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The Mockingbird Chronicles



Letter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Summer 2000

Wildlife Center admits record number of animals!

IN DEPTH:

The challenges of caring
for wildlife babies

Baby animals like this trio of raccoons melt human hearts with their cute faces and playful behavior. However, a significant amount of care is required to ensure their release will be successful. To learn more about the babies of summer and the challenges of caring for them, turn to page 6.

Also in this issue:

- Spring fundraiser results
- New Web site to launch
- Site plan update
- Internship opportunities

Photo by Mike McDonald

Letter from the Director

Workload validates need for new facility

I once said doing wildlife rehab is like being allowed a glimpse into Nature's Soul. We at the Center feel privileged to be able to handle and care for some of the world's most delicate and beautiful creatures, and to have a look into their world. The work is not easy, and more often than not, wildlife rehabilitation is a thankless and seemingly never-ending job. However, we never lose sight of our ultimate goal, the successful rehabilitation and release of the wildlife in our care. With every release, we are reminded of why the Wildlife Center opened its doors 12 years ago, and we are determined to give every animal a second chance at life.

*Carol Mitchell*

The last six months have been *extremely* challenging, as more than 1,000 animals have been admitted. This number is just 200 animals shy of our typical *annual* case load. It is not only hard to believe our "baby season" is only *half* over, but it is equally hard to imagine we have admitted 1,000 birds, mammals and reptiles in just half a year. With admissions at record levels, we are at a critical juncture in our growth and need continued and increased support from the community to meet the needs of injured, ill, displaced and orphaned wildlife in the South Plains of Texas.

I am often asked what a typical day is like at Center, and many people are surprised to hear that we don't have fun-filled days of playing with cute little owlets and bunnies. We change cages, administer medical care, wash scores of dirty dishes, process many loads of soiled linens, prepare

endless food plates for songbirds and raptors, drive injured animals to the vet clinic, take the lucky ones to release sites far and near, pick up supplies, and spend many "educational moments" on the phone helping 50 or more people each day through various wildlife dilemmas. We feed youngsters 15 or more hours daily to ensure their survival. Countless hours go into raising *each and every* animal we admit, from record keeping to hands-on care.

This summer, the Center will open new doors to wildlife casualties as Phase I of our Master Site Plan is completed. (For more details about this plan, please see page 7.) This building will temporarily house all admitted wildlife while the Center's three-story barn is renovated.

As we expand the space available for the wildlife we serve, our need for volunteer service, supplies, monetary contributions and in-kind donations will also increase. Is there a way you can help the Center through a gift of time or talent? Have you considered becoming a member? The Center is an *all-volunteer*, 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so you can rest assured your tax-deductible contribution will go directly toward wildlife care. And although the Center holds permits from Texas Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we do not receive funding from either regulatory agency.

The coming months will be an exciting time at the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. While we anticipate increased workloads, we know that we can continue to count on the dedication of our supporters to help meet our needs, just as we have for the last 12 years. We are pleased to provide a service that so many people believe in and support. On behalf of the Center and the animals we serve, thank you for caring about wildlife!

Carol

The Mockingbird Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (SPWRC). SPWRC is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization that cares for orphaned, injured, ill and displaced wild animals with the ultimate goal of returning wildlife to their natural habitats. SPWRC holds state and federal permits but does not receive funding from either regulatory agency. SPWRC operations are maintained entirely through the support of private donations and volunteer service, as SPWRC staff are not paid. Donations to SPWRC are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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Newsletter design by Equation Communications

Admissions reach record high

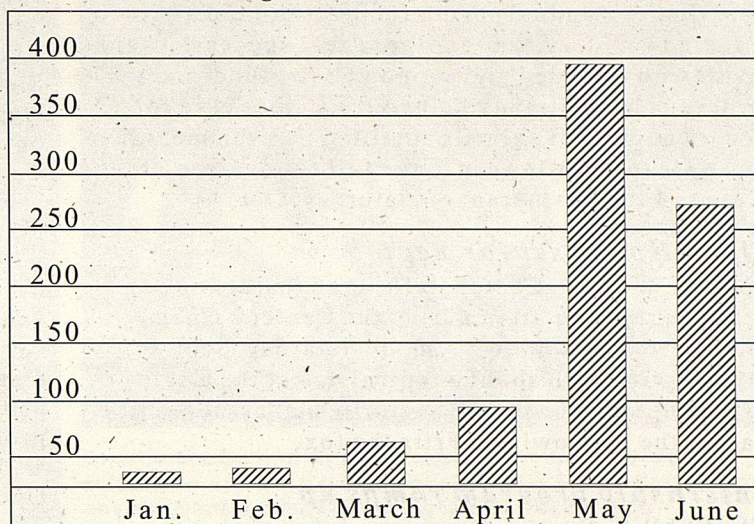
The new year started like any other at the Wildlife Center, but in just a few months, the Center began caring for a record number of wildlife. At press time, more than 1,000 state and/or federally protected animals have been admitted, along with hundreds more that are not protected. In just six months, admission numbers are very close to the average of 1,200 animals admitted each year.

