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The Mockingbird Chronicles



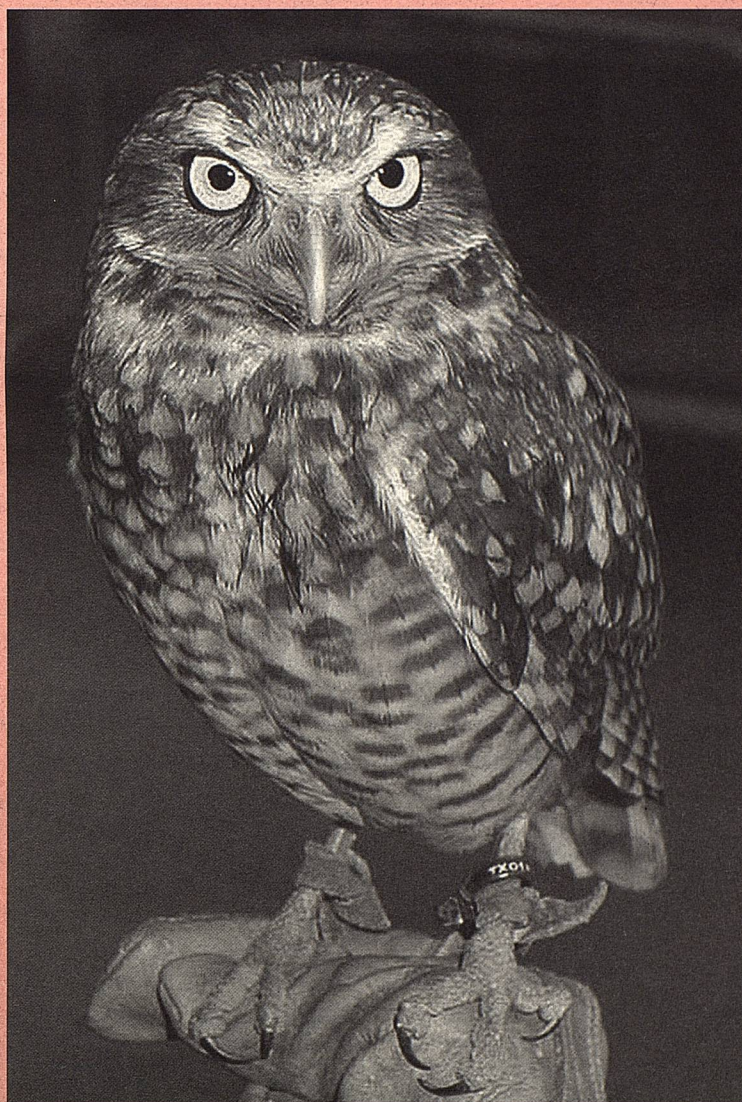
Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Number 1 / 2006

Our Eighteenth Year

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Our cover bird is "Hootie" our resident Burrowing Owl. Read about the new movie "Hoot" inside, featuring Burrowing Owls who could lose their homes



Letter from the Director

"Baby Season" just around the corner

By the time our March quarterly newsletter reaches mailboxes, our respite is probably already at an end.

Early birds and little mammals will trickle in to the Wildlife Center and need care. As much as we hate to admit it, I think most of my volunteers would agree: we hate being idle. With "Caregiver" stamped on our foreheads and nearly limitless energy and passion for our jobs, we start thinking about spring and baby season almost as soon as the calendar turns to another new year.

Are we bored? No. We enjoy partaking of our lives' other pleasures during our slow season — families, friends, hobbies, trips, sleeping later, taking more time off for ourselves, going to a movie — or just relaxing. That notwithstanding, we're all ready to put life's little luxuries on hold for a while again when the first animals arrive that need our helping hands.

It must be said that the annual slow-down is pure happiness in the fall when we all feel worn out after seven months of labor-intensive work.

I bring our artificial Christmas tree in from our outdoor shed right after Halloween. That assures that it just might be hauled out of the box by Thanksgiving. Then I have a week to decorate it and do some housecleaning before our annual volunteer Christmas party the first Saturday in December.

We look forward to the holidays, but perhaps we more look forward to spring and summer when we really feel needed.

Spring marks the beginning of what we call "baby season." It's breeding season for many area songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, mammals and reptiles. Days are longer and warmer, and food is once again abundant. It's also the time of year when we experience sudden rain or wind storms, and some youngsters get washed out of holes in the ground or are blown from their nests. Others fall prey to cats and dogs, get hit by cars, fly into utility wires, get hurt by lawn mow-

ers or weed eaters, or become displaced when residents prune trees or shrubs without checking first to see if nests are present.

Many women and men just want to help and give back to nature one way or another. Over the winter, some of us miss the day-to-day interactions with our little charges and the connections we make with our wild counterparts, whether it's a baby robin, barn owl, tiny hawk or deer fawn.

Occasionally there's a bond that is long-standing. Several birds I raised last season returned for handouts all winter and continue to come by. They each have individual characteristics and don't fly away when I refill the dishes with the same food they were raised on in captivity.

This is the rewarding part, and the component of the job that's such a privilege, along with meeting wonderful new people, learning and doing great new things, and then looking forward to another season of raising babies all over again!

Thank you one and all for helping us fulfill our Mission to help wildlife, and for supporting our efforts on their behalf with your funds, time, talents and kind words.

Carol

Mark your calendar for our third annual "Nature of Art" art event October 14 - 15, 2006. Check our web site at spwrc.org for details, or call Beth Bartley for more information at (806) 797-8285. Updates will follow in our June issue!

