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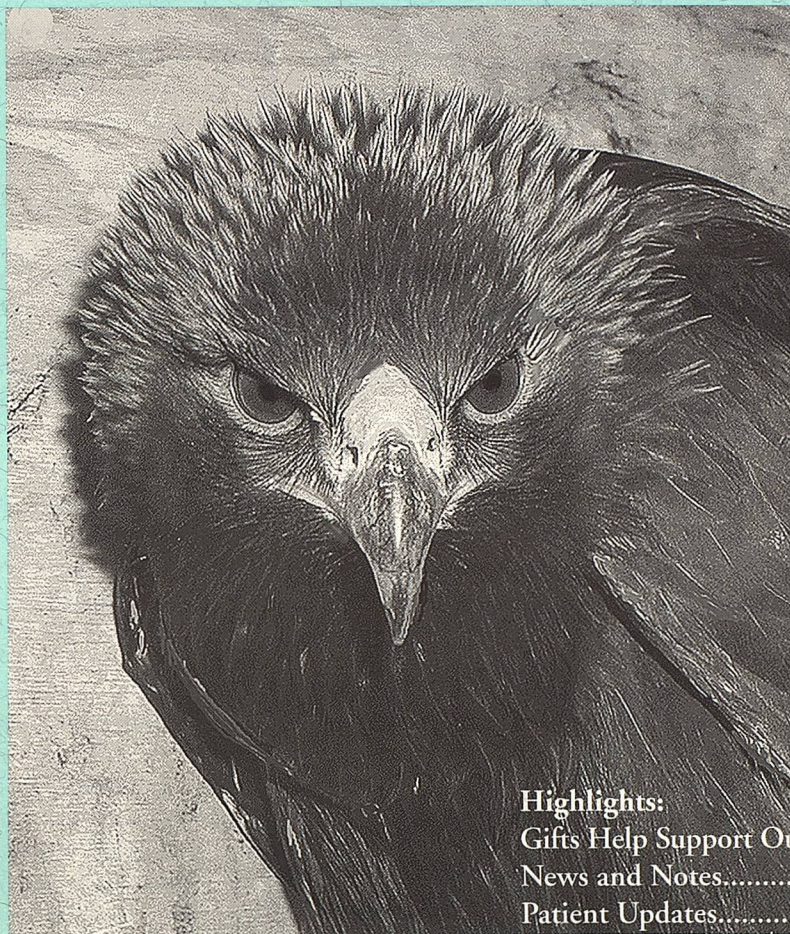
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# The Mockingbird Chronicles



Newsletter of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center,

Number 1 / 2004



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### Letter from the Director

## Spring Brings Renewed Enthusiasm

The winter of 2003 was the busiest ever as the administrative duties of running the Wildlife Center continually increase and often seem overwhelming. Our state and federal records were due January 31st, and of all times, our computer crashed and died. Data entered the previous few months was lost and had to be re-entered when the new computer arrived.

Our state and federal permit officers kindly gave me an extension until March 1st. The amount of paperwork seemed insurmountable, but the required wildlife and education records were all mailed February 28th. It was a huge sigh of relief.

This newsletter is behind schedule because of my own computer woes at home, but I'm probably the only one who gets stressed out about it. I try to focus each day on the good things happening around me, namely that the Wildlife Center is truly blessed. We have the support of many wonderful and generous people, and we always seem to have what we need.

So many people were happy that the Wildlife Center was here for the beautiful Trumpeter Swans that we helped in December (page 6). Although a bittersweet story, the ending was happy for two of the birds.

"Thorn," our Golden Eagle, is showing promise of recovery after a run-in with a porcupine. A Red-tailed Hawk electrocuted in November will soon be released. Another Golden Eagle with visual impairment will be placed - we're happy we could help him, too. The Roadrunner on the cover of our Holiday issue will be back in the wild by the time you read this. There is much satisfaction every day.

Facilitator Cindy Reinhardt of Lubbock helped volunteers to better understand each other as we worked with her to hone our skills as team members. Primary caretakers continue to meet weekly for an hour to discuss policies, wildlife cases and future plans.

Those future plans are dreams that are coming true, like our long awaited outdoor environmental learning center, that we broke

ground on in late February (See page 4). I realized we accomplished so much in 2003 as I updated our Guidestar information. This is a database of some 600,000 charitable organizations making it possible for donors to look at our track record. Of four goals for 2003, we completed three capital improvements. Number 4 is building a mammal enclosure, and that's presently being planned. Our financial information for 2003 will be updated on Guidestar shortly by our CPA, Pat Harris. (Guidestar.com).

We're proud of our achievements and especially the fact that we remain 100% volunteer. We appreciate your support. We work hard, we believe in what we do, and we have definitely made a difference for wildlife on the Texas South Plains.

*Carol*

Cover:: "Thorn" - one lucky Golden Eagle  
His story is on page 7

### Upcoming Events

Junior Volunteer Meeting April 17, 2004  
from 11-12 Noon, Godeke Library, Loop & Quaker, for students ages 12-17 and parents  
This meeting is for questions and sign-ups

A Night On The Wild Side at the Llano Estacado Winery, Saturday, May 8th from 6-9 PM - See details inside and give us a call if you'd like to donate an item for our Silent Auction!

"The Nature of Art" coming up Friday and Saturday October 1st and 2nd at the Caprock Winery. Emphasis will be on nature in art, and especially wildlife in art. If you are an artist and would like more information about the event, call Beth Bartley - (806) 797-8285

Annual Open House Saturday, June 19th 2004 from 11 AM until 2 PM Admission is \$1.00 for children 4 and up and adults. This is always a popular event when the public can look behind the scenes while we are at our busiest!

