one, they were Ring-necked Doves, White-winged Doves and Mourning Doves; the other "one" was an Inca Dove. We also cared for 93 robins, 70 Blue Jays and 34 mockingbirds. There were also lots of ducks and ducklings.

In the raptor department, we cared for 171. Far and away our biggest food consumers, 48 of those admissions were Barn Owls. We also had the usual high number of Mississippi Kites and American Kestrels.

One Bald Eagle was admitted in December (whose photo is on page 6).

We also admitted 501 mammals, including 11 Mule and White-tailed Deer, 113 opossums, 175 Gray Squirrels, 26 Striped Skunks, 139 Cottontails plus a few Jackrabbits, Prairie Dogs and other species.

Fifty reptiles were admitted - the majority being land and water turtles. We also cared for a few snakes, bringing our grand total of "protected" state and/or federal species to 1683.

There was no shortage of non-natives, and the Wildlife Center may be changing some of our policies on non-natives due to lack of time, volunteers and resources.

Gail Barnes, volunteers and staff outdid themselves, presenting 109 education programs which we must also report on our year-end state and federal records.

In addition to the many schools, civic groups and other organizations in Lubbock, they were also on the move outside our community, visiting Ceta Canyon, Dimmitt, Crosbyton, Abernathy, Nazareth, Hart, Tulia, Shallowater, Plainview, Hereford, Whiteface, Midland, Denver City, Canyon and Friona, Texas. Three "owl" programs were presented during February, with many more scheduled for the next few months. We'll update readers on their travels again in June!

News and Notes

A big thank you to Board Member Rob Lee for taking time to write and submit information for our annual grant proposal to the Lubbock Area Foundation. It was hand-delivered March 1st, their deadline.

We need parents to help supervise Junior Volunteers. The program begins when school ends. For more information, call JV Coordinator Gail Barnes at (806) 799-2142.

We always need lawn equipment. Please call the Center if you can help with lawn care over the spring and summer months or provide equipment.

The Wildlife Center also needs a (new) Fax Machine.

Adoptions

Deanna Watson of Slaton, TX, adopted "Jasper, our beautiful Common Barn Owl. Cub Scout Pack #402 adopted "Bobby" our resident bobcat

Steve and Betty Warring also adopted "Bobby."

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bethea adopted "Festus," our Turkey Vulture, "Maddie," our American Kestrel and "Empress," our Peregrine Falcon.

Dwight and Marianne Overton adopted "Jasper" and "Athena."

Mary Asbell and Allan Mackenzie adopted "Empress."

Dorothy Hanesworth of Matador, TX, adopted "Bobby" and "Gracie."

Tributes

Gifts to Honor

*Cheryl and Wesley Redus of Greenville, TX, sent a gift in Honor of Cile Redus, Humane Society representative to the Animal Services Advisory Board in Lubbock.

*Julie and Malcolm McLaughlin of Aurora, CO, made a donation in Honor of our volunteer Tom McLaughlin.

Memorials

*Dr. Mike Hooper of Columbia, MO, made a Memorial donation in the name of Spencer McKay Mortensen. Spencer's parents, Spencer and Annette Mortensen of Wentzville, MO, were notified of Dr. Hooper's kindness.

*Mack and Gay Tunnell of Richardson, TX, made a Memorial gift in the name of Charles Owens.

*Jack and Sandy Bains of Lubbock also made a Memorial donation in the name of Charles Owens.

*David and Terri Stroud of Amarillo, TX, also gave a Memorial donation in the name of Charles Owens. Charles passed away January 2, 2010. Charles was the father of Center donors Jim and Sandy Owens of Lubbock. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

*Valerie Casella and Marc Salsman of Danvers, MA, made a Memorial donation in Frederick Volker's name.

Memorials, continued

*Lorna Casella of Saugus, MA, also made a donation in Memory of Frederick Charles Volker of Lubbock who passed away December 10, 2009.

*Charles and Jane Peek made a donation in Loving Memory of their daughter, Jasmyn Peek.

*Gail and Larry Barnes made a Memorial donation in the name of Glenna M. McCain. She was the mother of Wildlife Center volunteer Sheila Johnson. Glenna passed away December 28th, 2009.

*Mr. and Mrs. Harley Franklin of Lubbock made a donation in Memory of Opal Shetter, who passed away in January.

*Stan and Sue Partee, Big Spring, TX, purchased a brick in Memory of Mike Moore who passed away in Big Spring, TX, in November, 2009.