Summer Wish List

Mesh playpens or Pack N' Play to raise baby ducklings and Barn Owls in Kleenex brand (or other pop-up) tissues Dawn brand Dishwashing detergent Heavy-duty paper towels Flannel baby receiving blankets Pet, grocery or office supply Gift Cards

The Mockingbird Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. (SPWRC), which is 100% volunteer. The organization is an IRS determined 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that cares for orphaned, injured, ill and displaced wild animals with the ultimate goal of returning wildlife to its natural habitat. SPWRC holds state and federal permits but receives no funding whatsoever from either regulating agency. SPWRC operations are maintained entirely through the support of private donations and volunteer service, and no SPWRC staff member is paid. Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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

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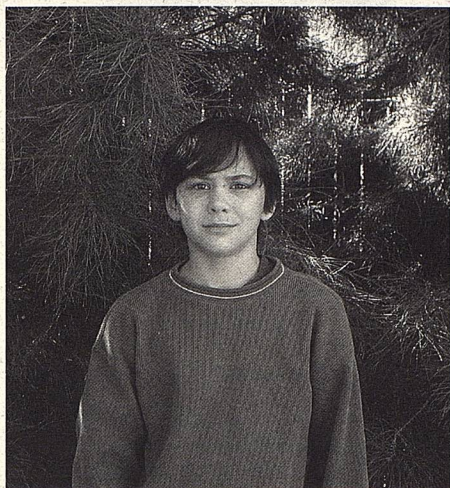
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Mrs. Willie Haragan

South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. is located at 3308 95th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423.

We can be reached by phone at 806-799-2142, by email at spwrc@cox.net, or you learn more at our website at www.spwrc.org

Junior Volunteer Spotlight



Nick Isett

Nick Isett has been a volunteer at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center since 2003. He started as a Junior Volunteer in our fledgling program, and just turned fourteen March 6th this year. He came to the Center because he loves animals and wildlife. He said he doesn't have one favorite job, and helps out wherever he's needed. Nick is homeschooled so he's able to come to the Center some weekday mornings. He said his parents are very supportive, and home-schooling makes it easier to do things like helping us! Nick enjoys freestyle BMX cycling. He has two pets, a cat and a Savannah Monitor Lizard. Eventually, Nick thinks he might consider a career in zoology or ornithology. His mom Cheri is obviously a strong influence in his life. He said, "She said do what you love and what your passion is about." He said that's helped him a lot to make decisions.

Nick's dad serves in the Texas House of Representatives. This month Carl Isett will be deployed to Kuwait with the U.S. Naval Reserves. E-mail keeps them all in touch. Nick has two brothers ages 4 and 16 and three sisters, ages 1, 7 and 11.

Thanks for all you contribute to the Wildlife Center, Nick! ...Ed.

Thank you Dora Roberts Foundation

Thank you to the Dora Roberts Foundation of Big Spring, Texas for their gift of \$20,000 that was in response to our request for help in funding our stable replacement project. Rob Lee will oversee the construction and we'll move forward shortly. This project is the only one of our capital improvements that was ever behind schedule. This project was delayed because of additional research needed to get the best bid, select the right materials and find the best contractor. We also plan to build the new structure at a different site on the property. We want this facility to last for many years, and unlike the dilapidated structure on the property now, the new facility will be heated, cooled, on two levels, and have six or more separate rooms. Cost will be approximately \$60,000 - \$80,000.

South Plains Veterinary Medical Association Renews Support of the Wildlife Center

The South Plains Veterinary Medical Association gave us another vote of confidence this year with a generous check of \$1500.00. Dr. Robert Richards of Animal Hospital of Lubbock is President of SPVMA. "Our own" Dr. Tim Polk of Animal Medical Center is Vice President, and Dr. Don Hegi of the Animal Care Clinic in Lubbock is Secretary-Treasurer.

We are once again sincerely appreciative of their financial support, and we thank all the members of the SPVMA!

Any funds we receive are used first and foremost to pay our day-to-day expenses and operational costs. All monies above and beyond that are kept in an interest bearing account overseen by our CPA, Patricia Harris. This account protects our savings, and the money is earmarked for three more capital improvement projects....the short term replacement of the stable, total renovation of our three-story barn, and ultimately an environmental education facility.

Join us Saturday May 6th at Llano Estacado Winery

Our May "Night on the Wild Side" fundraiser will be held at Llano Estacado Winery on Saturday, May 6th from 6-9 PM. We'll have music by Susan Grisanti, wonderful food by caterer Dalla Guerreri, great Llano wines, and many wonderful themed baskets for our silent auction. If you'd like to donate a basket or two, please call. It's a great time to shop for Mother's Day, spring birthdays, graduation, and other special occasions. Funds raised at this spring event are used to stock up on supplies, food and formulas for the many hundreds of wildlife youngsters that are admitted during baby season beginning in early spring and continuing through September.

The Wildlife Center is 100% volunteer, and we depend on donations, fundraisers and gifts to keep our doors open. If you can't attend but would like to make a donation, we'll be sincerely grateful. Tickets are \$25.00 each and will be available at the door. They are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please make a reservation so we can help the caterer judge the amount of food needed. Call Carol Lee at (806) 745-8120.

Visit Dalla and Lori at their downtown restaurant, The Lunchbox, 1620 Avenue Q.

**Sincere thanks to City Bank and the
Thomas Agency of Lubbock for their
help with our promotional
materials!**

10th annual June Open House

Summer Open House will be between 11 AM and 2 PM, Saturday, June 17th, 2006. Hummingbird expert Mark Klym will be on hand again this year to answer your hummingbird questions and talk about these beautiful little birds. We'll have refreshments, photography of our animals is welcome, and you can meet our volunteers, or better yet, sign up to be one! We ask a \$1.00 donation for everyone over 4 years old. There's plenty of parking at the South Indiana Baptist Church at 96th and Indiana, our neighbors to the south.