May was our busiest month ever, and on May 25, a record 58 animals came through our doors in a single day. Admissions included Blue jays, mockingbirds, robins, Mallard ducklings, a goldfinch, barn owls, American kestrels, kingbirds, doves, House finches, a Yellow-billed cuckoo, Barn swallows and Killdeer. Mammals included cottontails, gray squirrels, raccoons, skunks and opossums. Record high temperatures, torrential rains and high winds took their toll on youngsters and curtailed the release of many animals until conditions moderated the third week of June.

Among the admissions were several new species, including a Brown pelican, Tennessee warbler, Green-backed heron, Cliff swallow, and two fledgling Curved-billed thrashers. Twelve box turtles, a Snapping turtle, two Texas horned lizards, a Red fox and one Garter snake were released along with scores of Blue jays, robins and mockingbirds. Mourning and Inca doves, kingbirds, grackles, sparrows and starlings were also released.

June 1 brought our first White-tailed fawn of the year, found by a motorist en route to Lubbock from Dallas. Apparently, the fawn's mother had been hit by a car, and the two-day old female fawn laid by the road, nearly overcome with ants. Badly bitten around the nose, eyes and muzzle, this fawn definitely needed human intervention to survive. According to Dr. Mark Wallace, assistant professor at Texas Tech's Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, the ants bite and sting as the animal attempts to lick them off. Within hours, her eyes were swollen shut, and

*Admissions through June 2000 total 851 animals**



*Admission of state and/or federally protected animals only.

she had to be tube fed because the swelling and pain in her mouth, throat and esophagus prevented her from suckling a bottle of formula. Anti-inflammatory steroids and antibiotics were administered as she remained under the watchful eye of Dr. Larry Farley. Named "Abby" since she

was found near Abilene, she was joined the following day by "Sweetie," a second female brought by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game warden from Sweetwater. The addition of Sweetie really appeared to aid in Abby's recovery! We are happy to report both are doing extremely well.

During this busy time at the Center, extra volunteer help is needed, as most of the youngsters in our care collectively require constant

feedings. All it takes is two hours a week to make a big difference! Opportunities are available for hands-on animal care, administrative duties, lawn care, housekeeping, building maintenance, handy work and fund raising, just to name a few. Please contact Debbie Tennyson at (806) 799-2142 if you are interested in becoming a SPWRC volunteer!



These baby Blue jays were among the record 391 wildlife admissions at the Center in May 2000.

A note about federal and state protection:

Virtually all birds with the exception of starlings, House sparrows and pigeons are "protected" by both state and federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Many mammals, such as the opossum, Gray and Red fox, raccoon and skunk are protected by state laws but not federal laws. These animals cannot be held as pets, or sold by pet stores. "Threatened" and "endangered" species vary from state to state.

News and notes

Spring fundraiser nets \$5,300!

The Center's annual spring fundraiser, held at Llano Estacado Winery, was another great success! Thanks to all who attended and supported the fundraiser. The proceeds have already helped the Center care for a record number of animals admitted this summer. **Save the date for "Owlween," our fall fundraiser,** at the County Line Restaurant on Saturday, Oct. 14!

Open House set for Sept. 9

Join the Wildlife Center staff for an inside look at wildlife rehabilitation during the Center's Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Guests will learn about a typical day at the Center and have a chance to view wildlife ambassadors like Jasper the barn owl and Fritz the fox.

Internship program ramps up

The Wildlife Center offers many internship opportunities for high school and college students. This is a great way to earn credit and gain valuable hands-on experience with many species of indigenous wild mammals, reptiles and birds, including raptors. For more information, please contact Carol Mitchell at (806) 745-8120.

Building fund certificates

If you donated \$50 or more to the Building Fund and did not receive a Certificate of Appreciation, please contact Carol Mitchell. We apologize for any oversight and promise to mail any outstanding certificates promptly! Contact Carol by phone (806) 745-8120, or e-mail at spwrc@hub.ofthe.net (write "Building Certificate" in the subject line).

New Web site for lost and found pets

Wildlife Center supporter Marcy Taylor has launched a new Web site, www.lubbbpmia.com, to assist Lubbock area residents in reuniting lost pets with their owners. Log on to learn more.

Wildlife conference to feature Rob Lee

Rob Lee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent and Wildlife Center advisor, will host a discussion about "The Role of the Rehabilitator in Federal Law Enforcement," at the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's 23rd annual conference in Montreal, Quebec in October.

Thanks to the Godeke librarians

The Center would like to extend a special thank you to the Godeke librarians for selling duck food at 25 cents a bag to benefit the Wildlife Center! They raise hundreds of dollars each year for the Center through this project, and we greatly appreciate their efforts. The next time you visit, please buy a bag of food and thank the librarians for their continued support!