*Bebe and Art McCasland of Big Spring, TX, also purchased a brick in Memory of Mike Moore. Bebe wrote, "Mike Moore, 'the hummingbird man' died Thanksgiving Day. We worked together with hummers and he saved so many. His widow Ocoe Moore in Big Spring was notified of their kindness."

*Bebe and Art McCasland of Big Spring, TX, also purchased a brick in Memory of Bettye Edmonson. Sue Sharp of Lubbock was notified of their kindness.

*Susie Williamson purchased a brick in Memory of Van Boling who passed away in January.

Our "Keystone" Donors

In architecture, a keystone is the central stone at the summit of an arch, locking everything together. Pennsylvania, my home state, is nicknamed, "The Keystone State." In biology, keystone species are species like Prairie Dogs on which other species count on to make their living, and on which an ecosystem depends for its lifeblood.

Our Keystone Donors are those people that take time every month to send us a donation on which others depend. Listed are our donors who presently offer the Wildlife Center a sustained financial commitment to our cause of helping wildlife:

Carre Avian

Karen Bosscher

AJ and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, TX

Our "Keystone" Donors, (cont.)

Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX

Joyce Komkov

Katricia Lampley, Seminole, TX

Robert Lee

Joyce Lisenby

Tom McLaughlin

Dave Melton

William and Deanna Schwartz

We need more Keystone Donors.....can you help?

Acknowledgements

\$6,000.00

Gordon Huff

\$5,000.00

Chapman Forestry Foundation
(Christie Billing)

\$2,500.00

Stan and Sue Partee, Partee Enterprises,
Big Spring, Texas

\$1500.00

South Plains Veterinary
Medical Association

\$1000.00

Bonnie Gill
Tom McLaughlin
Poole Chemical Company, Texline, TX
(Karen Poole)

\$750.00

Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Stalnaker

\$500.00

Borger Refinery (ConocoPhillips)
Mahal Kanwaljit, M.D.
Hakam Kayasseh, M.D.
Dr. Brent and Susan Nall
Michael and Barbara Stephens
Johnathan and Sherri Vordermark

\$400.00

Starlight Foundation

\$350.00

Sharon Kingston

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.

\$250.00 - \$300.00

Charles and Sandra Carter, Petersburg, TX
Charles and Jane Peek
Dr. Mike and Lynne Strickland
Dr. Charles and Patricia Wheeler

\$150.00 - \$200.00

Kathy Anderson, Louisville, KY
Gail and Larry Barnes
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Julie and Malcolm McLaughlin, Aurora, CO
The Nickels Family
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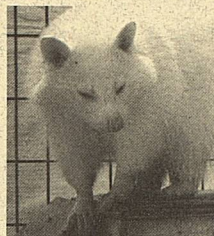
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Bags are packed

Even though birds are migrating somewhere all the time - (moving from one place to another because of food availability and more favorable conditions) - in our area, many species are returning from their winter homes.

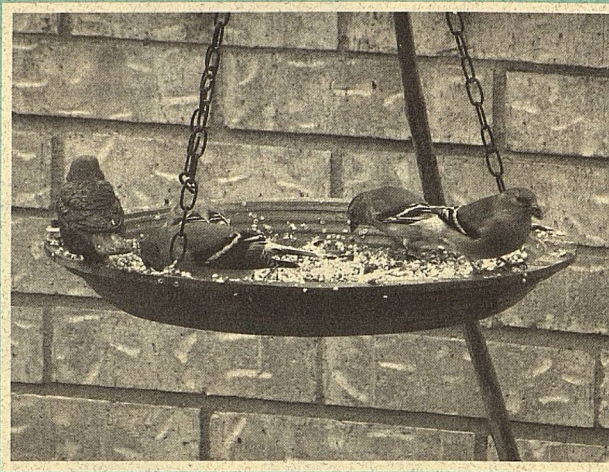
Most Canada Geese returned to the far north to breed, but Mississippi Kites and others come back from South America to the Texas South Plains to raise their families. Local birdwatchers are spotting returning species as well as some just passing through headed to other areas.

Be on the lookout for new species, like these American Goldfinches that visited our feeder recently – five in all!

Other spottings include an American White Pelican, Common Loon, and the first Purple Martin of the season.

The first male martins that arrive in an area are often called “scouts” and they’re looking for the best real estate deals.

Lubbock veterinarian George Jury put up his Martin house on March 2nd, and by March 3rd, an adult male was sitting on it!



American Goldfinches find plenty of seed at birdfeeder during February



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