Memorials

Rick Tennyson passed away on January 5th, 2006 after a lengthy illness. Rick was Center Manager Debbie Tennyson's husband. They have one son, Josh. Rick had heart transplant surgery about 3 + years ago, and had a number of hospitalizations following that procedure. Rick went faithfully to his job whenever he could, and was a hard working, good person. He will be missed by us all. Funds sent in Rick's memory will be used to establish a garden area by "Ambassador Row" and our bronze eagle will also be placed there. The Golden Eagle was created by Lubbock artist Jim Eppler, and the boulder he'll rest on is being created by artisan Steve Teeters of Lubbock. Memorial gifts in Rick's name were made by the following people.

Carre Avian
 Larry and Gail Barnes
 Kathy and Paul Beach, Post, Texas
 Kathy and Herb Boatwright
 Rick Cohen, Ransom Canyon, Texas
 Dr. Lou and Erika P. Densmore,
 Slaton, Texas
 Maggie and Danny Hancock
 Donald and Willie Haragan
 Pat and Jim Harris
 Beth and Jeff Hickman,
 The Colony, Texas
 Carol and Rob Lee
 Lubbock National Bank
 Bebe and Art McCasland,
 Big Spring, Texas
 Tom McLaughlin
 Dr. and Mrs. Jim Moyes
 Jay Reichard and Shirley Ryle
 Leanna Smith, Levelland, Texas
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swift
 Don and Julie Waldrip
 Royce and Wanda Murphrey and
 Travelin' Elks, (organization of the Lubbock
 Elks Lodge)
 Helen and Paul Wenthold, West
 Lafayette, Indiana (Helen is a former volun-
 teer now in vet school).

Texas Hawking Association

Members:

James and Brenda Robinson,
 Granbury, Texas
 James and Flossie Coody,
 Campbell, Texas

Aaron Hegeman, Fort Worth, Texas
 Sheldon Nicolle, Denton, Texas
 Paul Moore, Harker Heights, Texas
 and other *Texas Hawking Association* Members who donated cash in Rick's name

Memorials were given in the name of **Jesus Chavez** of El Paso, Texas. He was the father of Center volunteer Maggie Hancock.

Donors include:

Jamie Shock, Lorenzo, Texas
 Larry and Gail Barnes
 Maggie and Danny Hancock
 Carol and Rob Lee
 Peggy and Michael Mulcahy
 Brent Suther and Scott McLean,
 Iowa City, Iowa

Additional Memorials were given in the last quarter in the name of **Linda Lamberts**, wife of Dr. David Lamberts of Lubbock.

Donors include Linda's mother Margaret Travitz; Nell Whitehead; Dr. James Boop, Great Plains Lions Eye Bank (Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center); John and Janceen Holmes Gilliam, all of Lubbock. Other gifts were from Erika and Lory Henning-Dyson, Riley Sanborn, Sara Shives, Blakely Braniff and Chris Koutazakis all of Brooklyn, New York. Gifts were also given by Margaret and Chris Wimpee of Eads, Tennessee. A Memorial was also sent by Donna and Fred Seebinger, Eden Prairie, Minnesota and the following extended family members:

Sue and Don Rosborough
 Amy and Jim Rosborough
 Edie Pace
 Jennie and Don Parrish
 Florrie and Ray Jansen
 Marge Rosborough
 Toni Malcom
 Sandi and Mark Rosborough
 Susie and Rick Rosborough

A Memorial gift was given by Jane and Charles Peek in the name of their daughter, **Jasmyn Peek**.

Jean Ann Morrison made a Memorial donation in the name of her son **David Morrison**.



Your gifts help us care for
 our patients

A Memorial gift was given by Herb and Kathy Boatwright in the name of **Lou Tosi**, a Lubbock resident who loved animals. Lou died January 7, 2006. Lou's niece, Lisa Gilliland, is a longtime supporter of the Wildlife Center.

Deborah Carter of Lubbock gave a donation for the care of "Ricky" and "Bobby" in Memory of her mother, **Mary R. Carter** who once adopted these two animals.

A gift was given in Memory of **Darleen Stevens**, longtime member of Llano Estacado Audubon Society, by Pat, Brad and Dr. George Jury of Lubbock. Darleen died January 22, 2006.

Another Memorial gift in Darleen's name was given by Leanna Smith, Levelland, Texas.

Darleen's daughter Paula Richardson and her husband Dennis Richardson of Lubbock were notified.

Memorials were also received in the name of **Myrtle June Veach**. Myrtle was a longtime supporter of our efforts, and loved animals. She passed away January 27, 2006.

The David Penoli family of Edinburg, Texas, gave a generous Memorial gift in her name.

Ernst and Juanita Kiesling of Lubbock also made a Memorial donation in her name.

Jimmie and Guadalupe Willis of Memphis, Tennessee also sent a Memorial gift in Myrtle's name. Her husband Robert was notified of all Memorial gifts in her name

Gifts to Honor

Mozella Tew gave a generous gift to Honor Kenny and Beverly Ellis of Lubbock.

Dr. Brent and Susan Nall sent a donation in Honor of five friends and colleagues:

Dr. Brit and Becky Lawrence
Dr. Jennifer Owen
Dr. Joanna Burke
Dr. Joe and Suze Killeen
Dr. Andrew and Christine Broselow

Michael Stephens made a donation in Honor of Barbara Stephens' birthday. The Stephens' have been supporters for many years, and we appreciate their gift.

Pat and Laura Gordon of El Paso sent a generous donation to Honor Gail and Larry Barnes, Wildlife Center volunteers.

Mrs. Tonia Boyer of Lubbock gave a donation in Honor of her sister Cami Clark..

"If we go on as we are, we will destroy in the next century everything that the poets have been singing about for the past two thousand years."