New building update

The Center continues to make progress toward the completion of Phase I of our Master Site Plan, a "new" building that will temporarily house wildlife while renovation of the Center's barn takes place. Since the last newsletter was published, several steps had to be completed in order to break ground on the project. First, the Planning & Zoning Commission met to decide whether the Center's "Non-conforming status" could be "modified" preparatory to our replacement of an out-building with a new structure. The vote was unanimous in our favor! Next, the property had to be surveyed and platted so we could hook up to city water and sewer services. With these critical steps and a few more complete, building permits could be obtained, and construction is now in progress! We named the property the "Wildlife Addition," and we hope you will stop by to see it for yourself at the Center's Open House on Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dove mourns no more

In mid April, I found a box with a baby Mourning dove on my porch. The dove appeared perfectly healthy and was probably kidnapped from its parents' care. When fledgling birds leave the nest, they do not automatically know how to fly. During this time on the ground (three to five days average), one or both parents continue to feed the youngsters until they learn where and how to find their own food.

These "lessons" from the parents are essential, and these few perilous days on the ground are extremely important. This is the time the young bird practices and perfects its flying, learns to seek shelter and to avoid predators (including well-meaning people) and begins to fend for itself. Bringing a healthy animal to a rehabilitation center for "help" at this time in its life actually sets it back. Sometimes we cannot return the bird to the parents, because the finder did not leave a name or address, but luckily, in this case, we did have an address in hand!

I drove to the area where the youngster was found, and sure enough, an adult dove was pacing around. When I approached, it flew up into a tree. Could this be the mother of this little bird? I carefully opened the shoebox housing the fledgling, and he immediately flew five feet away to a grassy area in plain sight of the adult dove. I got back in my car and drove a short distance. Before I could put the car into park to watch, the adult bird flew down from its perch and embraced the fledgling dove. What a happy ending for all!

-- Debbie Tennyson

SPWRC promotes wildlife education

From the Harry Potter craze to a Food Bank auction, SPWRC staff connect wildlife to everyday life

As habitat for native species diminishes, the need to preserve South Plains wildlife and their native habitats becomes increasingly important. One of the best ways to promote awareness of these challenges is through education. Executive Director Carol Mitchell and other members of the staff recently enjoyed the opportunity to connect wildlife to everyday life in some unexpected places.

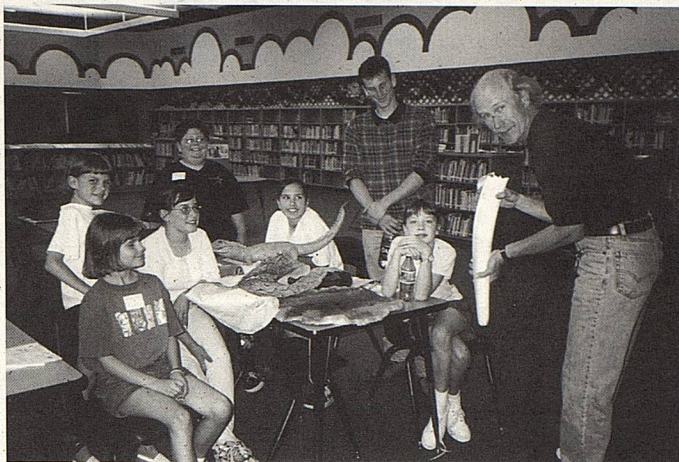
Whoohoo knows what the latest Harry Potter book and the Wildlife Center have in common? Owls! Carol welcomed the invitation to participate in the book release party at the Hastings book store on July 8. Because owls are featured in the book in various roles, such as mail carriers, Carol decided wildlife ambassadors Bubo (Great horned owl), and Jasper (Common barn owl) would be perfect for kicking off the party and educating guests about the role of wildlife in "real life."

At the event, kids and adults alike, many dressed in wonderful costumes, held an impromptu discussion about owls in general, and specifically about Great horned owls and Common barn owls. With Bubo and Jasper on hand, it became clear why owls could only be pets in books! Not only protected by state and federal laws, owls would be formidable playmates. One look at Bubo's sharp talons, and the children knew she would not be a good companion!

Wild birds are great backyard residents, however, and Carol was honored to speak about living with wildlife at the South Plains Food Bank's 4th annual Celebration for the Green. This fundraiser featured a birdhouse auction where more than 300 birdhouses--designed and constructed by area residents--were auctioned off, raising more than \$20,000 for the Food Bank! Carol also offered some tips on making good use of birdhouses. Functional birdhouses may be simple or elaborate, but the dimensions are critical, especially for the entry hole.

