



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Newsletter
El Paso / Las Cruces

Vol. 18, Summer

THE EAGLE

2007

My Pig Has A Pet

April 17, 2007: Last weekend another pigeon took up residence in my patio. He is, evidently, an old bird but shows no sign of injury or illness. While he can fly, he prefers to stay on the ground and walk. He shows no fear of me, and I can walk right up to him. I throw him bird seed now and then. He has made friends with Hamlet, the pig, and spends much of the day in his company. Hamlet willingly shares his meals with the bird as well as his outdoor "pig house." At night the pigeon stays in the pig's house while Hamlet sleeps in his stall in the greenhouse. Interesting relationship!

April 18, 2007: Update on the symbiotic relationship between Hamlet, the pig, and the pigeon. When I went out to start feeding about 6:15 this morning, the pigeon was sitting on the ground next to the door of the shed where Hamlet's night stall is located. When I went about my feeding chores and didn't let Hamlet out immediately, he strolled over to wait just inside the gate of Hamlet's daytime pen. When I let Hamlet out for the day and to eat breakfast, the pigeon stayed right by his side but didn't eat anything. He seem to be showing some signs of stress. I left work about 1:00 today and when I got home Hamlet was in his dog house with the pigeon. Later, Hamlet came outside to sun himself and the pigeon followed. He stayed within a few feet of Hamlet all day. At the evening feeding he stood right next to Hamlet as he ate but didn't feed (see picture). I think we have a very old bird that realizes his time is about up and wants company when he makes his transition. Strange!!!!!!

April 18, 2007: When I went out to let Hamlet in for the night (he's an old fart like me and likes to be in bed early) I decided to let his new little friend spend the night with him. When I picked up the pigeon it went into convulsions and I thought it was dead. At any rate, I went ahead and place it inside the stall with Hamlet. I went about my chores and checked on the pair about 20 minutes later. Hamlet had mounded up the straw to make a pillow and the pigeon had made himself a little nest in the corner next to his buddy and seemed fine! Both of them seem please as could be to be able to have a "sleep over." I guess we could shorten "pigeon" and call him/her "Pig." I get the feeling he/she thinks he/she is one anyway.

April 19, 2007: Had to assist Pig to Hamlet's outdoor pen as he seems to be fading and getting weaker. Pig and pig slept over again tonight.

April 20, 2007: PIGEon ("Pig") passed away quietly in his/her sleep last night due to complications of old age. His/her friend Hamlet was at the bedside. Services pending.

April 22, 2007: Pig, the pigeon, was laid to rest this morning on the estate of his companion, Hamlet, after a brief memorial service. Donations in memory of Pig can be made to the Twelve Travelers Project to help them continue their important work of providing restrooms and rest areas for pigeons all over the El Paso area.



- Bill Howe

*** CDWR DIRECTORY ***

www.whc.net/cdwr

Whom can you call in the El Paso/Las Cruces area when you find an injured/orphaned wild bird/animal?

EL PASO AREA

CDWR CHIEF DISPATCHERS

Helen Bigelow505-882-2910
 Debbie Lofton915-772-6011

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Lorraine Snelling592-9642

REHABILITATORS

Central/East

Bill Howe (turtles/snakes/lizards/small exotics)772-0695
 Debbie Lofton (birds/water birds/sm raptors/sm mammals)..772-6011
 Gloria Villaverde (reptiles).....577-9505

Northeast -

Charles/Carrol Bella (raptors/reptiles/mammals).....751-4711
 Deacon Foote (turtles).....757-9330

West -

Helen Bigelow (raptors)505-882-2910
 Carol Miller (birds, water birds)584-7088
 Josie Karam (small mammals/birds/turtles).....920-7867
 Jeff Wiseman (native reptiles)525-0261

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Central -

El Paso Veterinary Hospital, 4101 Montana.....566-7387
 Montana Animal Clinic, 1015 Chelsea.....778-9588
 El Paso Animal Emergency Center, 1220 Airway545-1148