— Fred Bodsworth



"HOOT"

Be sure to see the movie "HOOT" based on the book by Carl Hiasson. It's about ME! It's a great adventure story filled with humor, mystery and the escapades of three middle-schoolers who go all out to protect the homes of Burrowing Owls from land developers. It's scheduled to open April 21, 2006 in theaters. Visit hootmovie.com/ to see a trailer.

Raptors on the Prairie Conference update

The dates for the Raptors on the Prairie Conference are Saturday/Sunday November 11-12, 2006. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza on south loop 289. Presentation topics will relate to raptors and raptor rehabilitation. Dr. Mike Hooper, environmental toxicologist, will talk about contaminants, including lead, and how these affect raptors. Several of our veterinarians also agreed to speak, and we'll narrow down topics as we move forward. We'll have an update in our June newsletter.

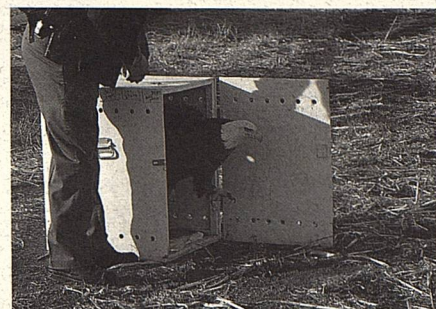
Sessions are open to the public for anyone interested in learning more about birds of prey. CEU's will be given for attendance. Registration and presenter information as well as general information is posted on our web site spwrc.org. Registration includes all presentations and Saturday night dinner at Cagle's Steakhouse.

We have two sponsors: Jan and Bob Matthews, and the Llano Estacado Audubon Society, and we need many more. Sponsorships start at \$50.00, and can certainly be more. They will be acknowledged in all printed materials at the conference.

We need people who are home much of the day to help with raising juvenile orphaned ducklings. You need a fenced yard, a small kiddie swimming pool, and a large box inside in case of sudden storms or cold weather. We'll supply the food and a board for a ramp. Our fenced area can only accommodate so many little ones. We'll take them to release sites when they're ready to go. Call us at 799-2142 if this is something you can help with this summer.

The "Wild Thing" Spring Disc Golf Tournament will be March 11th at Mackenzie Park in Lubbock benefiting the Wildlife Center. Thanks to Matt Ryan for organizing this. We'll follow up with photos in our June newsletter. Call Matt for information at (806) 866-0268. It's fun for all ages and ability levels, and they need volunteers and sponsors.

Another Bald Eagle soars back to freedom



Stepping out

Another adult Bald Eagle was admitted December 12th, 2005. Unable to fly, he underwent diagnostic tests. Within a few days we knew why he couldn't fly: he was sick as a result of lead poisoning. Chelation treatment was done, and his blood tests finally came back normal. On January 21, 2006, Brandon Best took the eagle back to the Texas panhandle where he came from. TPWD game warden Winn Bishop who helped capture the bird, did the honors of opening the crate, and off our patient went. What a privilege to help get this magnificent bird back into the wild! Photos courtesy of Brandon Best.



Bald Eagle aloft...



...then up, and away!

2005 was a great year for Owls!

We wrapped up 2005 with a total of 2239 state and/or federally protected birds and mammals, and that number was up by 185 over the 2004 census.

The breakdown is as follows:

Songbirds:	1236
Raptors (Birds of prey):	315
Mammals:	634
Reptiles:	54

For the first year in the last eighteen years the number of owls that were admitted outnumbered hawks. We cared for 165 owls representing five species.

We admitted an unprecedented 112 Common Barn Owls, 29 Great Horned Owls, 21 Burrowing Owls, 2 Eastern Screech Owls and 1 Northern Pygmy Owl – a new species for us.

Here are some photos of just a few of our former owl patients or our owl Ambassadors:

We also admitted 150 other raptors, including 2 Turkey Vultures, 51 American Kestrels (our smallest North American falcons), 60 Mississippi Kites, along with Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Ferruginous Hawks, a Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon and a Bald Eagle (released in November, 2005)

Owl Facts

The smallest owl in the world is the Elf Owl weighing about 1.5 ounces.

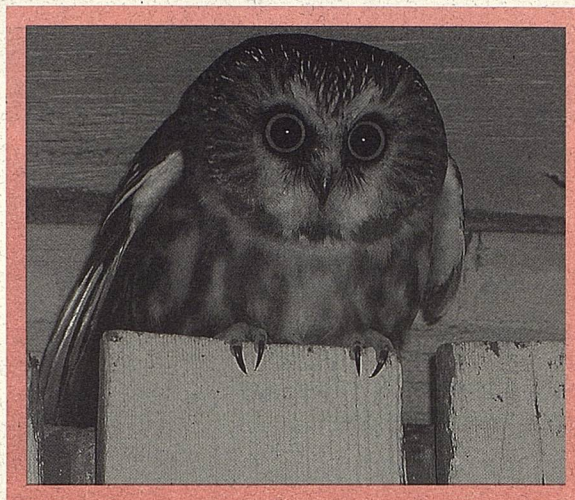
The largest North American owl is the Great Gray Owl weighing about 3 pounds.

Owls' eyes are stationary in their eye sockets. To look around, owls must move their entire head, and the range of motion is about 270°. Their eyes are also ten times as light-sensitive as human eyes.

Owls cough up round pellets containing the undigested parts of their last meal...bones and fur or feathers.

Most owls are nocturnal and hunt at night. They use a keen sense of sight to find prey in the dark and have an acute sense of hearing that also helps locate prey.