The Mockingbird Chronicles is a quarterly publication of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc. (SPWRC). The Wildlife Center is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization 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 entirely through the support of private donations and volunteer service, as no SPWRC staff member is paid. Donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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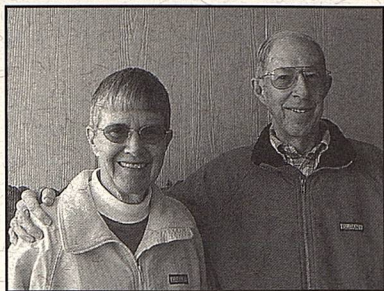
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South Plains Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Center Inc.  
3308 95th St.  
Lubbock, TX 79423  
806-799-2142  
www.spwrc.org

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



## Volunteer Spotlight: BeBe and Art McCasland



**Bebe and Art McCasland**

Bebe and Art McCasland of Big Spring, Texas have been helping wildlife - particularly birds - for thirty years this month. The McCaslands have dealt with approximately 122 species over the years, and continue to shuttle wildlife to our Center on a regular basis. Bebe and Art hold state and federal permits and provide temporary care, and they then turn animals over to us as they approach independence or need flight cage conditioning. Bebe says their funniest rescue was the Great Blue Heron in the drunk tank at the Big Spring City Jail. Found in the middle of the road on an overpass, he was lucky to not get a ticket! The highest rescue was removing a nestling Red-tailed Hawk from a microwave tower, and the lowest was rescuing a Barn Owl from the bottom of an old water tower 5 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep.

Bebe's most dangerous rescue was crawling the length of an Animal Control pickup cage on her knees (the cage was only that high anyway) to capture a frightened and angry Great Horned Owl. The most strenuous rescue involved chasing a Sandhill Crane with a broken wing over more than a mile of plowed cotton fields and through a bull pen with an outraged bovine.

The MacCaslands agree that their most exhilarating rescue ever was that of an injured Peregrine Falcon. From airport hangers and doghouses to chimneys and trees, they've had the privilege to come in contact with so many fascinating species of wild animals. Bebe says modestly, "We are only a small part of the effort to return wildlife back to nature."

We thank you so much, Bebe and Art for your ongoing work on behalf of wildlife!

## A True Gift: Touched by the Enormous Generosity of an Anonymous Benefactor

In January I received a phone call one afternoon from a gentleman who wanted to know a little more about the Wildlife Center. He wanted to know if we had a Board of Directors, where our donations come from and what we do with our funds.

We had a long conversation, and then he said he would like to give a gift of \$25,000. I was speechless. In return, he asked that he remain anonymous. This is only the second time in the Wildlife Center's sixteen-year history that a large donation was given anonymously. This is a true gift, and we are so sincerely appreciative of this generosity on behalf of wildlife.

A significant portion was put into our savings account where it is accruing interest; a portion will be used for wildlife food, formulas, and supplies, and a portion will be used toward our outdoor education center. (You can read about this project on the next page). It is wonderful to know that Lubbock has some wonderful and altruistic residents, and this unselfish gesture will never be forgotten. We thank you for sharing our love and passion for wildlife, and for your most generous support of our efforts!

## South Plains Veterinary Medical Association Renews Support of the Wildlife Center

The South Plains Veterinary Medical Association gave us a vote of confidence again this year with a generous check of \$1500.00. Dr. Robert Richards of Animal Hospital of Lubbock is President of this organization. "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 sincerely appreciative of their

financial support again this year, and we thank all the members of the Association!



Please note: In our last newsletter, our website address (see facing page) was incorrect. The typo was corrected and the correct address is spwrc.org

## A Gift From Another Lover of Animals

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, the Wildlife Center received a check in the amount of \$7,000.00 from the Ruth Wright Fund for Animals, a component fund of the Lubbock Area Foundation.

Ruth was born in Lubbock January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1929, and was a lifelong Lubbock resident. Her parents were among the earliest settlers of Lubbock. She attended Lubbock High and then went on to Texas Tech University where she received B.A. and M.A. degrees before earning her doctoral degree from American University. Dr. Wright taught public school in both Slaton and Lubbock before joining the Political Science Department of Texas Tech where she was a respected member of the faculty for nearly 30 years. She married Elmer Wright on Dec. 21, 1964, in Lubbock. He died June 29, 1998.

Dr. Wright had a lifelong interest in political science and authored numerous articles in the field of American government and a textbook on Texas government. She was a popular and well-liked professor who received the Omicron Delta Kappa faculty recognition award from the student body in 1981. She was also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, Sigma Delta Pi, Delta Delta Delta and the American Political Science Association. She was also a member of the Lubbock Club and the Lubbock Country Club, where she was active in both the Women's Tennis Association and the Women's Golf Association.

Dr. Wright retired from Texas Tech in 1983.

She had great love for her pets, and that love eventually evolved to encompass animals in general. In her will, she directed that her estate be used by the Lubbock Area Foundation for the support of organizations that provide care for animals that are lost, abandoned, or injured.

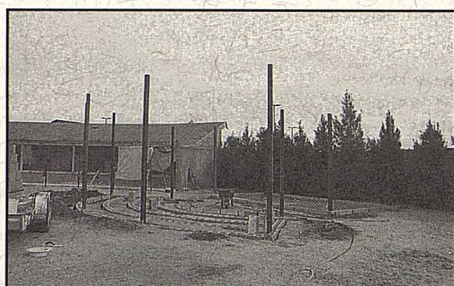
The Foundation will preserve her estate as a permanent endowment for that purpose, seeking out and providing annual grants from the endowment to the organizations and programs in this area that provide care and rehabilitation of animals.

Funds we received from this "Fund for Animals" are earmarked for wildlife and raptor food, wildlife and veterinary supplies.



# Building Excitement!

On February 28th, we broke ground on our outdoor environmental learning center. This project has been anticipated for a long time, and is one step closer to the completion of our Master Site Plan - a design developed in the spring of 1999 for the Wildlife Center by Klaus Scholz and the Department of Landscape Architecture at Texas Tech.



**Breaking Ground on  
Outdoor Learning Center**

Landscape architect and Tech graduate Tom Boudreau drew up plans based on our ideas. After our Board approved them, we were ready to move forward. Tom and his brother Jerry set out to find just the right kinds of rock, stone and natural materials to fit in with our overall landscape plans.

