



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Vol. 14 No. 1

THE EAGLE

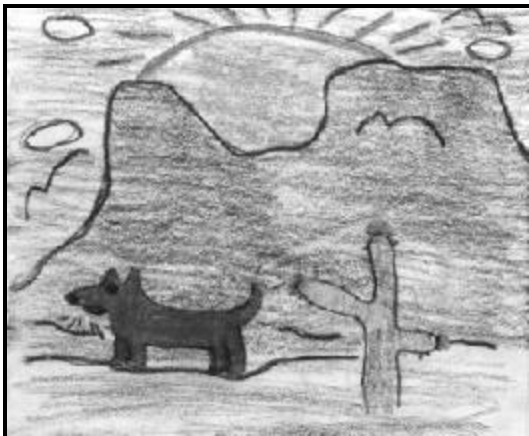
2003

Overcoming Instinct

By Jennifer Owings Dewey

Human babies need our nurturing, wild infants do not

Spring and summer are the seasons when wild animals are busy raising young, feeding not only the



Adrianna Diaz, Mesita Elementary

mselves but their little ones. Even animal parents not likely to be involved with the raising of their babies experience a vulnerable time during mating and egg laying.

What animals do during this fragile time in their lives is based on instinct, behaviors that are strongly imprinted in their brains. Humans also have instinctive behavior, especially when it comes to their babies. People who discover a human infant alone, not in company with a parent or guardian, know right away what to do. The child is quickly provided with shelter and nourishment. If the child is truly abandoned it is likely to be put up for adoption, given to a new family to be raised.

There is a plan

When people discover a fawn, or a nest of baby rabbits, their first impulse is to "rescue" the little ones by

scooping them up and taking them to safety. The trouble with this is that wild babies are not like human ones. A deer mother will forage by herself for a few hours each day, leaving her fawn tucked into a spot on the ground, usually heavily camouflaged, or hidden, the baby's colors blending with its environment.

The mother deer knows her baby's location several ways. One is by the fawn's smell, which the mother memorized the instant the little one is born, and another is by sight.

Other wild mothers use their powerful instincts to hide their babies while they go off to find food. Mammal mothers, like human mothers, must eat enough themselves to provide milk for their nursing babies. This means a certain number of hours each day must be devoted to foraging.

Wild bird mothers, often with cooperation from the father, will lose weight as they fly to and from the nest keeping the hungry chicks well fed. Great horned owl parents are worn out; thin and scraggly, by the time their chicks are grown, out of the nest, and self-reliant.



Hector Moreno, Mesita Elementary

(continued on page 5)

*** 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 DISPATCHER

Helen Bigelow (raptors).....505-882-2910

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gloria Villaverde.....577-9505