Wildlife Center Web site to launch

The Wildlife Center is pleased to announce plans for a new and improved Web site! Located at www.spwrc.org, the new site will feature information about the Center, opportunities for getting involved, steps for responding to a wildlife emergency, and more. The site will be a work in progress, but basic information will be available as early as August 28. Thanks to **The Door** for hosting our new Web site! In the meantime, SPWRC information is available through Lubbock360.com and Llano Estacado Audubon Society, at www.lubbock360.com/community/nonprofit/spwrc/listing.asp and www.leas.bizland.com/spwrc.htm respectively. We appreciate the efforts of Mike Smith and Ellen Roots to include the Wildlife Center at these sites!



Charlie Martin and Rob Lee explain the importance of wildlife to students participating in the Super Saturdays environmental education program at Texas Tech.

South Plains species that will use birdhouses include the Northern Flicker, Eastern screech owl, American kestrel, Common barn owl, English sparrows, and the European starling. If you want to learn more, an informational flyer and Common barn owl nest plans are available from the Center. Please send e-mail to spwrc@hub.ofthe.net and write "Birdhouse Guidelines Request" in the subject line.

In addition to these educational opportunities, the Center participated in several other community programs. In early April, the Center featured many of its educational birds at Environmental Awareness Family Days at Lubbock Lake Landmark. Also in April, gifted and talented students in grades four through six learned about about wildlife and conservation through the Super Saturdays program at Texas Tech. On June 17, Celebrity pelican Percy and other wildlife ambassadors made appearances at Critterfest, an annual event at the Science Spectrum.

Environmental education is a core component of the Wildlife Center's mission, with an emphasis on wildlife as a natural resource. If you are interested in sponsoring an educational program, please contact Carol Mitchell at (806) 745-8120.

"The last word in ignorance is the man who asks of an animal or plant: 'what good is it?'"

--Aldo Leopold

Baby Love!

Caring for wildlife youngsters

Photos by Mike McDonald



This tiny skunk was brought to the Center for care after its mother was hit by a car.

Above: this trio of baby raccoons, found on a fence near Buffalo Springs Lake, had been abandoned or orphaned.

The little robins are cute, the cottontails are warm and fuzzy, and the baby ducklings are a delight. The deer fawns steal your heart. But, this is only the beginning! From the moment an admission comes through our doors, we know the one word that applies to caring for these wildlife youngsters: WORK!

The smaller the animal, the more time it will require to care for, raise and feed. Many of our patients weigh in at 15 grams (one-half ounce) and sometimes less. Many infant birds and mammals are unable to even regulate their body temperature; without fur or feathers, many are instant candidates for one of our incubators. The healthy animals are one thing, but the sick and injured are quite another. Animals that are stressed often require emergency care if they are to survive, including treatment for shock or proper administration of antibiotics for a laceration or infection. The dehydrated and malnourished are given IV fluids, or tube feedings.

Others require special formulas: cottontails, raccoons, fawns. Mockingbirds and Barn swallows require live supplements such as crickets, while the adult hummingbird needs nectar. A few patients require veterinary treatment, such as a broken shell or a Flicker's broken beak. Some require surgery for a fracture and our veterinarians from Animal Medical Center, Dr. Larry Farley, Dr. Roger and Dr. Lane Preston volunteer their time and services to care for these animals.

Baby birds are the most labor intensive, with the smallest requiring feeding every thirty minutes, 14 to 15 hours a day. Older birds in the three to four week range continue to eat about every 45 minutes to an hour. The average time a young bird stays with us varies depending upon the species, and some simply develop faster than others. A seven-day old Blue jay's typical stay is about two to three weeks, with another two in the aviary. You might be interested to know that Purina brand Cat Chow Science Diet Feline Growth dry cat foods, when soaked, provide a nutritious food for infant, fledgling and adult birds. During "baby season," the Center uses five pounds of dry food each day! As for larger birds, like raptors, a large hawk can be with us for months, convalescing after an injury or a surgical procedure. Raptors are our biggest food consumers, often eating up to a half a pound of food per day.

Unusual admissions occasionally arrive, including snapping turtles, Great Egrets, herons, a Pronghorn, porcupine or warbler. We have also had alligators and crocodiles! Other uncommon visitors include a badger, Indigo snake, tattered butterfly and Ring-tailed cat. All need special care, diet, and housing during their stay with us. Captive habitat that works for a night heron is not suitable for a Red-tailed Hawk. A Burrowing owl must be made to feel secure as he would in his underground burrow. A Barn owl prefers a high roost where he will be comfortable and have access to the sky.

One thing is for sure, no day is ever the same, and no day is ever boring. As the animals come and go. Chaos becomes the norm, and the distractions and interruptions become commonplace. Every now and then, someone doesn't like our advice but we don't take it personally. We continue to educate, and do what we can for each creature that comes to stay awhile. Our hope for them is that the day will come when they can again leave, to run or fly free, and take their rightful places back in the wild.





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These Thirteen-lined ground squirrels washed up after heavy rains in June. The albino ground squirrel at right is a red flag for predators. To give this animal a better chance at survival, the albino will be released on the Center's property.