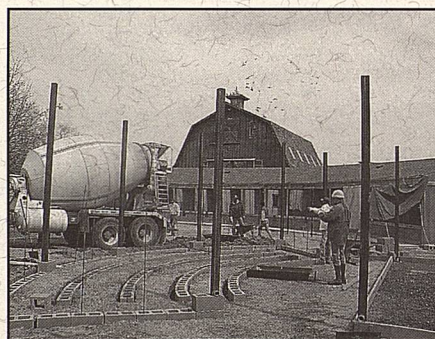
This area will allow us to expand our educational outreach programs. Nearby is "Ambassador Row," and volunteers will be able to bring our birds of prey just outside to the new amphitheater. This will make doing programs so much easier on both volunteers and birds. No longer limited, we'll be able to do programs almost anytime of the day or evening and on weekends as our resources allow. We'll also have a place where students can come for lunch and a morning of visiting and learning about owls, hawks, eagles or vultures.

There will be five rows of stadium-type seating, a 10 x 24 x 12 flagstone "stage," a water feature and native plants. The vine-covered seating area will accommodate about 100 children or about 70 adults.

Start-up funds for this project are from the Estate of Ann Bowman Lee. Other contributors to date are Dr. and Mrs. Clyde Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stapp, an anonymous benefactor, and the Chapman Forestry Foundation. This will be a wonderful addition and greatly enhance our education efforts.

Why are our capital improvements so important? Each year there is increased demand for our services, as wildlife casualties pour in from near and far. We must provide the best care and housing possible for every patient.

Back in 1988, I cared for all the baby birds, mammals and raptors in the house on site. None of the out buildings had electricity and all our tiny patients require heating pads, incubators, and warm surroundings. The wildlife census grew annually, and soon we were bursting at the seams. When Managers Debbie and Rick Tennyson moved into the house in November 1993, Debbie took over care of the baby mammals in the back room of their house, and I took all the baby birds home to raise in a 'bird room' constructed for that purpose. These efforts continued until we had enough money to build our first building. That became a reality in December 2000. By 2001 our animal drop off building was in place. Next, we replaced the dilapidated and leaky wooden aviary in June, 2002. This half-way house gives birds and small mammals an area to fly and exercise prior to release. In June 2003 we completed "Ambassador Row" - the building that houses the birds of prey we take to schools.



**Cement is poured March 11, 2004**

In November 2003, we finished the 24 x 55 x 16 flight cage, where our recuperated raptors can exercise before they are set free.

Our outdoor amphitheater is presently our highest priority for the next stage of improvement.

The three-story 3000 + square foot barn that housed our birds of prey for years is virtually empty now. It will be gutted inside, and all three floors will be completely redesigned. Lubbock designer Eldon Bennett of E.B. Design in Lubbock was selected to do blueprints for the barn's interior, and that's coming up next!

The barn's first floor will become the rehabilitation area - bird care on one side and mammals on the other. We also want a room that will serve as an examination room and can also be used for simple surgeries, X-Rays, or lab work. We'd also like to add two small cubicles that will serve as office space.

A display in the barn will recognize all of you that bought square footage and received certificates some years ago when we are in our final and permanent location.

## News and Notes:

Welcome to our newest Board Member, Melody Sisk. Melody is branch manager at the newest Lubbock National Bank at 96th and Slide Roads.

Big thanks to Center Managers Debbie and Rick Tennyson for a donation towards the new computer desk in our work building.

Volunteers Gail Barnes, Jerrie Rodgers, Jeremy Hull and Lindi Van Heukelon took several of our ambassadors to help celebrate Texas Independence Day on campus, March 6th.

Thank you to Kathy Wynne of Louisville, KY for donating a new Lexmark printer to us! Kathy was also a wonderful tour guide while we were in Louisville for the raptor conference.

We admitted a Swainson's Hawk that center volunteers Kathy Phillips and Angie Wilkins picked up from Cotton Center in November. Examination revealed entry and exit wounds from electrocution. Electrocuted birds are almost never found in time for us to salvage, and much of the damage is internal.

This lucky hawk, however, will be the first electrocuted raptor we've been able to save AND release. Release will be in late March.





## More News and Notes:

Special thanks to the following for a wonderful romantic evening on Valentine's Day. About 90 guests enjoyed a wonderful gourmet meal, a lovely belly dancer, and great music! Thank you City Bank!

Mr. Curtis Griffith

Mr. Mike Liner

Mr. Richard Whittenburg

Chef Angela Vazquez

Pam Marshall (Box of Rain Floral)

Mike Pritchard's

Blue Thunder and Lightning Horns

Good luck to Patsy Yowell, office manager at Animal Medical Center for the past 24 years. Patsy is retiring March 31st. Veterinarians, staff and families honored Patsy recently at the County Line Restaurant's Escondido Room. We'll miss you, Patsy!

Congratulations to Dalla Guerrieri and Tracy Barden who are following their dreams and starting a catering business, "Ransom Canyon Catering." Dalla says, "You dream it, we do it." Longtime Wildlife Center supporters, we wish you luck! call Dalla or Tracy for details. Home: (806) 829-2759 or cell 535-6294. You choose the menu, they design an impressive affair. Dalla & Tracy catered our wedding reception in 2003, and turned ordinary food into works of art!

More thanks are due for donations toward Eagle Scout candidate Jayce Lowe's fence replacement project featured in our last issue. Thank you to: Fleet Pickup Accessories, South Plains Wildlife Center, Eddie & Martha Taylor, People's Bank, Farmer HOse and Supply Co., First Bank and Trust, Plains National Bank, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal (Norval Pollard), Home Depot, United Supermarkets and the Neuromuscular Rehabilitation Clinic.

On January 9th, 2004, "Wildlife Friday" was resurrected by our local CBS-TV affiliate and Debbie is doing the segment on the station's Morning Show at 6:50 AM. As always, she'll take an interesting animal to talk about and educate viewers.

Congratulations to volunteer Angie Wilkins, who just opened her a new business at the Kingsgate shopping center. "Lil' Footprints" is an upscale children's shoe store carrying name brand shoes and accessories. We all wish you much success in your new venture! Angie has a "Wishing Well" in her store, and will donate the proceeds to the Wildlife Center. Thank you!



