



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Newsletter
El Paso / Las Cruces

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THE EAGLE

2008

EPSON Fundraiser Sends 4 to Rehabilitation Training

Employees at EPSON El Paso recently participated in a fundraiser to support CDWR. Over \$1100.00 was raised through a raffle ticket benefit to win a day off work with pay. Two separate raffles were held, one for salaried employees and one for hourly employees. Jennie Lora said “Since we read your newsletter each month we read about the new dwelling that was built for the birds at the Wildlife Rescue. I thought at first that it would be neat to “adopt” some kind of bird that was there and give him a catchy name based on our company. However, I quickly came to my senses and realized that it is NOT a ZOO and that the birds are not held in captivity, which is the entire point of the program!! DUH! But we wanted to help the environment in some fashion and we realize that the birds are just as important to maintain a good balance in the environment.”

In October Jennie Lora, Ana Conde, Daniel Acosta and Oscar Vasquez met with central/east Rehabilitator Debbie Lofton at her rehabilitation “compound” along with Susie Jensen to present the check to CDWR.

The funds couldn't have come at a better time and were put to good use by sponsoring four scholarships to the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council's (IWRC) Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Course. The course was held October 25th and 26th at the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research Center near the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in New Mexico. The Refuge, which is managed by the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and its surroundings, are positioned at the intersection of several major biotic zones: Chihuahuan Desert grassland and shrubland to the south, Great Plains grassland to the north, Piñon-Juniper woodland in the upper elevations of the neighboring mountains, Colorado Plateau shrub-steppe to the west, and riparian vegetation along the middle Rio Grande Valley.



Jennie Lora, Debbie Lofton, Oscar Vasquez, Ana Conde and Daniel Acosta (and of course Tom!) presenting the EPSON check

The four volunteers who attended the event and were sponsored by EPSON were Pilar Hinde (Las Cruces), Jane Mooberry, Jonathon Borunda and Vicki Brown (El Paso).

Pilar, an experienced rehabilitator, said the class was much harder than she expected and the test at the end of the course was difficult and detailed. Pilar said she learned many things including new techniques for splinting broken wing bones which keeps the bird more balanced and thus less stressed, new medications, and things to avoid. Pilar also said everyone was very nice and the instructor, Lynn Miller, who is originally from New Zealand and lives in Quebec, was a very good teacher. Although Pilar sometimes felt the course was more geared (*continued on pg. 3*)

* 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 Bigelow575-882-2910
Debbie Lofton915-772-6011

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Lorraine Snelling592-9642

REHABILITATORS

Central/East

Bill Howe (turtles/snakes/lizards/small exotics).....772-0695
Debbie Lofton (songbirds/raptors/waterbirds/sm. mammals)...772-6011

Northeast -

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

West -

Helen Bigelow (raptors)575-882-2910
Carol Miller (birds, water birds)584-7088
Josie Karam (small mammals/birds/turtles).....920-7867

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Central -

El Paso Veterinary Hospital, 4101 Montana.....566-7387
Montana Animal Clinic, 1015 Chelsea.....778-9588
El Paso Animal Emergency Center, 1220 Airway.....545-1148

East -

Johnsen Animal Hospital, 1851 N. Lee Trevino.....592-6200
Desert East Animal Hospital, 11635 Pelicano.....855-4100
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 Fairbanks757-8387
Harwood Veterinary Clinic, 4404-A Edgar Park.....755-5653

West -

Crossroads Animal Hospital, 4910 Crossroads584-3459
Country Club Animal Clinic, 5470 Doniphan833-0645
Anthony Animal Clinic, 901 Franklin, Anthony TX.....886-4558

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

Northeast -

Joe/Inga Groff.....755-2957
Charlene Ruddock755-5577
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.....575-522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Gerri Tillett (birds)575-522-4966
Tracie Buffington (tortoises).....575-644-9297