REHABILITATORS

Central -

Bill Howe (turtles/snakes/lizards/small exotics).....772-0695

Debbie Lofton (birds/water birds/sm raptors/sm mammals)..772-6011

Amy Rembold (doves & small mammals).....566-8682

Mickey Rupprecht (small birds).....774-9997

Gloria Villaverde (reptiles).....577-9505

East -

Sheila Barnes (birds).....772-8399

Debbie Lofton—Area Dispatcher.....772-6011

Northeast -

Charles/Carrol Bella (raptors/reptiles/mammals).....751-4711

Holly Sanchez (small birds).....822-1902

Deacon Foote (turtles).....757-9330

West -

Carol Miller (water birds).....584-7088

Josie Karam (small mammals/birds/turtles).....920-7867

Danika Seidel (birds/reptiles/exotics).....work 833-4883

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Central -

El Paso Veterinary Hospital, 4101 Montana.....566-7387

Montana Animal Clinic, 1015 Chelsea.....778-9588

El Paso Animal Emergency Center, 2101 Texas.....545-1148

Dog, Cat, Bird Hospital, 3233 N. Mesa.....533-9070

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 Alameda.....778-5355

Northeast -

Skyline Veterinary Hospital, 4424 Titanic.....755-7647

Northeast Veterinary Clinic, 9405 Dyer.....755-2231

Bridges Animal Hospital, 3410 Hondo Pass.....755-8314

Fairbanks Animal Hospital, 5320-C Fairbanks.....757-8387

Harwood Veterinary Clinic, 4404-A Edgar Park.....755-5653

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.....755-5575

West -

John/Jane White.....505-589-3320

Susie Jensen.....877-4036

East -

Linn Anderson.....859-5413

Phyllis/Jim Harris

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

Las Cruces Reptile Rescue.....373-1486

ELEPHANT BUTTE

Roberta Hirschhorn (birds, etc.).....505-894-9420

SILVER CITY

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

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Calista Animal Hospital, 162 Wyatt Drive.....525-1000

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

Happenings

El Paso Zoo: Saturday and Sunday, **March 15 and 16 -**
9:30 am to 4:00 pm - **Habitat for Wildlife Weekend**

A weekend of special presentations including the zoo's new family fun game show, animal demonstrations, guided tours and more. For more information write rlobello@cs.com or call 521-1881.

CDWR: Business meeting, Tuesday, April 22, 2003, 7:00 pm, El Paso Community College, Northwest Campus, 6701 S. Desert Blvd. For additional information contact Susie Jensen, 877-4036.

Las Cruces Reptile Rescue

has a new web site. Be sure and visit them at:

www.awesomereptiles.com

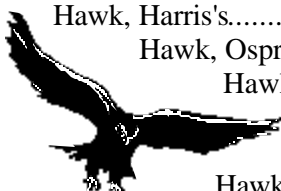
Remember;

Support our cooperating
Veterinarians!

2002 Animal Assisted Statistics

BIRDS

	<u>Count</u>
Blackbird, Yellow-headed.....	1
Chicken.....	4
Cockatiel.....	1
Cowbird, Brown-headed.....	2
Crow, American.....	2
Dove, Banded Pigeon.....	17
Dove, Fancy Pigeon.....	1
Dove, Inca.....	59
Dove, Mourning.....	99
Dove, Ringed Turtle.....	3
Dove, Rock (Pigeon) ..	139
Dove, Spotted.....	1
Dove, White.....	4
Dove, White-Winged.....	608
Duck, Blue-Winged Teal.....	1
Duck, Domestic.....	4
Duck, Mallard.....	24
Duck, Red Head.....	1
Duck, Ruddy.....	1
Duck, Wood.....	27
Egret, Cattle.....	29
Egret, Snowy.....	28
Falcon, American Kestrel.....	58
Falcon, Merlin.....	1
Finch, House.....	98
Flicker, Northern.....	3
Goose, Domestic.....	6
Grackle, Great-tailed.....	109
Grebe, Pied-billed.....	2
Grosbeak, Black-headed.....	1
Gull, Herring.....	1
Harrier, Northern.....	1
Hawk, Cooper's.....	3
Hawk, Harris's.....	1
Hawk, Osprey.....	1
Hawk, Red-tailed.....	12
Hawk, Sharp-shinned.....	1
Hawk, Swainson's.....	8
Heron, Black-crowned.....	12
Heron, Great Blue.....	2
Heron, Green.....	3
Hummingbird, Black-chinned.....	46
Hummingbird, Rufous.....	3
Ibis, White-faced.....	1
Jay, Stellar's.....	1
Kingbird, Western.....	29
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned.....	1
Mockingbird.....	52
Moorhen, Common.....	1
Nighthawk.....	16