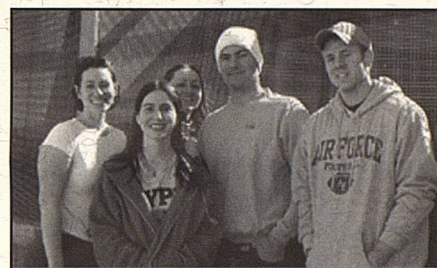
**Brent Wilkins holds Bald Eagle "C.C." at the Audubon program**

Volunteers and wildlife ambassadors were on hand January 27th as guests of the Llano Estacado Audubon chapter for a program. About 65 area residents attended, and had the opportunity to take photos and ask questions.

Welcome to Texas Tech intern Kimberly Martin. Kimberly aspires to be a veterinarian, and is interning under the sponsorship of Dr. Lou Densmore. Welcome also to Julie Daniel, new education intern working under Dr. Julie Thomas in the College of Education at Tech. Dr. Mark Wallace is sponsoring two interns, Pace Richter, a freshman majoring in Wildlife Management, and Lawson Dennis, senior in the Range, Wildlife & Fisheries Department. We appreciate this faith in our efforts by members of the Texas Tech faculty.

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority." E.B. White (1899 - 1985) Elwyn Brooks White wrote the charming children's book, *Charlotte's Web*...Ed.

Almost two dozen students from Texas Tech's co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega helped out at the Center February 28<sup>th</sup> for another work day. Service Vice President Tracy Prinsen coordinates the service projects. Students come each semester to help with anything and everything. This day they raked leaves, trimmed Trumpet Vines, cleaned the waterfowl pond and the barn. Students were given a tour and thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent with us. Tracy said, "We look forward to coming again next semester, and thanks for letting us help you!" On Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>, five Texas Tech's School of Environmental Law Society spent the morning at the Center and gave our aviary a thorough cleaning just in time for baby bird season. They also helped with laundry and met a few of our patients. Thanks to Kayla Murray for organizing this once again!



**Meghan Frkuska, Kayla Murray, Janelle Humphrey, Brad Anderson and Trey Russ**

Everyone was delighted when our raven "Samson" who flew the coop in November returned after two weeks away! When the last newsletter went to press, we had all but given up on ever seeing Samson again.

Thanks to volunteer Ray Nitzschke for getting us up and running again after a fatal crash of our computer in January.

Our Junior Volunteer program will be up and running again this summer for teens age 12-17. Join us Saturday April 17th, from 11-12 to ask questions and sign up - parents welcome! We need 3 adults to help oversee our young helpers.



## Trumpeter Swans Go Full Circle

### Two Surviving Trumpeter Swans Get Second Chance

The evening of December 13th, 2003, Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden Mark Collins brought three gravely injured Trumpeter Swans to the Wildlife Center. An entire Trumpeter family of at least five birds were shot with a shotgun by poachers earlier that day and left to die in a field in Lockney. A pheasant hunter phoned authorities, and Collins showed up with warden Jay Oyler. Two birds were dead, and three gravely injured. It took some ingenuity and Collin's lasso to capture them. Trumpeter Swans weigh about 30 pounds, and there is *never* a 'season' on them. Protected by state and federal laws, their populations were nearly decimated at the turn of the century because of over-hunting, habitat loss and other causes.

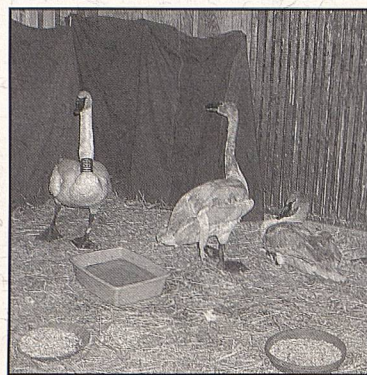


"H99," had a bright red neck collar and leg bands, and his two cygnets had leg bands. He was hatched in captivity as part of the Iowa Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project in 1999 in West Bend. He was released in March 2000 at Grovers Lake, 7 miles northwest of Spirit Lake, Iowa. At some point he paired up with a wild free-flying female and the pair hatched 4 cygnets and traveled south with them during the 2003 migration.

On December 15th, Rob Lee called waterfowl technician Dave Hoffman of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It was decided that the swans would be returned to Iowa when they were well enough to travel,

and placed with swan rehabilitator Linda Hinshaw in Spirit Lake on the Iowa Great Lakes.

Sadly, one of the juveniles had to be euthanized. His leg was shattered, and he would lose part of one wing. Despite surgery, it was decided by all caretakers and the Iowa DNR to relieve the bird's pain and suffering.



The juvenile on the ground was euthanized - it could not stand, and would lose part of its leg

Trumpeter Swans are rarely sighted in Texas, and we'd now focus on the two remaining bird -all efforts would be directed on their survival. Devastated and depressed, they would not eat, and had to be tube-fed several times a day, which was a major undertaking for both the birds and the volunteers that had to corral, hold, and feed them. Additionally, they had to be returned to the clinic for X-Rays, and Dr. Tim Polk also visited the Center for house calls. At last they began eating on their own, and there was finally hope for their survival.

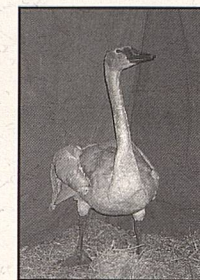
Meanwhile, back in Iowa, Linda Hinshaw sought more information on H99 and his cygnet. Many calls produced nothing. Finally, she called Lisa Innavaea of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Lisa plugged H99 into her computer and learned that H99 and his mate nested for three consecutive springs on a wetland located south of Sleepy



Eye, Minnesota. Now they knew he and his mate had bred successfully in the wild and raised a family.