SILVER CITY

Margaret Cejka (birds, excluding raptors)575-537-6624

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Calista Animal Hospital, 1889 Calle de Ninos575-525-1000
Jornada Vet Clinic, 2399 Saturn Circle.....575-382-1710
East Lohman Vet. Clinic, 1700 E. Lohman575-523-5654

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

David/Sherri Byrd (raptors)575-524-2314
Abe Mendoza575-382-1732
Jack Diven Family575-527-2661

Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair

The 14th annual Interpretive Fair was held at Hueco Tanks State Park on October 18th and 19th. Thank you to Jim Leech and his wonderful variety of critters that included a Western Diamondback rattlesnake, a Black-Tailed Rattlesnake, a rat snake, a night snake, a desert tortoise, 2 collared lizards, and 2 spiny lizards! The public was drawn to our wonderful desert creatures and Jim and "his friends" made quite an impact during the weekend. - Susie Jensen



Volunteer Jim Leech discusses a Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

Fundraiser (continued from front)

towards a rehabilitation center and not towards people who work out of their home, Ms. Miller took her time and explained items thoroughly and made everyone feel welcome. The people from IWRC set up a yahoo chat room so the students can keep in touch with each other, exchange ideas and perhaps animals if the need arises. 25 to 30 people attended and included a gentleman from Canada and a woman from South Africa and others from Albuquerque and Santa Fe among other locations. "The facility at Sevilleta was a very nice and the park Ranger was very nice," Pilar said. "Everyone had the same mindset of helping the animals and it was a wonderful experience."

Jane Mooberry, who has been volunteering with Josie Karam for quite some time, had this to say in an email message:

"What an experience!! It was such a privilege to be able to attend the IWRC class. Without the funding for the tuition, I would not have been able to attend. So I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be able to learn so much in such a short period of time. The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro, New Mexico was an ideal location. The facilities were very impressive and I want to give kudos to the Wildlife Rescue Inc. of New Mexico for doing such an excellent job organizing the course as well as the yummy food that was served. Now to the course itself. The presenter, Lynn Miller, is extraordinary. She is a very knowledgeable as well as a very down-to-earth and approachable person. I learned that I really don't know very much at all when it comes to rehabilitation. A couple of very relevant ideas were: how to make an incubator using 2 Rubbermaid tubs, a submersible heater and a thermometer; how to do a Robert Jones Bandage; and the wing wrap that replaces the figure 8, making it lighter and less bulky. If there was a down side to the weekend, it was the HOMEWORK!! This was over 4 pages of figuring correct dosages of medication (weight X dose rate divided by concentration = 1 dose) as well as calculating daily energy requirements for nutrition (taxonomic constant x (weight kg)(0.75) x 1.5 (physiological factor) = Kcal/24 hours). Example: An owl is offered a 20g mouse and a 30g chick. If mouse = 1.72 Kcal/g (as fed), and chick = 1.49 Kcal/g (as fed), how many Kcal would the mouse and chick provide? Anyone want to try that one? Well, Vicki Brown, Jonathan Borunda, and I took our homework to the motel that Saturday night. We planned to zip through the homework and then go out for a very special dinner. But to fortify us until we could get to dinner, we each bought our own bottle of wine as well as snacks of cheese cubes and Doritos. After 4 hours of mind-numbing work which only got us through the first 3 pages, we were so tired we opted to skip the dinner and go straight to bed. We thought maybe the homework would look easier the next day (or maybe even disappear). It didn't and we were not able to get the homework done and mailed off until several days later. The wine and cheese were good, though. Anyway, the course was well worth trying to get the brain to figure ratios and conversions YEARS after struggling through college math. I want to thank everyone involved in allowing me to attend this course. I sincerely hope I will be able to show my appreciation by being a contributing member of the wildlife rehabilitation community."