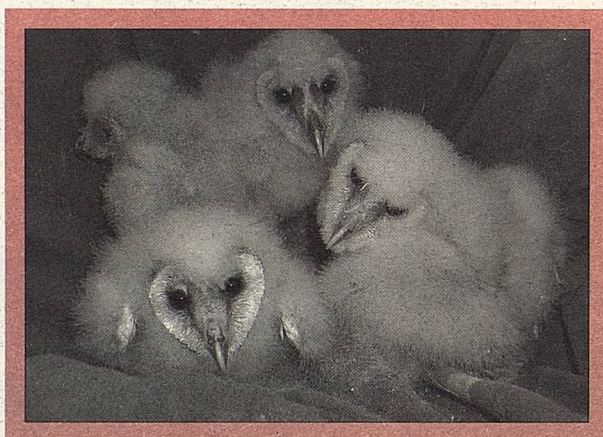
Their fluffy feathers provide almost silent flight.



This Saw-Whet Owl was a new species for us several years ago and was released

Owl Resources

The web site "owlpages.com" is a great resource for owl information and so is the "kidwings.com site"



Four downy Barn Owl chicks



BU 2 our resident Great Horned Owl

The Story of "Shadow"

Owls return to the community by Lois Shrout

If you think taking in a hurt bird is a simple task, read on. As we drove along Cameron Road toward Pflugerville, my husband said, "He hit the owl!" I looked but saw only a large lump in the road. We both thought immediately about the big owl we watched on its nest about a half-mile further. We drove on and saw that no bird was on the nest. For weeks, there was an owl on that nest constantly. It was hard to miss, since it was a large bird and seemed to fix its glare on all those who passed by.

We decided to go back and see if the owl was alive. The bird was very still, but Loyd stepped out to check. Then he saw its chest move so he grabbed the feet to put it in the car. We turned around again and I called Central Texas Animal Hospital because they have the emergency number on their message. This was early evening and we were headed to meet our son, his wife and three grandchildren for our daughter-in-law's birthday dinner. I hoped there was a clinic close by but found we had to go to Highway 183 and Oak Knoll. The family agreed to delay the dinner and we headed west.

Then the ride got longer: the owl woke up and flopped around. She jumped up onto the back seat and spread her wings almost across the width of the car. Her talons were long and sharp. This was a strikingly beautiful owl, she was obviously hurt, and probably the last place she wanted to be was in the back seat of our car. I started thinking about those talons, my husband's fresh scar from lung surgery done February 3, and how far we had to drive. Luckily we had a jacket with us and I could throw it over her once in awhile, but it was too light to stay put.

When we finally reached the clinic a man with gloves and an empty aquarium reached in and took her; we walked into the clinic with him and then she disappeared.

In the meantime, Wildlife Rescue asked about the babies in the nest—could we bring



**"Shadow" our educational
Barred Owl**

them in? We're talking at least twenty feet in the air. Our son said he would go after them the next evening, but we didn't know how long they could last without food. We checked the nest the next morning off and on and finally asked Travis County ESD #2 for help. Mark Moellenberg climbed a ladder steadied against the tree brought down not one, but three babies, alive and very downy.

Then we did another race across town to Cedar Park, this time to meet Bill Estela, who would take the babies to a special caregiver. How could you not trust someone who carried a tiny squirrel in his pocket? That March of 2005, Ed Sones of Cedar Park, an Austin suburb, cared for the adult and the three babies, not to mention a number of other birds. Ed and Bill are individual licensed rehabilitators. Ed has amazing energy (remember these creatures eat lots of mice every couple of hours), patience (weeks of care), and a sense of humor.

He sent us photos as the owlets changed. About a month after Ed got the three babies from here, he took in two more Barred Owl babies, about the same size as the ones we turned over. We asked Ed if the owls could be released out here when they were ready. He agreed. Although the adult owl didn't recover with enough grip in her injured foot to hunt successfully, she's now living at the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center where her role is as a Wildlife Ambassador. On July 27, 2005, Ed Sones brought five healthy looking Barred Owls out and let us go with him to release them. Ed chose a spot at the bridge near the Cameron-Schmidt Lane intersection and we unloaded the pet carriers. He had warned me that the release probably would be anticlimactic, but seeing those bright yellow eyes and amazingly varied feathers in the cages was hardly anticlimactic. The owls flew off gradually, one by one. The last one to go was the one I got to touch (I felt incredibly soft feathers on the head).

I hope drivers in that area will take it easy over the bridge. The owls aren't too steady when they land yet, and they might just fly low at dusk.

* * *

I first got an e-mail from Lois December 31, 2005, and when I replied, I asked if I could share her heartwarming story about putting life on hold for awhile to help the injured Barred Owl. Ed Sones told me she'd called to follow up on the bird, and she went on to adopt the bird she saved.

"Shadow" is one of the "sweetest dispositioned" birds of all our educational ambassadors. We're sorry she can't be released, but she'll have a good life with us.Ed.

Visit our web site and click the "What's New" tab for upcoming events.

NEWS and NOTES

Thanks to Willie Haragan, Peggy Mulcahy, Karen Martin and Pat Hollingworth for participating in Christmas gift-wrapping at Barnes and Noble for several Saturdays during the holidays. They raised over \$50.00!

Thanks to Anna Marie Pratas for having a birthday party and asking her guests to bring supplies for the Wildlife Center! We are most appreciative!

Thanks to Iris Risenhoover of Shallowater, Texas, for making cute covers for the counter stools in our kitchen. Iris is Manager Debbie Tennyson's mother.

Thank you to the Lubbock Balloon Club and to Mary Ann Slagle-Poteet and Tony Poteet of Wolfforth for their gift of \$200.00.