*Photo:* Dave Hoffman holds the 30-pound cygnet at a rest stop

Plans were made to drive the birds back to Iowa. Volunteer Lindi VanHeukelon and her fiancé Joel Butler offered since Lindi was from Iowa, and had conducted tours at the Restoration Project area. They set out New Year's Eve on their long journey. New Year's Day they met Dave Hoffman in Des Moines, and turned the swans



over to him for the last leg of the trip to Linda Hinshaw's facility in Spirit Lake on the Iowa Great Lakes. Our photo of H99 is in the April issue of TPWD Magazine (page 17). Stay tuned for an update!

The cygnet seen here with his wing bandaged had complete healing and will fly free once again!

### Our Wish List

Monthly benefactors, fundraiser event sponsors, **volunteers**, good quality mixed bird seed, nuts (unsalted) in or out of the shell, Kleenex, Purina brand cat-chow, gift certificates from Animal Medical Center, Lowe's or United Grocery, office supply stores, Home Depot or Lowe's Home Improvement. We can also use pet carriers, paper goods, and sodas and snacks for our volunteers. If you bring items to our Animal Drop Off building, please leave your name so we can thank and acknowledge you!



## Update On "Thorn"

### The Eagle Landed - But Not on What He Expected

On November 25, 2003, a large bird was sighted standing in a pasture on a ranch south of Stanton, Texas. Hand Randy McCaleb approached the bird in his truck for a closer look. It didn't fly off - a red flag, and as he got out and moved toward it, it didn't fly off. McCaleb thought the bird might be an eagle.

He knew there were wildlife rehabilitators in nearby Big Spring, and called Bebe and Art McCasland. He wrapped the bird in his coat, and placed him inside the only thing he had - an ice chest. He drove the 40 or so miles to Big Spring, repeatedly lifting the lid so the bird could breathe. When McCaleb arrived, Bebe opened the cooler's lid and confirmed that the bird inside was a Golden Eagle.

Bebe knew the bird was in serious trouble when he offered no resistance as they transferred him to a large carrier. The couple dropped everything and made the 100-mile drive to the Wildlife Center in Lubbock.

The bird was beautiful and alert, but when volunteers gave him a thorough examination, the problem was evident - all the toes on both feet looked ghastly and were swollen to many times their normal size.

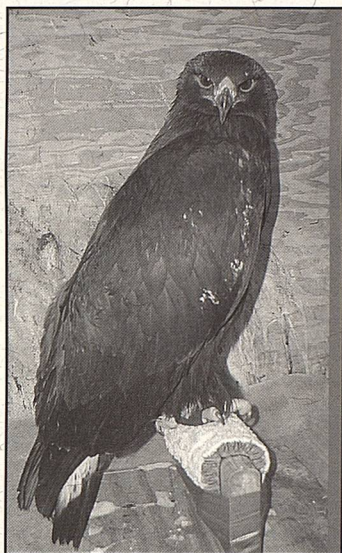
Early the next morning the eagle was taken to Animal Medical Center. Veterinarians knew that the problem affecting the bird's feet was the result of a terrible and unfortunate run-in with a porcupine. The immature and inexperienced eagle was looking for a meal but he certainly picked the wrong prey.

His mistake was costly and resulted in both feet packed full of quills, and if that weren't enough, cactus thorns were also found. We knew this would be a long and difficult case. Volunteers named the bird "Thorn" and treatment started immediately.

Stressful trips to the clinic several times weekly were necessary for ongoing removal of quills, thorns and dead tissue. Rubber drains were in place for a

time, and the feet were cleaned and re-bandaged on a regular basis. Back at the Wildlife Center, Thorn's feet were soaked twice a day in Epsom salts for three weeks. With each treatment, more and more quills came to the surface and were removed. Now his feet are scrubbed with antibacterial soap, and more than three months later, quills are still being taken out of both feet. Clinic visits are less frequent but about once a week Thorn is anesthetized and his wounds are thoroughly cleaned.

Center Manager Debbie Tennyson oversees Thorn's day-to-day care, and puts him in a sling in his cage periodically to remove all pressure from his feet.



For a while mid-February we almost gave up. I visited one afternoon and saw this gorgeous bird lying down in his wooden cage; the once-brilliant eyes now full of indifference. Thorn no longer had interest in his food and had to be force-fed. It appeared that he was giving up. I went home depressed. We considered euthanasia to end his pain and suffering, but no one wanted to make that decision. We just didn't want to give up. "One more

day," we said, "next time we unwrap the feet there just has to be progress." Our procrastination was the best thing that could ever have happened for Thorn.

The day for the final decision arrived. Dr. Farley unwrapped Thorn's feet. We could hardly believe our eyes, but this time there was visible improvement! There was new tissue and both feet were warm and less swollen. At last it looked like Thorn turned the corner and would survive his ordeal after all.

The eagle now has renewed interest in his food and eats on his own; his depression replaced with a feisty attitude. His cage is wheeled to the door on nice days where he can get fresh air and sunshine, something he clearly enjoys. There is once again hope for this beautiful bird.

Thorn may end up with tendon damage and may never be releasable back to the wild, but if that's the case, he'll be placed where he can be used for education.

We're all keeping our fingers crossed for his complete recovery.

### Honors and Memorials

Mr. Roger Key gave a generous gift of \$200.00 in Honor of Mrs. Ruth Briscoe, who reunited him with his lost dog. We sincerely thank you both for the gift in our behalf.

Judy Rainger gave a \$100.00 gift in honor of her friend, Jane Anne Stinnett of Lubbock.

John and Sue Morrow gave a Christmas contribution in honor of their children, Kathleen & Joe Mike, and Tim Morrow of Lubbock.

Haley Rice and Vena Cravey of Lubbock gave a Memorial in the name of Katy Gallagher, daughter of volunteer Gail Barnes. Gus Gallagher of Ingram, TX also gave a donation in Katy's name.

Marilyn Crow of Garland, TX gave a gift in honor of volunteers Gail & Larry Barnes.

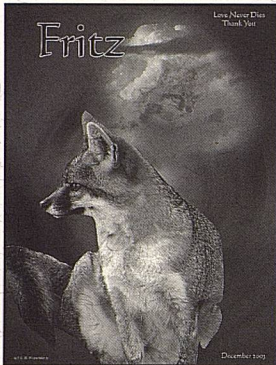
(List continues on page 10).