Sounds like a wonderful experience all around. Again, thank you Epsom El Paso and all their employees for making such a difference to our rehabilitators and to CDWR itself. You are a true "community partner," first donating the printing of our color newsletter and then supporting us this way. God Bless. - *Susie Jensen*

*** CDWR ***

El Paso / Las Cruces

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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

The Long March of the Penguins

Exhausted birds are washing up on Brazil's tropical beaches, thrown off course by changing currents.
Claire Soares reports—*Saturday, 4 October 2008*

In between the bronzed bodies in skimpy thongs soaking up the rays on Copacabana beach, a tiny black and white bundle of feathers struggles to emerge from the surf. Exhausted and emaciated, its bones poking through the blubber, the young penguin finally collapses on the sand. It has strayed thousands of miles from home, one of more than 1,000 penguins to have washed up on the Brazilian coast this year.

They have come ashore not just in the shadow of Christ the Redeemer in Rio but further north than ever before, with some making landfall just 400 miles from the Equator. Brazilian coastguards have abandoned their Bay-watch-style posing and found themselves acting as penguin first-aiders, protecting them from an over-enthusiastic public whose first instinct is often to stick the birds in an ice bucket.

The Magellanic penguins hail from southern Argentina, with the biggest colony just off the Valdes Peninsula. During winter, the birds usually head north in search of more fish-rich waters. Rarely, however, do they stray as far north as Rio, and to reach the waters around Natal is pretty much unheard of. "It's an extremely unusual event," said Valeria Ruoppolo, a vet with the International Fund for Animal Welfare, who has been helping rescue the stranded birds. "We have never seen anything on this scale before. It's normal for them to migrate north but this year they just kept going and going."

No one is really sure what has caused the Brazilian exodus – at the moment, the focus is on saving the penguins rather than explaining how they have ended up in this predicament – but the prevailing theory is that changes in water temperatures have caused confusion on the migratory routes. Fish like cold water and so South American penguins in search of food usually ride the cold Malvinas Current north, gobbling as they go. When they hit the warmer Brazil Current, they know it's time to stop and head back. Only this year, the Malvinas Current has been warmer than usual, meaning the penguins couldn't appreciate the difference.

"The penguins didn't realize when they hit the meeting point so they forged on, and, of course in warmer waters there's not as much fish, and then suddenly the birds were like 'Uh-oh! We don't have any more food'," explained Ms. Ruoppolo. "If they don't have enough to eat, they lose blubber, then they start to feel cold in the water and that's when they come ashore to get warm."

Backing up this theory is the fact that most of the penguins that have got lost are juveniles, embarking on their first migration without a wealth of life experience to fall back on when faced with uncharted waters. However more analysis is needed before making a definitive conclusion. "This is extreme, but we don't have statistics on the number of penguins and the ocean temperatures," Jose Marengo, a Brazilian climatologist and a member of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, told the Washington Post. "Some of the most important uncertainties we have are on the oceanic currents."

Other experts have suggested that melting ice in Antarctica has strengthened the Malvinas Current, which has then spirited away the younger, weaker and more vulnerable penguins. Another theory is that oil spills and over-fishing have combined to deplete the penguins' fish stocks, forcing them to move further a field to feed.

Of the 1,000-plus penguins that have been recovered on land, about a fifth have died of starvation, exhaustion and other illnesses, and experts reckon they are just a fraction of the number of penguins that have perished out at sea. Brazilian zoos have been inundated with the surviving birds, some of whom who have lost three-quarters of their body weight; are wracked with parasites and diarrhea; sporting broken flippers, and severely (continued on page 5)



Long March (cont. from page 4) malnourished. By 21 September, Niteroi zoo had received 556 penguins, compared with just seven in the whole of 2007. "We find lots of penguins here with catfish bones in them, which they normally don't eat," explained Thiago Muniz, one of the zoo's vets. "That suggests they're not finding their normal fish."

Rescued penguins have been nursed back to health up and down the coast, first with rehydration fluids, before graduating to fishy milkshakes and then finally whole sardines. Now moves are afoot to return them back to the wild.