Above: Sweetie, admitted to the Center through a Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden, frolics in the Center's enclosed, grassy area. The fawn was found near Sweetwater, Texas the first week of June.

*A note about Mike McDonald:
Mike's wildlife photography is on
display at KK's Craft Mall, booth T7
at 66th and Indiana in Lubbock. We
thank Mike for his support of wildlife
and for donating the proceeds of his
photographs to the Wildlife Center.*

Master Site Plan will offer wildlife improved facility

The Wildlife Center is pleased to report its expansion plans are underway as Phase I of the Center's Master Site Plan is completed.

With a growing number of animals receiving care each year and record admissions in 2000, the timing couldn't be better. In just a few weeks, all animals receiving rehabilitation care will be housed under one roof for the first time in our 12 years of service!

Phase I entails replacing the Center's current storage structure with a new building that will house admitted wildlife while Phase II, the renovation of the Center's three-story barn, takes place. This will be the Center's most ambitious and costly project, as the first floor will be walled off, insulated, plumbed, floored, heated and cooled. Once the barn renovation is complete, it will be the permanent home for the Center's animals. The first building will revert to storage and include quarters for an intern.

The Center is "selling" square feet of the new building for \$50 per square foot to help fund these improvements. Donors will receive a certificate acknowledging their gift, and when renovations are complete, a plaque with the donor's name, memorial or other sentiment will be hung in the new facility. All contributions to the Center are tax deductible to the extent the law allows, and the "purchase" of square footage makes a great gift!

The Center is focusing its energies on Phases I and II in the short term, but the Master Site Plan also includes an Environmental Education center (Phase III) in the future. This will allow the Center to offer more educational programs that emphasize the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources.

Volunteer Spotlight: Carla Davis

Working with animals "a dream come true"

Carla Davis is a five-year veteran with the Wildlife Center. She was born in Baltimore, Maryland and moved to Lubbock in 1988. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in early childhood education from Texas Tech University. Carla was the president and founder of the Native American Student Association at TTU from 1992-93. Her desire to work with animals developed when she was very young. "I always wanted to work with animals, especially birds, since I watched *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* as a small child," Carla explains. "That's how I learned injured wild birds could be given a second chance at life."

Carla feels her dream of working with animals has come true. She enjoys the challenges and unusual animals encountered at the Center that she would not otherwise have seen or noticed. "I never know what I will find when I come in to work," Carla says. She has a particular fondness for the Center's educational bobcat, Bobby, and she has enjoyed working with other mammals at the Center as well, including deer fawns, raccoons, squirrels and rabbits. Working with the raptors is another source of enjoyment for Carla. She has fed babies, flown hawks and owls on the creance, and helped to administer medical care. Carla's *favorite* animals to work with, however, are baby pigeons and song birds.

We are grateful to Carla for the countless hours of time she has given to the Center over the years. Last year alone, she put in over 200 hours, not to mention the hundreds of hours she spent at home doing other things to benefit the Center. Carla has quite a few pets of her own, including a cat, five finches, four parrots and seven pigeons. "Everyone who knows me knows that I am passionate about my birds, bordering on insanity!" she jokes.

While volunteering at the Center is always a great educational experience, Carla nurtures her love for wildlife even when she's not at the Center. "I am on a number of Internet bird and wildlife lists, and I read as much as I can," Carla says. "I am also learning to raise live insects for my birds."

Carla is a wonderful volunteer and always ready for anything. She can feed songbirds, rear cottontails, work with raptors and clean cages with the best of us! Thanks, Carla for all you do!

Species profile: Inca Dove

Dark, brick-red coloration on underside of wings distinguishes Inca doves from Mourning doves

The Inca dove is a more diminutive dove species than the Mourning dove, with gray "scalloped" looking feathers. One of most distinctive traits of these birds is the "rufous," or dark, brick-red coloration on the undersides of the Inca's wings.

As youngsters, these birds somewhat resemble Mourning doves, but this field mark on the wing quickly sets one species apart from the other. Inca doves

are slightly smaller and slimmer than Mourning doves. The small nests are made of twigs and sticks, and may be lined (or unlined) with grass. Dove species do not always choose a "secure" spot to build, and nests are often toppled during rain or wind storms. Two eggs are laid, and incubated for about 15 days. Youngsters are fed "crop milk" like other members of the dove and pigeon families. The adults'



A Mockingbird "dive bombs" this cat to protect its nest.

Roaming cats threaten wildlife

Every week, the Wildlife Center admits birds and other wildlife that fall victim to free-roaming cats. These cats are not only a threat to wildlife, but more susceptible to disease and tragedy like auto accidents. Through its *Cats Indoors!* campaign, the American Bird Conservancy encourages cat owners to keep their cats indoors, on a leash, or in outdoor enclosures or cat runs. *Cats Indoors!* also advocates laws, regulations, and policies to protect cats and birds, including the humane removal of free-roaming cats from areas important to wildlife. For tips on how to make the transition to keeping your cat indoors, please visit www.abcbirds.org/catsindoors.htm

diet is almost exclusively seeds. Inca dove populations have greatly expanded throughout Lubbock over the past 20 years. Inca doves have a distinctive, plaintive call. They are easily attracted to bird feeders. As with other birds, leave uninjured youngsters alone to be cared for by parents. Many birds normally spend a few days on the ground prior to perfecting their flying skills.