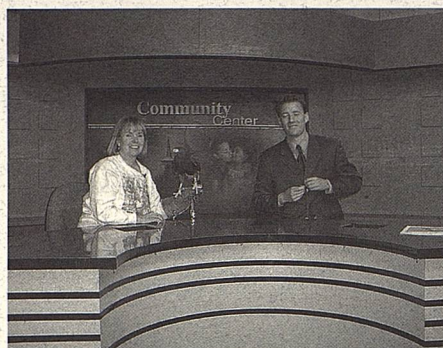
On December 17 and 24th we hosted our fifth annual Christmas Open Houses. Visitors brought items for our animals and donated funds. Thanks to Mr. Bill Conway, Bill and Judy Pesetski, Deana Paone and others who brought supplies or gift cards. Donations raised were over \$500.00.

Thanks to Beth Bartley, Dr. and Mrs. Don Davies, Drs. Julie and John Thomas and others who brought or donated food, and volunteers Gail and Larry Barnes, Dan Andrews, Jerrie Rodgers, Gina and Doug Adams, Debbie Tennyson, Ray and Karen Nitzschke, Pat and Jim Harris, Rob Lee, Lindi Butler, Shannon McIntire and everyone else who helped out in some way during one or both events.

A documentary is being made in Minnesota about the life and trials of "H99," the Trumpeter Swan we cared for two years ago after he was shot. You can read his history at web site <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/InsideRegion3/documents/April2005.pdf>

Thanks to volunteers Ray Nitzschke and Everett Herman who helped us with several projects in the stable and animal drop off building to get two of our annoying problems taken care of.

Wild Wildlife Fridays



KLBK -TV Studio
Gail Barnes holds "Harris"
Newscaster Evan Onstat is host



Sometimes the wildlife surprises us -
Expect the unexpected!

On September 29th, 2005, the Wildlife Center was invited back to KLBK-TV to resume our "Wildlife Friday" segments. An animal goes to the studio each week to be highlighted. This is another effort to help educate the public about the valuable natural wildlife resources we have here. Tune in to cable channel 7 each Friday and shortly after noon you'll see a short segment about one of our animals. We never know what might happen! We've been doing this segment off and on since 1995.

Sympathy is extended to Wildlife Center supporter Lewrie Close whose father Louis John Srdoc died November 30th, 2005 in Colorado.

Thank You to our Monthly Benefactors!

Carre Avian
Joyce Badger
Dr. Hemmo and Mrs. Karen Bosscher
Lisa and Travis Bruster
AJ and Cindy Burkes, Denver City TX
Barbara Davis, Rising Star, Texas
Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
Joyce Komkov
Tom McLaughlin
Davis Melton
William and Deanna Schwartze

Can you help?

Janet, Mark and Sarah Wallace have helped with our quarterly newsletters for a number of years. After the newsletters are delivered to Carol from the printer, 400 to 700 copies must be folded, stapled and labeled. The number varies quarter to quarter. We have an electric stapler, and I e-mail the Excel mailing list to Janet. She does a mail merge and prints the mailing labels. The final step is sorting the newsletters for bulk mail — which has gotten much easier in recent years — and taking them to the main post office downtown for bulk mailing. Janet and Mark will be happy to help teach the next person or couple how to do everything. If you can help us with this task, please call Carol Lee at 745-8120. The Wallace's would like to pass the torch.



Two young Virginia Opossums -
Baby Season - just around the corner

Adoptions

"Jasper" our resident Barn Owl was adopted by Gail Barnes for her niece Aidan Gordon of El Paso, Texas.

"Jasper" was also adopted by Gail Barnes for her niece Abbey Gordon of Syracuse, New York

"C.C." our beautiful Bald Eagle was adopted by Gail Barnes for her nephew Patrick Gordon of El Paso, Texas.

"C.C." was also adopted by Beth O'Neil Atkins of Hale Center, Texas, for Lenora Neil Atkins of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"Gracie" the Gray Fox was adopted by Gail Barnes for her friend Marilyn Crow of Garland, Texas.

"Ollie" the little bat was adopted by Sandy Owens for Greg and Dee Hendrickson of Tyler, Texas for Christmas.

"Ollie" was also adopted by Janis and Larry Gailey for Caisey and Jaxson Gailey of Lubbock.

"Bobby" was adopted for Christmas by Sandy Owens for Randy and Nancy Hendrickson, also of Tyler, Texas.

"Bobby" was adopted by Janis and Larry Gailey for Caisey and Jaxson Gailey

"Bobby" was also adopted by Drs. Maria Rivas and James Goss for granddaughter Sophie Rivas of Lubbock.

"Bobby" was also adopted by Delanie Andrews of Lubbock.

"Bobby" was also adopted by Steve and Betty Warring of Lubbock.

"Bobby" was also adopted by Barbara and Stephen Fyffe of Floydada, Texas.

"Louie" our little blind Eastern Screech Owl was also adopted by Drs. Maria Rivas and James Goss for their granddaughter Sophie Rivas.

"Ricky" was also adopted by Drs. Maria Rivas and James Goss for their granddaughter Sophie Rivas.

"Shadow" the Barred Owl was adopted by John and Julie Thomas for Julie's mother, Mary Ruth Steffens, of Kearney, Nebraska.

"Shadow" was also adopted by Michael and Marilyn Cochrane of Lubbock.

"Shadow" was also adopted by Ed and Kay Sones, wildlife rehabilitators from Cedar Park, Texas who cared for Shadow when she was first injured.

"Shadow" was also adopted by the couple who undoubtedly saved her life when they rescued her: Loyd and Lois Shrout of Manor, Texas.

"Percy" was adopted by Margot Walker of Ransom Canyon, Texas,

"Percy" was adopted by Barbara and Stephen Fyffe of Floydada, Texas.

"Empress" was adopted by Dr. Robert and Nancy Bethea of Lubbock.

"Festus" was adopted by Dr. Robert and Nancy Bethea.