### In Memory of "Fritz"

"Fritz" was with us a long time. A beautiful and affectionate Gray Fox, Fritz suffered from Polycythemia for several years. His last days were filled with pain, and we gave him the gift of euthanasia December 18th. Dr. Lane Preston made a house call, and it was a very sad and difficult day for us all. We thank Drs. George and Luci Reichel for their great contributions toward his care, and helping us prolong his life for a year after his diagnosis at

Texas A & M University. The photo below was taken by volunteer Ray Nitzschke, and you can see Fritz looking down from the clouds. Fritz, you had a long and happy life but we miss you!



("Fritz" was removed from our Adoption page, but may still be adopted by special request. In his place, we added "Hootie" our Burrowing Owl. Because we are out of photo space on that page, we'll sometimes substitute our Barred Owl, "Shadow" for one of the other animals).

### Developing A Brochure....

John Raspberry's Graphic Design and Marketing students visited the Wildlife Center February 24<sup>th</sup>, and are working to design a brochure, posters and/or ads for us. We welcome the efforts of Tiffany Matthews, Clint White, Dustin Wallace, Suzie Goicoechea, and Jason Shasteen. (pictured in photo at left)



Thank you to Mr. Stuart Gentling of Fort Worth, Texas. The artist and writer spoke at the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech and donated his Honorarium to the Wildlife Center. Volunteers took several of our birds to his program. We appreciate your generosity!



A big thank you to NTS and Mr. Larry Dennis for providing at least one year of free DSL service to the Wildlife Center. This will be such a help with our computer work. Thank you!

### Baby Animals: What you should know

Spring marks the beginning of "baby" season when hundreds of baby birds and mammals will be admitted. Don't "kidnap" healthy baby birds - it is normal for them to be on the ground a few days perfecting their flying skills. If you find an injured bird or mammal, keep it warm, dark and quiet, and please **don't** feed it. Bring it to us as soon as possible. Our drop off building is always open, We are at 95th & Indiana, east side.

### Good Reasons to Subscribe!

A subscription to our 12-page quarterly newsletter, "*The Mockingbird Chronicles*" makes a great graduation, birthday, anniversary, thank you, retirement, new home, new job, or just an everyday gift, with memberships starting at \$20.00. You can also "adopt" one of our 14 permanent animals, send a Memorial, or make a donation in honor of a friend, loved one or pet. Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and the Center is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

### Save Your Stuff !

The Sierra Thrift store, benefitting the Wildlife Center is at 211 Broadway. Hours are 9-3 Tuesday -Saturday, and manager Mitchel Putman will pick up items on Sunday and Monday if you need help. Call 765-7887 for more information. Meanwhile, save clothes, household items, toys and furniture. Help wildlife at the same time you're simplifying your life by getting rid of unwanted items. Funds raised after expenses are donated to the Wildlife Center. Thanks, Mitchel!

## 2003 Wrap - Up: Wildlife and Education Statistics

The numbers are in for the wildlife work we did last year:

2158 - Total number of state and/or federally protected wildlife casualties admitted

1342 - Total number of birds (representing 74 species)

118 - Total number of hawks (this includes 46 falcons, the most numerous of which were 42 American Kestrels)

75 - Total number of owls (most numerous was the Barn Owl at 39) representing 5 species

760 - Total number of mammals (most numerous were 290 cottontails, 247 Gray Squirrels and 94 opossums) 20 mammal species were represented

56 - Total number of reptiles (including 30 Box Turtles and 14 Red-Eared Slider Turtles)

Volunteers also presented 40 Environmental Education programs to approximately 2,287 children and adults during 2003.

### Volunteers donated an amazing 17,646 hours during 2003.

This does not reflect the hours my husband and I donate, or those of our Board Members, service groups, Eagle Scout candidates or our three veterinarians, Larry Farley, Lane Preston and Tim Polk. We thank you one and all for sharing our commitment to wildlife!

I made a Memorial donation in the names of my two black male kitties. Moe died February 15th, and Merlin a week to the day later. Both were over 17 years old. Four-year -old "Socks" now takes over to keep our two dogs in check.

Please remember: the Wildlife Center is a place where animals are recuperating from illness or injuries or growing up. We are not open to the public unless you make special arrangements with Debbie or myself in advance. We are always glad to give our benefactors a tour, just call the Center at 799-2142 or feel free to call me at home: (806) 745-8120.

**Note: If your check arrived after March 17, it will be acknowledged in our next issue.**



**Thank you for your support!****Caprock Winery Holiday  
Wine Tasting**

President Don Roark  
 Mr. Kim McPherson.  
 Chef Angela Vazquez  
 Anna Ruth  
 Our sponsors: Animal Medical Center  
 Dr. Lou & Erika Densmore,  
 First Class Awards,  
 C. Mitchel Putman,  
 Robinson Burdette Martin & Seright, L.L.P.  
 Terry Taylor  
 Brent Anderson,  
 Charles Eubank, (The Country Frammer);  
 Mark Luchsinger  
 Broadway Bicycles  
 Circuit City  
 Willis Fine Jewelry  
 Keith's Jewelers  
 Debbie Tennyson  
 Willie Haragan  
 Beth Bartley  
 Leanna Smith  
 "Doc" Gillespie  
 Congressman Randy Neugebauer  
 Paul & Kathy Beach  
 Marcy Taylor  
 Dr. & Mrs. Jim Moyes  
 Dr. Gad Perry  
 Mr. Fred Hintze  
 Wyman Meinzer  
 Mr. Mark Farris.

Raising funds is essential to keeping our doors open and our bills paid. Each year since 1988 our census climbs - it never goes down.

We hope you'll join us at Llano Estacado Winery Saturday, May 8th, from 6-9 PM and enjoy fine wines and hors d'oeuvres by Ransom Canyon Catering. We'll have another great Silent Auction with themed baskets and special items including a weekend getaway to the Beach Ranch east of Post. Susan Grisanti will play beautiful music. Call Bonnie Bart at Mason, Warner and Company during business hours at 797-3251 for tickets. Reservations suggested. Some tickets may be available at the door. Proceeds will be used towards our outdoor amphitheater project.