East -

Johnsen Animal Hospital, 1851 N. Lee Trevino.....592-6200
 Desert East Animal Hospital, 11635 Pelicano855-4100
 Eastwood Animal Clinic, 9509 Montana.....593-0713
 Americas Animal Clinic, 630 Americas Ave.....858-1971
 Animal Clinic, 7184 Alameda778-5355

Northeast -

Skyline Veterinary Hospital, 4424 Titanic755-7647
 Northeast Veterinary Clinic, 9405 Dyer755-2231
 Fairbanks Animal Hospital, 5320-C Fairbanks.....757-8387
 Harwood Veterinary Clinic, 4404-A Edgar Park755-5653

West -

Crossroads Animal Hospital, 4910 Crossroads.....584-3459
 Country Club Animal Clinic, 5470 Doniphan.....833-0645
 Anthony Animal Clinic, 901 Franklin, Anthony TX.....886-4558

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

Northeast -

Joe/Inga Groff.....755-2957
 Charlene Ruddock.....755-5577
 Nancy Bain822-9228

West -

Susie Jensen.....877-4036

East -

Linn Anderson859-5413
 Alan Phelps.....598-2103

Chaparral, NM -

Jochen Lange.....824-3090

LAS CRUCES AREA

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gerri Tillett.....522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Gerri Tillett (birds)522-4966

SILVER CITY

Margaret Cejka (birds, excluding raptors)505-537-6624

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Calista Animal Hospital, 1889 Calle de Ninos525-1000
 Jornada Vet Clinic, 2399 Saturn Circle.....382-1710
 East Lohman Vet. Clinic, 1700 E. Lohman.....523-5654

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

David/Sherri Byrd (raptors)524-2314
 Abe Mendoza382-1732
 Jack Diven Family527-2661



Kangaroo Rat
 Sharyn and Marty Morgan, Chaparral, NM, were working on their cars Sunday afternoon. Marty called to Sharyn "Grab your camera and get out here!" Marty had this little guy in his

hand. He had been crawling around in circles in the dirt for approximately 10 to 15 feet. Sharyn & Marty were able to back-track his trail and found his hole along with a litter mate and

placed this little one in with his sibling .
 "It's a wonder he didn't get run over by one of our cars," Sharon said.



Carolyn Condon-Niland
El Paso Medical Veterinarian Association
American Association of Zoo Keepers

Sometimes It's Best To Let The Marigolds Grow Where They Want To

By S. Derrickson Moore Sun-News reporter



For too many in the world, from hundreds of dead in Iraq to the students and teachers killed at Virginia Tech, T.S. Eliot's famous line about April being the cruelest month proved all too true.

News is the business I'm in — the vocation I've chosen. But sometimes, I've found, there's a need to retreat, and the best sources of healing and rejuvenation can come from smaller worlds, closer to home.

I meandered outside, to survey my own tiny, xeriscaped plantation, where the news was good.

It was just after dawn and on my front patio, a family of quail were skittering around the Texas sage, breakfasting on bugs. In the backyard, a hummingbird was sitting in a desert pine, trying to choose between the first desert blooms and the hummer feeder. A few years ago, that pine was a one-foot Charlie Brown Christmas tree, a seedling from the Mesilla Valley Training Center. Now it's a thriving, 10-foot haven for birds and butterflies and a sight for sore eyes.

Despite the rude motorists who have slammed into them, two agaves in the front yard gravel traffic strip have produced four little agave kittens. I know that's not the technical term, but it stuck from the days when grandson Alexander the Great, then 3, referred to all our prickly vegetation as "catness," a wonderfully appropriate term for cactus. So it follows that the kids of cacti, their offshoots, are kittens.

There was also a volunteer prickly cactus in a maverick location, where it will probably remain, since I've never found any garden gloves that are armor enough against inch-long barbs. The asparagus tongs work, I mused, but why not let it be? The cacti were here long before my subdivision and are entitled to pioneer squatter's rights.

The desert marigolds also seem to pick their own locations.