Mexican gray wolf recovery efforts paying off

While wolf recovery efforts in the Northern Rockies have flourished, similar programs in the Southwest aimed at restoring the Mexican gray wolf (El Lobo) have progressed more slowly.

Once abundant in its home territory, this species was nearly wiped out in the 19th century as the result of federal programs to destroy predators. Through a program of relentless shooting and poisoning, few wolves remained, and by 1945 no wolves were known to live in Arizona outside captivity. This species was listed as endangered in 1974.

In 1990, planning for the reintroduction began, and 77 percent of Arizonans favored the idea. At the same time, plans were

in place to reimburse ranchers for documented loss of livestock to wolves. The wolf's dietary mainstay is elk, although some livestock is inevitably taken. The Blue Range Mountains, a 1,576-square-mile primitive area in Arizona, was chosen as the new home for the wolves.

In December of 1998, Wildlife Center Director Carol Mitchell had the privilege of going to southeastern Arizona as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) volunteer. There she was part of a team assigned to track a captive-reared radio-collared male and female Mexican gray wolf, two of eleven wolves reintroduced to the Blue Range recovery area in March of 1998.

Despite the rebound, El Lobo faces many perils, including auto collisions, disease and illegal shooting. Two individuals recently pled guilty to charges of killing two of four wolves that have been shot in the last two years. FWS will continue investigating the unsolved cases of illegal deaths.

Today, five packs (about 20 wolves) are in the recovery area, and another pack of eight awaits release in the acclimation pen. FWS hopes the population will grow to 100 by the year 2002, and that expanded populations will disperse throughout the Apache National Forest in Arizona and the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

Debbie Tennyson now apprentice falconer

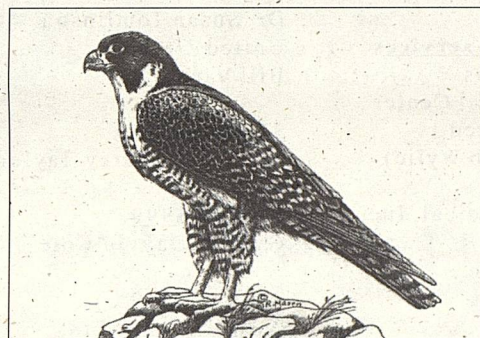
Congratulations to Wildlife Center Manager Debbie Tennyson, who recently became an apprentice falconer!

Debbie's New Year's resolution was to take time for herself and enjoy life a little more. She decided that becoming a falconer would satisfy this need, as well as increase her overall knowledge of raptors. This would also teach her new techniques used to work with birds of prey in need of conditioning prior to release.

"First year" raptors are inexperienced hunters. While they may have the natural instincts to kill, they can't always catch a meal. Studies show that only about 10 percent of these birds survive the first few months of life; most end up dying of starvation, exposure to pesticides, auto collisions, electrocution and other human-related causes. Falconers can help improve the odds of survival by teaching raptors better hunting techniques and other critical skills.

Debbie's sponsor was Lubbock resident Joe Bill Rogers, who for many years was a falconer and just renewed his permits the previous year. Joe Bill taught her many things, and in a few months will help Debbie trap her first bird, a Red-tailed hawk or an American kestrel. Debbie will work with this bird for about two years before she releases it back into the wild with a better chance of survival!

FOCUS ON NATURE™ by Rochelle Mason



The **AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) is crow-sized, dark gray above and pale below with streaks and bars. The female may be up to 1/3 larger than the male and pairs mate for life. Long, pointed wings enable this raptor to stoop (dive) up to 180 mph in order to strike its prey consisting of ducks, pigeons and smaller birds. It typically nests on cliffs and inhabits open country near rivers, lakes and shorelines but now also lives in urban areas and nests on skyscrapers. Overall, populations have recovered well enough (mainly from the U.S. ban on DDT) that the peregrine has been removed from the federal endangered species list after 29 years. Please donate your time or money to a nature conservation organization to help continue the success of endangered species recovery: © 1998-2000 Rochelle Mason. www.rmasonfinearts.com. (877) 726-1544

Editor's note: "Focus on Nature™" is written and illustrated by artist Rochelle Mason. Mason donates the use of "Focus on Nature™" to non-profit environmental organizations' newsletters to help promote awareness of endangered species.

Acknowledgements

Every day, supporters of the Wildlife Center offer much-needed contributions of time, money, supplies and services. The Center would like to thank the hundreds of people who make it possible for us to care for and release a growing number of animals. On behalf of the Center and the wildlife we serve, THANK YOU!