Stay tuned for details of our October fundraiser in the summer issue. The dates are October 1-2 at Caprock Winery. The theme will be "The Nature of Art" with emphasis on nature, and of course, wildlife.

**More Thank Yous**

Thanks to Michael & Marilyn Cochrane and Dr. James Mason who contributed toward the care of the Trumpeter Swans. Rick Cohen donated the \$144.11 that was in the fountain at his store *Nature's Gifts* at South Plains Mall. Rick retired, and he and his unique and wonderful store will be missed! Our Christmas Open House raised \$464.00. Thanks to Mr. Kim McPherson who donated wine for the event. Visitors enjoyed a beautiful day, holiday refreshments, and the chance to see our newly completed flight cage.

Thanks to Estacado High School interns Angelique Stewart, Cassandra Jones, Amber King, Ysi Moreno, Jesse Perez, Rachel Barron and Magan Salas, and to sponsor Starla Ewan.

**RECORD ADOPTIONS!**

Janis and Larry Gailey adopted "Ricky" as well as adopted "Louie" for their granddaughter Casey Gailey of Lubbock

Jane Stuart adopted "Bobby"

Fred and Emma Hintze adopted "Bandit" for Grace Lovering of Lubbock  
 Judy Rainger adopted "Fifi" for the Hutchinson Junior High French Club

Carol Gogas, Midland, adopted "Bobby" as well as "Jasper" for her friend Nancy Sarnow in New Berlin, WI

Janelle Humphrey adopted "Fifi"

Carol Wolfe adopted "Bobby" for 12 year old Haylie Marshall

Mitzi Thomas's fourth grade class at Wheelock Elementary adopted "Jasper"

Dorothy and Stan Hanesworth of Matador adopted "Bobby" for David Hanesworth of Austin, and "Fifi" for John Hanesworth of San Antonio.

Dr. Lisa Dicke adopted "Mardigan"

Pam Casto adopted "Louie" for herself, "Bobby" for husband Bill, and "Bobby" also for her son Will.

"Festus" was adopted by Mary Asbell & Allan Mackenzie

Les and Shari Mullins of Midland adopted "Percy"

Four third grade classes at Roscoe Wilson Elementary adopted animals: Mrs. Henthorn's class adopted "Festus," Miss Nelson's class adopted "Jasper," Miss Johnson's class adopted "Louie," and Mrs. Salinas' class adopted "Percy."

Dr. James Goss and Dr. Maria Rivas adopted "Ricky" for Sophie Rivas

Tod and Dee Hardin adopted "Ricky" for Emma Hardin

**Thank You for Supplies or Services**

Gene and Deb Ortiz, Sandy Henry, Bluebonnet Feed, Marshall Holmes (Gebo's), Mary Wesley, Jay Reichard, Shirley Ryle, Toby McBride, Jill Hoover, James Patterson, Carrah Osborn, Christ The King school, Jeff Dailey, Ray Neitzschke, Jim Ann Batenhorst, Paula & Joe Yeager, HubStuff, Mike & Danette Gallagher, Fred Crowell, Pam Marshall (Box of Rain Floral), Bill Van Pelt, Jane Stuart, Lubbock Adult Day Care, Godeke Library, Sandy Owens, Margaret Hamilton.

**A special thank you to  
PetsMart for Supplies !****MORE NOTES:**

We desperately need a few volunteers that can help out from 6:30-8:30 or 9 PM any day of the week. This is often one of our busiest periods, and baby birds must be fed every half hour or so until dusk. Baby mammals also have to be fed and settled for the night. We also need a person or two who would be willing to stop by the Center, pick up a grocery list, and go shopping for us once or twice a week.

Watch for future issues of *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine - we're told that some of our raptors will be pictured in an upcoming issue following a visit from TPWD photographer, Tom Hicks.

Also keep your eye on the national "*Audubon*" magazine as well - our facility was selected for inclusion in an upcoming article about Audubon members that have wildlife rehabilitation facilities. I spoke with one of the editors from New York in early March.

Unfortunately, the Gopher Snake featured in our last issue did not survive. Thanks to Dr. Gad Perry and wife Kate for help with his care.



# Acknowledgments

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

## Our Monthly Benefactors

Carre Avian  
Travis and Lisa Bruster  
A.J. and Cindy Burkes, Denver City, TX  
Barbara Davis, Rising Star, TX  
Joyce Komkov  
Joyce Lisenby  
Davis Melton  
Tom McLaughlin  
William and Deanna Schwartze

### \$25,000.00

Anonymous

### \$5000.00

Dr. and Mrs. David Close

### \$1500.00

South Plains Veterinary Medical Association

### \$1,000

Dr. and Mrs. Clyde Jones  
Mr. Terry Taylor, D & D Cable  
Carisa Carlton

### \$400 - \$500.00

Dr. & Mrs. Brent Nall  
Karen Poole, Poole Chemical Co., Texline  
Gary & Linda Stewart  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Wilkes,  
Ransom Canyon, TX

### \$200-\$250.00

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bisbee  
John and Mary Gillas  
Shirley Flache, Brownfield  
Renee Meunier  
Jewel Mogan

### \$125.00-\$150.00

Stuart Gentling and Texas Tech University  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Shields  
Mr. Tom Walker  
Ed Mason and Nancy Ridenour,  
Bloomington, IL

### \$100.00

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bethea  
Martha and Jon Cieszinski  
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Culp  
M.J. and James Eissinger  
Leslie & Richard Hansen, Los Alamos,  
NM  
Mrs. Mia Diekemper Maddoux  
Gerald and Judie Marquis, Nashville, TN  
Ludim Pedroza, Cedar Park, Texas  
Mr. Fred C. and Dr. Cheryl Weber