Oriole, Scott's.....	1
Owl, Barn.....	8
Owl, Burrowing.....	22
Owl, Flammulated.....	1
Owl, Great Horned.....	13
Owl, Northern Saw-whet.....	1
Owl, Western Screech.....	3
Peacock.....	5
Pelican, Brown.....	1
Pelican, White.....	1
Phainopepla.....	2
Phoebe, Say's.....	6
Pipit, American.....	1
Pipit, Sprague's.....	1
Quail, Gambel's.....	9
Rail, Sora.....	2
Rail, Virginia.....	1
Raven, Chihuahuan.....	12
Raven eggs.....	12
Roadrunner.....	10
Robin.....	27
Sapsucker, Williamson's.....	1
Sparrow.....	185
Sterling, European.....	19
Swallow, Barn.....	22
Swallow, Cliff.....	4
Swallow, Purple Martin.....	1
Swallow, Tree.....	1
Swallow, Violet-green.....	1
Swift, White-throated.....	1
Thrasher, Curve-billed.....	27
Thrush, Hermit.....	1
Towhee, Spotted.....	2
Turkey, Domestic.....	1
Vulture, Turkey.....	3
Warbler, MacGillivray's.....	3
Warbler, Olive.....	2
Warbler, Ovenbird.....	1
Warbler, Wilson's.....	3
Warbler, Yellow-rumped.....	2
Warbler, Yellow-throated.....	4
Wren, Cactus.....	5
Wren, House.....	2



Fox, Gray (TX).....	1
(held under Zoological Permit)	
Guinea Pig.....	3
Hedgehog.....	1
Mouse, Deer.....	7
Muskrat.....	1
Opossum.....	1
Rabbit, Cottontail.....	49
Rabbit, Domestic.....	6
Rabbit, Jack.....	12
Raccoon.....	14
Ringtail Cat.....	6
Skunk, Spotted.....	2
Skunk, Striped.....	14
Squirrel, Ground.....	5
Squirrel, Rock.....	19



GRAND TOTAL MAMMALS: 178

<u>REPTILES</u>	<u>Count</u>
Alligator, American.....	2
Boa, Red Tail.....	1
Frog (unidentified).....	3
Gecko, Leopard.....	2
Gecko, Tokay.....	2
Iguana, Green.....	3
Lizard, Horned.....	2
Lizard, Mali Thorn-tailed agamas.....	2
Lizard, Native.....	9
Lizard, Savanna Monitor.....	1
Python, Albino Burmese.....	2
Python, Amethystine.....	1
Python, Ball.....	1
Python, Regular Burmese.....	2
Snake, Native.....	21
Tortoise, Texas.....	1
Turtle, Chihuahuan Mud.....	1
Turtle, Common snapping.....	1
Turtle, Desert Box.....	40
Turtle, Florida softshell.....	1
Turtle, Map.....	1
Turtle, Painted.....	3
Turtle, Red-ear pond slider.....	29
Turtle, Spiny softshell.....	3



GRAND TOTAL REPTILES: 134

Total animals assisted: 2271

Total Dispatched calls: 2441

Web site inquiries: 35,000

GRAND TOTAL BIRDS: 1959

<u>MAMMALS</u>	<u>Count</u>
Bat.....	9
Beaver.....	2
Bobcat.....	4
Chipmunk.....	1
Deer, Mule.....	3
Ferret.....	6
Fox, Gray (NM).....	12

Board of Officers

President: John White

Vice President: Carol Miller

Secretary: Jane White

Treasurer: Susie Jensen

Board of Directors

Dr. Nancy Crider, DVM

Joe Groff

Debbie Lofton

Elda Rodriguez

Enrique Rodriguez

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

Scary Photo

This is the kind of stuff that sends shivers up my spine. Here's a photo taken off the Internet from a place that breeds and sells coatis as pets.



Now, wanna see a magical transformation?

- 1.) Give the kid a cookie.
- 2.) Dial 911.

One Christmas Eve about 30 years ago I gave a pet coati a Christmas gift. He was having trouble unwrapping it so, smart me, decided to give him a hand.

Result: I spent the remainder of Christmas Eve in the emergency room and left with 7 stitches. The coati wouldn't come near me for nearly a week. He knew he had made a mistake and was ashamed of himself. I couldn't put the blame on him. He was simply reacting to a threat and acted naturally.

Several years ago I owned a dachshund and a coati. Normally, they got along quite well and enjoyed taking walks together on leashes. One day, the coati managed to get out of his pen. He wandered over to the dog's house to see if there was anything left in the food dish. Now, the dachs was very protective of her property and growled at the coati. Within seconds the poor old dog was almost completely skinned alive and had to be put down.