Building construction

We thank the following people for paving the way for Phase I construction:

Randy Henson, City of Lubbock
Chester Carthel, City of Lubbock
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Stan Weaver, Attorney
J. David Nelson, Attorney and City Councilman
Max Ince, past City Councilman
Bob Cass, City Manager
Terry Ellerbrook, Zoning Board Member
Ed Price, Attorney and Wildlife Center Board Member

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Bluebonnet Feed (Carol and Bob Wylie)
Brent Andersen
Area Wide Medical, Inc. (Jeff Jenkins)
Angie Aspaugh
Wanda Billings
Rita Brooks
Mary Castleman
Lewrie Close
Jessica Carrizales
Sarah Daghistany
The Door (Thomas Payne and Cody Shores)
Jim Eppler
Jesse Fagan
Doris & Dennis Fanning
Dr. Larry Farley
Gafford Brothers
Gebo's (Dick Crigger and Marshall Holmes)
John & Mary Gillas
Theresa Greer
Jack Henshall
Sue Hill
HubNet
David Keller
KLBK-TV
Rob Lee
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
Rochelle Mason

Supplies/services, cont'd

Vonda Masters
Mike McDonald
Wyman Meinzer
Eric Nelson
Pets Plus (Richard Evans)
Pipers Crafts
Kathy Phillips
Kay Pryce
Marla Riddlespurger
Jerrie Rodgers
Sandy's Pet Grooming
Sherri Sheffield
Rita Shewmake
Leanna Smith
Mike Smith
Roy and Cecilia Stapp
St. Eligius Studio (Steve Teeters)
Abby Swickard
Rick Tennyson
Dr. Susan Tomlinson
United Grocery
Bill Van Pelt

\$1,000 and up

Terry and Marcy Taylor

\$500 to \$999

Gyna & Dayvid Cole

\$100 to \$499

Altura Energy Ltd. (Mario Moreno)
Carré Avian
John & Christie Billing
Fay & David Billingsley
Thurn & Barbara Birge
Travis & Lisa Bruster
David & Lewrie Close
Dr. Larry & Marion Farley
John & Mary Gillas
Godeke Library
Marcie & David Hartman
Hutchinson Jr. High
Historians (Lonnie Wheeler)
Joyce Komkov
Rob Lee
Joyce Lisenby
Lubbock Apartment Assoc.
Max & Alzada Malone
Melinda Mason
John & Patricia Marx
Ed Mason
Suzette McCutcheon

\$100 to \$499, cont'd

Renee Meunier
Norman and Erin Orr
Kathy Phillips
Aaron & Shelly Ross
Science Spectrum
(Sandy and Alan Henry)

\$50 to \$99

Animal Medical Center
Don & Ladora Aufell
Barbara & Thomas Cozel
Gail & Don Davies
Larry & Lisa Gilliland
Pat & Jim Harris
Jill & Dave Haukos
Jack & Ruth Henshall
Russell & Susan Horne
Jay & Charlene McCollum
Amy Miller
Dr. T. Ramamohan
Dr. & Mrs. Ron Rapini
Ellen Roots & Toby McBride
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Shields
B.R. Sinclair
Leanna Smith
Donna Snow
Candia Thew
Dr. Chris and Janis White
Bob & Pat Wise
David & Lesa Wood
Fred & Pat Zimmerman

\$15 to \$49

Susan Andrews
Herb & Kathy Boatwright
Barbara Brown
Tricia Brown
Marla Carver
Melinda Christesson
Duane & Joan Christian
Shari Cobb
Judy Criswell
Ken Dixon
Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Eckert
Starla Ewan
Lee & Lulayne Ferris
Tina Fuentes
Danny & Maggie Hancock
Aimee Haskew
Kara & Hubert Hawley
Hugh Haynes
T.G. Herring
Susan Hook
Mike Hooper

\$15 to \$49, cont'd

Janet Kitten
Marlene Leiby
Doris Love
Don & Beverly McBeath
Mike McDonald
Karen & Dwight McDonald
The McHane family
Sharon McWhorter
Joe & Jewel Mogan
William and Marion Pasewark
Kimberly Payne
Ludim Pedroza
Julia Penelope
Mrs. Edward Rave
Carol & Patrick Robertson
Jerrie Rodgers
Victor & Isabel Rodriguez
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Sehon
Abbey Swickard
Debbie Therwanger
Denise & Jerry Tomlinson
Jim & Jan Tursi
Chas & Sara Vancy
Larry & Patty Vickers
David & Marcia Wester
Lynn Whitfield
Mark & Lisa Woolverton

High School Interns

Jessica Carrizalez (LHS)
Jason Corley (LCHS)
Clifton Eade (LHS)
Michael Parks (LHS)
Annie Spikes (LHS)
Tiffany Yelvington (LCHS)

Gift to honor

Abbey Swickard gave a gift in honor of Edna Buster and her daughters, Paula and Sandra.