"Harris" was also adopted by Dr. Robert and Nancy Bethea.



"Fifi"

On December 31, 2005, our resident Striped Skunk "Fifi" died. She'd been with us since 1998. She was rescued from floodwaters as an infant and brought to us. She was retaining fluid, and her blood work was abnormal. Fifi died during exploratory surgery, and biopsies indicated the tumors on her liver were cancer. She was always one of our most endearing ambassadors, and she'll be sadly missed. "Fifi" was adopted by **Deana Miller** of Lubbock. Her memory will be kept alive.

"Maddie" was adopted by Barbara Fyffe of Floydada, Texas for Kay Hicks, also of Floydada, in Memory of Bill Hicks.

"Maddie" was also adopted by by Dr. Robert and Nancy Bethea

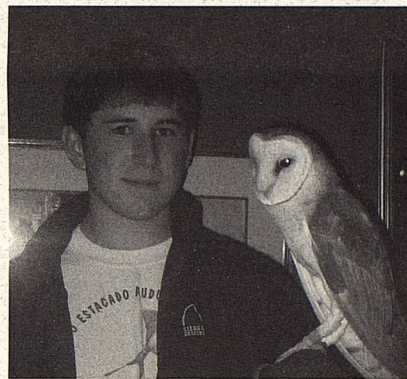
There were two other adoptions:

"Bobby" was adopted by Mrs. Salinas' 3rd grade class at Roscoe Wilson Elementary

"Ollie" was adopted by Delanie Andrews' 5th grade class at Harwell Elementary

Education Programs

Six education programs were presented during January and February. On January 24th, many of our volunteers accompanied me to our annual Audubon program, hosted by the local Llano Estacado Society. We took many of our wildlife ambassadors, including "C.C." our Bald Eagle. About 120 visitors were present, and we all had a great time once again.



Will Hellman holds "Jasper" Audubon
(Photo by Shannon McIntire)

On January 26th, Hodges Elementary students were treated to a program on bats by bat rehabilitator Gail Barnes. February 3rd we hosted a tour of our facility for Lubbock Christian University students. February 22nd was a busy day: the Focus Life Group from Texas Tech University visited, Bozeman Elementary fifth graders visited, and Carol did a program for the Twentieth Century Club. If you're interested in a program for your school or group, call Gail or Debbie at the Center at (806) 799-2142 to schedule. There is a nominal charge. We stop doing programs around mid-March when we get very busy.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to everyone who supports our efforts. We appreciate every penny, and be assured that it goes directly to the treatment, care and housing of the wild animals entrusted to us.

\$20,000.00

Dora Roberts Foundation, Big Spring, Texas

\$1500.00

South Plains Veterinary Medical Assn.

\$1000.00

Dennis McDaniel, Wolfforth, TX
Richard and Karline Jensen
Karen Poole, Poole Chemical Company,
Texline, Texas
Dr. and Mrs. Harold Smith,
Ransom Canyon, Texas

\$500.00

Tom McLaughlin

\$700.00

Dr. and Mrs. Brent Nall

\$300.00

Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Terry Kruczek

\$250.00

Dr. Hakam Kayasseh
Jane and Charles Peek

\$200.00

Jason and Simone Costanza, Sudan, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Breitweiser, Midland, TX
Robert and Shirley Flache, Brownfield, TX
Lubbock Balloon Club
Pat and Emerson Tucker

\$150.00

Mozella Tew

\$100.00

Audrey Beckman
James and M.J. Eissinger
Ron and Cathy Galey
Margaret Gates, Artesia, NM
Mary and John Gillas
Pat and Laura Gordon- El Paso, TX
Llano Estacado Audubon Society (Sponsors:
Raptors on the Prairie Conference 2006)
Dr. George and Mrs. Pat Jury
Judie and Gerald Marquis, Nashville, TN
Jan and Bob Matthews (Sponsors: Raptors
on the Prairie Conference 2006)

Juanice Myers
Mrs. Deana Paone
Loyd and Lois Shrout, Manor, TX
Jason and Simone Cotanza, Sudan, TX
Margot Walker, Ransom Canyon, Texas
Betty and Steve Warring
Kathy and Frank Wynne, Crestview, KY

\$75.00

Floyd and Clarice Robertson
William and Deanna Schwartz
Leanna Smith, Levelland, TX
Donald and Willie Haragan
Lisa Bruster

\$50.00

Anonymous Gift
Dentler Erdmann for a "Merry Christmas"
Lisa and Larry Gilliland
Pat Hollingworth
Mary Beth and A.L. Mangum
Deana Miller
Dr. and Mrs. James Moyes
Joann Neal
Mary and Thomas Prendergast, El Paso
Nancy B. Reed
Cindy Reinhardt
Ed and Kay Sones, Cedar Park, Texas
Mary Lee Schuette, Ransom Canyon, Texas

\$40.00

Jeanne Griffin

\$25.00

Cindy Brown
Gary and Jane Ann Casey
Marilyn and Michael Cochrane
John and Janeen Holmes Gilliam
Drs. James Goss and Maria Rivas
Nancy Anderson Chapter - National
Society Daughters of the American
Revolution
Maurice and Pat Hartman for
"A Job Well Done"
Rebecca and Robert Veach - a Gift for
Myrt Veach at Christmas
David and Debbie Winters, Plainview, TX
Albert Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
Don and Robin Parks

\$20.00

Sandy and Alan Henry
Glenn and Valerie Komkov Hill
Chuck Marlow
Bill Van Pelt, Washington, D.C.
Linda Peterson
Sheila Randel
Linda Steffey
Linda Washburn

Do you need a gift? Consider a 1- year subscription to The Mockingbird Chronicles with subscriptions starting at \$20.00.

You can also sponsor one of our education ambassadors on the following page for a year.