During his first visit here, my super-gardener son thought they were our version of dandelions and helpfully pulled up some carefully cultivated clumps. I explained that desert marigolds actually go for a hefty price in nurseries specializing in xeriscaping. I can understand why. The free-spirited flowers can be tricky to cultivate if you pamper them too much or try to manipulate or fence them in. I haven't had much success trying to grow them in pots or cultivated flower beds.

Then I discovered the secret: let them establish their own territory. They are flores sin fronteras, flowers that know no bounds, recognize no borders. A couple of years ago, I started to let them go to seed. Then I gathered the dried flowers and took them with me on walks around the neighborhood, scattering seeds in vacant lots, along highways. Maybe it was the wind, not my efforts, but after five years of this, on long walks and drives in the 'hood, I see golden clumps boldly growing where no flowers grew before.

And one rainy spring, a whole vacant lot became a marigold meadow and highway underpasses hosted flower fiestas. That happened the same year when my potted marigold plantings failed, but enthusiastic patches showed up in the crevices between my driveway and patio bricks.

I let them be. The desert beauties and I have an understanding. Here is a sanctuary, a place where they are appreciated.

I'd like to be the desert marigold version of Johnny Appleseed.

But I'm only the messenger. You can "broadcast" the seeds, as farmers say, but you can never be sure what will bloom or where, what will wither on seemingly fertile ground and what will prosper in parched and unpromising cracks and crevices.

It's a lot like being a journalist. Our job is to get the word out, broadcast the seeds. A long career will see drought and devastation. Fire and death. Floods and famine. Arrogance and greed. Cruelty and carelessness.

But sometimes, on good days, in small corners of the world, you'll get to see something beautiful bloom. Even in the cruelest month.

S. Derrickson Moore can be reached at dmoore@lcsun-news.com

*** CDWR ***

El Paso / Las Cruces

Board of Officers

President: Vacant

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Secretary: Inga Groff

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Dr. Nancy Crider, DVM

Joe Foster

Abe Mendoza

Patricia Palafox

Newsletter Editor

Susie Jensen

The Purpose of CDWR

Wildlife rehabilitation is the care of injured or orphaned wildlife for return, where possible, to the wild. Successful rehabilitation takes a lot of time, a lot of effort and no small amount of money.

It is challenging work, done by special people. Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue is a nonprofit organization which exists to help the rehabilitators in the El Paso/Las Cruces area. Our purposes are to:

- ◆ provide a volunteer network to assist active rehabilitators in their work
- ◆ support wildlife rehabilitation programs financially
- ◆ provide education and instruction in wildlife rehabilitation
- ◆ educate the public about wildlife conservation problems
- ◆ work for the reduction of pressures on native wildlife from domestic animals and humans



**Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc.,
P.O. Box 96, Canutillo, Texas 79835**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue as a/an:

- INDIVIDUAL: \$10.00** _____
- FAMILY: \$15.00** _____
- CONTRIBUTOR: \$25.00** _____

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ _____ in addition to my membership

Membership gives you the opportunity to help orphaned and injured wildlife and to support the efforts of the CDWR volunteer rehabilitators. Membership includes a yearly subscription (4 issues) of the newsletter.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

CDWR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Join us now and help make a difference for wildlife!



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

P.O. BOX 96
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www.whc.net/cdwr

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Angie Merritt discovers a Killdeer Nest on her property and called Helen for information. Below is her email and here are some of her wonderful pictures:

Hi Helen, Here's the pictures I got of the Killdeer babies. You we're right about those last two eggs. When I got home on Thursday night the parents had abandoned the nest with the two unhatched eggs in it. Later that day I saw the parents on another part of our property and they had the two little fuzzy babies with them - way too cute - wish I could have gotten pictures of them! The parents did their little broken wing dance to keep me from getting too close. It looked like they we're on their way to the neighbors who were irrigating their pasture. Thanks so much for all your help. I really enjoyed watching them! Sincerely, Angie Merritt