Memorial

John & Mary Gillas and Julia Penelope gave donations in memory of Linda Stewart Carneiro.

Adoption

Aaron & Shelly Ross adopted the Center's educational bobcat, Bobby.

SWPRC wish list

The Wildlife Center has many needs, but we currently have a critical need for the following supplies and services:

FOOD

Purina brand Cat Chow
Science Diet Feline Growth (dry food)
Science Diet Canine Maintenance (dry food)
Strained baby food (fruit & meat)
Goat's milk (canned or fresh)
KMR brand formula
Pedialyte

LINENS

Towels without fringes
Soft baby blankets
Cloth diapers

KITCHEN APPLIANCES

New Cuisinart food processor (with attachments)
New blender

OFFICE SUPPLIES

New fax machine
New copy machine
Phone and answering machine
Fiskar scissors

MISCELLANEOUS

Pop-up tissues
Liquid bleach
Liquid laundry detergent
Water hoses and nozzles
Large plastic storage bins
Gas-powered push lawn mower and weed eater
Gift certificates for grocery stores, pet stores, home improvement stores

SERVICES

Electrician

What do you think about the "new look" of the *Mockingbird Chronicles*? Send your opinion to spwrc@hub.ofthe.net. The Wildlife Center thanks Adobe Systems for donating software that offers improved layout and design capabilities for the newsletter and other documents!

Another wish granted!



A new gas-powered pump for the Center's small duck pond has truly revolutionized the cleaning process, saving eight hours of work each week! This allows more time for direct care and feeding of wildlife. Thanks to Kay Pryce as well as Marshall Holmes and Dick Crigger of Gebo's for granting this wish!

Your donations really make a difference! If you can help with any of the items on our list, please call Debbie Tennyson at 799-2142.

Volunteers are always needed as well, so if you have just two hours a week, we need you! Tasks range from hands-on animal care to grounds maintenance and administrative assistance.

Support the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center!

Please consider becoming a member and help our organization care for wildlife. Just complete this form and attach a check made payable to South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent the law allows, and because the Center is a local, all-volunteer organization, your funds stay in the community and directly support wildlife!

Your name: _____

Organization or group: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Please mail this form and your donation to:

Carol Mitchell, c/o South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
3101 77th St. Lubbock, TX 79423

The South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc. is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization that cares for more than 1,000 animals each year. The Center is state and federally licensed, but is not funded by either regulatory agency.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization or Group | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student or Senior Citizen | \$15 |

The moment of release: what rehab is all about!

Every day, the Wildlife Center strives to give the animals in our care "a second chance at life." An injured animal may be with us a couple of days, a few weeks, or several months before release, depending on the injury. But no matter how long or short the stay, the moment of release is what our work is all about.

Throughout June and July, scores of robins, jays, mockingbirds, Mourning and Inca doves, Grackles and Mallards were released, along with two Texas horned lizards, 15 Box turtles, a Common snapping turtle, Red-eared slider, and a Red fox. Add to that a number of cottontails, opossums and jackrabbits as well as ground and gray squirrels. The Center also released more than a dozen Barn owls (endangered in some midwestern states), American kestrels, and Mississippi kites. With each release, we feel a sense of accomplishment and joy as the animals return to their wild habitats.

While we do everything in our power to successfully rehabilitate injured animals, their stories do not always have happy endings, and we experience plenty of heartbreak at the Center. On June 25, a Brown pelican (an Endangered species

in several states), was admitted to the Center with a fracture of the left humerus. The bird had been hit by a boater at Buffalo Springs Lake. We thank Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game warden Andy Carr for bringing the injured bird to us for care. Brown pelicans dive for fish, and he may

have been hit during a dive. We can only speculate, but it was certainly a tragedy. The pelican underwent surgery the next day, and Dr. Roger Freund of Animal Medical Center inserted a stainless steel pin to stabilize the fracture. Unfortunately, the bird died about an hour after surgery. We are aware of only two Brown pelicans that have been on the South Plains during the last 12 years.

Just one day later, we picked up a Turkey vulture in East Lubbock. Its right wing

was broken, probably as the result of hitting a utility wire. Fractured at the shoulder joint, it was an irreparable injury, and the bird was euthanized.

All of these stories, both happy and sad, are part of the work we do at the Wildlife Center, and all are a reminder that these wonderful animals are in our midst. Many more will have a second chance at life, and most of all, freedom, thanks to the many people who support our mission.



This badger was rehabilitated at SPWRC and relocated to Boise, Idaho in 1998.



Mockingbird chronicles.
Received on: 09-06-2000
Texas Tech University
Library

Mr. David Mears
Southwest Collection
Post Office Box 11111
Lubbock, TX 79423

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Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

The Mockingbird
Chronicles

c/o Carol Mitchell
3101 77th St.
Lubbock, TX 79423