The first batch of 400 survivors flew yesterday from Salvador to Rio Grande – with the help of the Brazilian air force – and were then loaded onto trucks and taken to a rehabilitation centre on the coast for final check-ups. Today, the young penguins will be released back into the Atlantic waters along with four adults, who should act as guides for the long swim home to Argentina.

"We are giving these guys a second chance," said Ms Ruoppolo. "Hopefully they'll learn their lesson and not make the same mistakes next time around."

Some of their fellow wanderers have decided to stay put in Brazil, however. Fernandinha, Claudinha, Queridinho, Pity, Predileto, Tutuca, Colhidora and Smarty have been taken under the wing of a retired photographer, Cecilia Breves. "I was very happy when I had one or two, because they are so cute. They'd follow me around everywhere," the 57-year-old told the Washington Post. "It's much harder when there are eight of them."

But the birds seem happy, roaming about her Rio penthouse, chilling out among the palm trees on the veranda or taking a dip in the roof-top hot tub. The red plastic igloo their adoptive mother has bought for them remains untouched.



Archaeology Fair

Our program on Oct. 11, 2008 at the Wilderness Park El Paso Museum of Archaeology was great. These are some pictures taken of Raven from the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary near Ramah, NM.

The tall lanky guy on the left of the left picture is Leyton Cougar, who is the head guy at the sanctuary. He takes Raven, who is 13 and a wonderful ambassador for

the wolf, to schools and other groups to educate folks that there is no such thing as a big bad wolf. Wolves and wolfdogs do not make good pets, but wolves are not vicious, they are naturally shy of humans and have a special place in a healthy environment.

Everyone who saw Raven and petted him and were licked by him were impressed. Their website is: www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org for additional information.

- Nancy Bain



**Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc.,
7425 Dale Road, El Paso, Texas 79915**

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 (3 issues) of the newsletter.

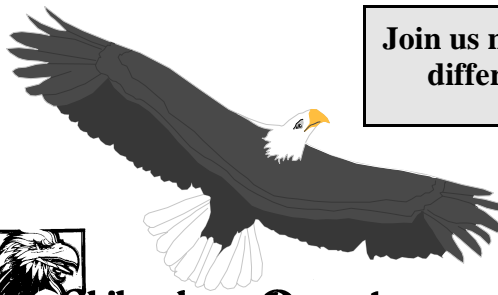
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Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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



**Chihuahuan Desert
Wildlife Rescue Inc.**

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**Join us now and help make a
difference for wildlife!**

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In Deepest Appreciation

To the Carol & Kent H. Landsberg Foundation

My sincere thanks go out to CDWR, El Paso Electric and even Lowe's (for finally seeing things our way) for all the help in resolving the situation caused by a very obnoxious wildlife hating neighbor allied with an equally obnoxious city councilman. We now have a "legal" building for holding some of our animals. Unfortunately, Hamlet the Pig, who was the central figure in this whole controversy, did not live to be able to spend his winter nights in his cozy new bedroom. He was able, however, to make his final transition from the comfort of his new digs. More thanks go out to CDWR for being there during my recent medical emergency. To Deb and Jay for watching and feeding the critters and seeing that I got to the hospital. To Joe for extending his transporting duties to include primates. To Susie and Abe and Wayne for jumping in to finish the demolition of the offending structure in my yard. (The city decided to get real nasty right in the middle of the medical problem.) Susie swings a mean hammer! To all those members who helped to assure that Hamlet had a proper burial. Love You Guys! Bill Howe

First Release Under the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with Keystone Heritage Park

I was brought a grebe that apparently thought a large puddle of water was a body of water and was grounded. After close examination, I found he had no parasites and no apparent injuries.

Since the rescuer had held him for almost 24 hours, I found it necessary to release him as soon as I had completed my examination and I took him to Keystone. He released beautifully and immediately begin to dive and preen. Amazing how graceful they are in water when they are so helpless on land.

This is the first release I have had at Keystone since our MOU.

- Josie Karam