### \$50.00

Kathleen Austin  
Whitney Barnett  
Christine and Calvin Carter, Abernathy  
Dr. James Goss & Dr. Maria Rivas  
Ann Hagberg  
Morrie & Pat Hartman  
Dr. Karen Holman, Amarillo  
Warren & Esther Pearce, Maitland, FL  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Simpson  
Leanna Smith, Levelland  
Nancy Talley  
Bob & Vicky Tate  
Gary & Linda Woodruff  
Kathy Wynne, Crestwood, KY

### \$25.00 - \$30.00

Mary Asbell & Allan Mackenzie  
Nelda Brooks  
Daniel and Jean Cantore  
Steve Duran  
Carla Davis, Linthicum, MD  
Gary Holmes  
Mrs. Vernon Keesee  
Dr. James Mason  
Melanie Miller, Hays, KS  
Linda and Jimmie McDowell  
Lyn and William Michaels  
Bill & Diane Olivo  
Pierian Sorosis Study Club  
Judy & Ron Rainger  
Howard & Glenda Reynolds  
Jane Schwartz, Manteca, CA  
Mary Jane Shavor  
Sali Tabor  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Veach

### \$15.00 - 20.00

Paul Beach  
Charlotte Cave  
Toni Christian  
Kinsey Rae Croslin  
Mary Clark, Kathryn Davis - (as part of  
Sears Workplace Giving Campaign)  
Bill Grisham  
Val and Glenn Hill  
Arthur & Patty Pare  
Val and Glenn Hill  
Carrah Osborn  
Arthur & Patty Pare  
Christine Rivas  
Madolene Stone

## Honors and Memorials

(continued. from page 7)

Dr. & Mrs. Jim Moyes gave a gift in honor of Patricia Harris and Mrs. Edwina Eller of Mason, Warner, Co., L.L.P.

Neil and Carolyn Molesbee gave a gift and newsletter subscription of \$150.00 in honor of their daughter Gail Morris of Fort Worth.

Pamela Taylor of Ralls sent a gift in honor of three friends: Mr. & Mrs. Clay McDuff of Spring Hill, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Mark McDuff of Colora, MD; and Mr. & Mrs. Kelley McDuff of Louisville, KY.

Betty Brandiger adopted "Empress" in Memory of her mother, Mary Langford and adopted "Harris" in Memory of her father, Foy Langford

Jean Morrison of Lubbock gave a donation for her son: "In Memory of David Morrison"

Dr. Guy and Reta Hirsch sent a generous gift in Memory of Guy Hirsch, Sr.

William and Verna Rankin of Cookeville, TN gave a Memorial gift in the name of Don Kriebel of Lubbock. His widow Lois was notified.

Fred and Emma Hintze gave a Memorial in the name of Beatrice Mahaffie; daughter Joyce Boom of Lubbock was informed.

Ginny & Paul Brice gave a holiday gift in honor of Dr. Sanford and Kay Ward from their office staff.





**SIERRA**  
GOLDEN EAGLE  
\$50

Each photo on this page is of one of our non-releasable animals. Adopting (sponsoring) one of these birds or mammals is a wonderful way to surprise a friend or loved one for a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or special occasion, and your gift will help wildlife at the same time. Your donation is also tax-deductible, and a contribution or adoption of \$20.00 or more includes a one-year subscription to our quarterly 12- page newsletter, *The Mockingbird Chronicles*. Sponsors receive a full color Adoption Certificate with a picture of the animal you are sponsoring, profile of that species, and a biography of the animal you choose explaining why it came to the Wildlife Center. The Wildlife Center is 100% volunteer and your gift is directly supporting the wildlife in our care. Thank you for helping us help them.



**PERCY**  
AMERICAN WHITE  
PELICAN \$50



**EMPRESS**  
PEREGRINE FALCON  
\$40



**HOOTIE**  
BURROWING OWL  
\$35



**BUBO 2**  
GREAT HORNED OWL  
\$40



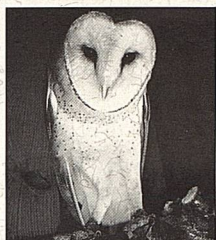
**BOBBY**  
BOBCAT  
\$40



**HARRIS**  
HARRIS'S HAWK  
\$30



**MARDIGAN**  
RED-TAILED HAWK  
\$30



**JASPER**  
COMMON BARN OWL  
\$35



**FESTUS**  
TURKEY VULTURE  
\$30



**FIFI**  
STRIPED SKUNK  
\$30



**RICKY**  
ALBINO RACCOON  
\$35



**MADDIE**  
AMERICAN KESTREL  
\$30



**LOUIE**  
EASTERN SCREECH OWL  
\$25

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



## Feeding the Flock



Mid-December I stocked up on corn, and started feeding the small flock of Canada Geese that congregated each day across from my house. The ritual continued virtually every day until their abrupt departure on February 17<sup>th</sup>. I loved being among these big birds, watching and listening to them, and taking photos. Initially wary, they wouldn't eat until I walked away and crossed the street. Within 3 days, though, the geese were on the corner waiting every morning. As soon as they heard the door close and the corn filling my coffee cans, they could hardly contain themselves, even flying into the street to greet me as I approached. It was quite a spectacle. Even when my husband went out for the newspaper, the geese heard the door and flew to the corner! Most of the time I was out the door first, so the birds weren't disappointed. Several

dozen "regulars" honked, hissed and chased each other as they gobbled up the corn like vacuum cleaners. Sometimes those flying over heading for the nearby playa detoured and joined the group as well. At times a few birds would be singled out and not allowed to eat. I loved watching the Canadas interact, even when one chased another and pulled out some down feathers. One day, a child ran out and intentionally frightened the birds just as I arrived. I waited, and sure enough, the birds circled around as if heading away, but suddenly made a wide circle to be sure the coast was clear, and landed again. There was definitely a pecking order. Feeding these beautiful birds was truly one of the highlights of the short winter days, and rain, snow or shine, my flock was always there. I'll be anxious to see if the geese that made my neighborhood home return again, and remember me and the daily handouts come next winter. In the meantime, I'll enjoy the dozens of digital pictures I took of them in the snow, rain, on cloudy and sunny days. (The genus and species is of this bird is Canada Goose. Many people incorrectly refer to it as a "Canadian" Goose).



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

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