Your gift is tax-deductible and you'll be helping wildlife at the same time.

Your recipient will be notified by mail of your gift in their behalf.

The Wildlife Center accepts **PayPal** - just click on the icon on our web page at spwrc.org

Note: If your gift arrived after February 23, 2006, it will appear in our June quarterly newsletter. If I inadvertently missed listing you, please let me know.

Thank You for Supplies!

Thanks to Dr. Suman Ahuja and Sufyay Mohammed for three space heaters. Thank you also for supplies from Lewrie Close, Mary Gillas; Bill Conway, (canned food); the Funk family, Shallowater, Texas and Mary Neal.

Thanks also to Willie Haragan for a cooler; to I.J. Tate and D. Miller for pecans and trash bags, to Floyd and Clarice Robertson for cracked corn; to Kristi Drake and Morgan McIlwain for aquariums, Dr. Holle Humphries for a live trap, and Bill Van Pelt of Washington, D.C. for office supplies. Also, one kind person left us three full bags of pecans in the shell - we thank you!

Please be sure to fill out a purple slip and leave your name if you drop off items for us in our animal drop off building.

Adopting a Wildlife Ambassador Helps Pay for its Annual Care

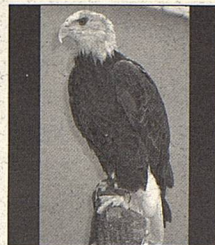
EACH \$50

SIERRA, RIGHT
GOLDEN EAGLE
PERCY, FAR RIGHT
AM. WHITE PELICAN



C.C., RIGHT \$50

BALD EAGLE
EMPRESS, FAR RIGHT
\$40
PEREGRINE FALCON



EACH \$40

BUBO 2, RIGHT
GREAT HORNED OWL
BOBBY, FAR RIGHT
BOBCAT



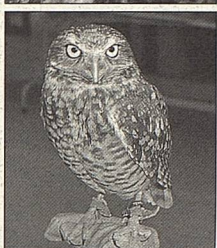
GRACIE, RIGHT \$40

GRAY FOX
JASPER, FAR RIGHT \$35
COMMON BARN OWL



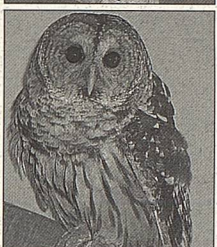
HOOTIE, RIGHT \$35

BURROWING OWL
RICKY, NEXT RIGHT \$35
ALBINO RACCOON
HARRIS, CENTER \$30
HARRIS'S HAWK
OLLIE, NEXT RIGHT \$30
M. FREE-TAILED BAT
FESTUS, FAR RIGHT \$30
TURKEY VULTURE



SHADOW, RIGHT \$35

BARRED OWL
MADDIE, FAR RIGHT \$30
AMERICAN KESTREL



EACH \$25

LOUIE, RIGHT
EASTERN SCREECH OWL
ATHENA, FAR RIGHT
EASTERN SCREECH OWL



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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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Amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____
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Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

(Addr) _____

☐ Gift ☐ Gift in memory of _____☐ Membership amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____☐ Adoption of _____ Amount \$ _____

Please acknowledge to (Name) _____

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♦ Please make checks payable to SPWRC ♦ Send to: SPWRC ♦ c/o Carol Lee ♦ 3101 77th Street ♦ Lubbock, TX 79423 ♦ Thank you ♦

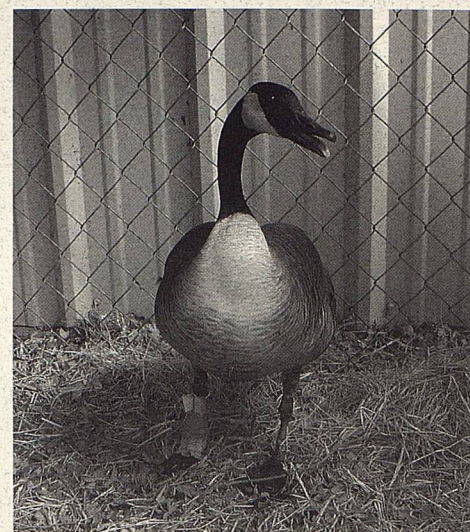
Extraordinary Rescue Efforts

Stay tuned for an update on this Canada Goose in our June quarterly. Hours before the newsletter went to press February 24th, we got some bad news - the right leg that everyone thought was healing took a turn for the worse. After nine days of thinking this bird would have a full recovery, we had a shock. It was most unexpected because he was bearing weight, standing and walking on the affected leg for the past week, as well as the day before. Two months ago he was living a miserable existence on the playa lake at Dupree Park. Floyd and Clarice Robertson first reported his plight in early January after seeing him all tangled up in fishing line. Every attempt to capture the goose came up empty-handed, and to make rescue even harder, the bird could fly. Each passing day compromised him more. Suddenly their postings to the local Audubon Listserv stopped, and we feared the worst. At last on February 15th, the Robertsons outsmarted

the big bird, and while Floyd offered corn, Clarice crept up from behind and caught him. Dr. Jeanette Lubenau went to work at her veterinary clinic to remove the embedded line.

Almost down to the bone, the line was completely removed and he was started on antibiotics.

However, the morning of February 24th, the worst happened. When the bandage was removed for the daily dressing change, the foot was merely dangling. Circulation had ceased and the foot and part of the leg had to be amputated. Hopefully he will do well during the post-op period, and be able to live an almost normal life by summer. Without human intervention he would have had no chance at all, and we never want to discourage people from trying to help wildlife in need.



**Please pick up your fishing line -
Some birds' lives may depend on it -
mine did!**



David Marshall
Southwest Collection-TTU
P.O. Box 41041
Lubbock, TX 79409

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