Not too many years back I received a coati confiscation from Animal Control. The previous owner, who was forced to surrender his animal, came by for a visit a few days later and got into the pen to visit the animal he had raised from a baby. Unknown to me, the person had just bathed and then smothered himself in a strong musk based cologne. Had I been aware, I would never have let him approach the animal. Almost instantly the coati attacked him viciously, inflicting several lacerations before it could be removed. Needless to say, any bonds between the young man and his "pet" were broken almost instantly. He has not made a return visit.

ALL wildlife must be approached on *their* terms. They are *not* domestic animals and have strong instinctive reactions. Typical disciplinary actions you take with a dog or cat can, and will, get one seriously injured if you try them on a coati - or any wild animal.

Raccoon family critters can be quite affectionate but all have the attitude "What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine" and are well equipped to enforce that policy. They also have a very short fuse. Instinctive reactions can occur swiftly and decisively. The animal has no control or these - they are an automatic response to a perceived threat.

- Bill Howe

Instincts *(continued from front)*

In every animal baby's life there is a set plan created by "mother nature." The plan may mean lots of maternal (or paternal) attention, or it may mean none at all, as is the case with most reptiles and amphibians. The important thing for humans to know is that there is a plan. It's not appropriate for us to step in and change it, using our human-driven instincts.

Hands off

My students and I talked about why wild baby animals discovered in the wild ought to be left where they are, and not disturbed. Several kids pointed out that they would be very upset and scared if they were a tiny owlet and human hands snatched them out of the parental nest. Sometimes putting ourselves into the minds of other creatures helps us know what is best to do, or not do.

A gratifying outdoor experience almost anyone can have is making note of the nests in your neighborhood. In early spring many bird nests are easy to see because the trees have not leafed out enough to conceal them. The same may be true when looking for other animal baby nests, burrows in the earth, hollows in logs, holes in trees. As long as you are a silent, considerate

watcher, not an invader, it is fun to keep an eye on newcomers to your backyard, the vacant lot across the street, or the row of trees running along the sidewalk. If you live in rural area you probably already have a sense of what is hatching or being born in the spring. Wild animals are more prevalent in rural areas, and therefore easier to observe.

Get the Message

Remember that animal babies, like human ones, go through stages, learning to crawl, walk, or fly. You may discover a half-grown bird, not yet able to fly, walking on the ground. Leave it alone and know that it, like a toddler, is out practicing its flying skills.

A good way to learn about the child-raising habits of wild animals is to find books in the library about nests and animal parents. The more you know before you go out observing the more satisfying your nature watching will be.

When I was little I collected tadpoles and took them home to an aquarium I set up. Unfortunately, I knew only to feed them fish food, which was not what they needed. I got the message after a few mornings walking up to tadpole bodies floating lifeless on the water surface in my aquarium: Enjoy these creatures in their natural place, where they are meant to be.

A Bird's Eye View of Diazinon

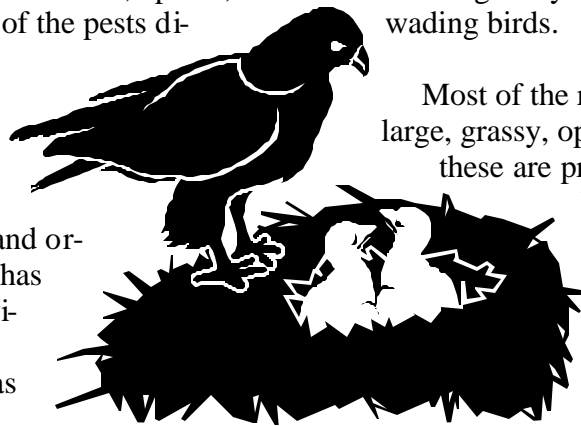
By Mike Moeller, Deputy Commissioner, Texas Dept. of Agriculture

Diazinon is a commonly used broad-spectrum insecticide. Most consumers who use pesticides know that diazinon can be used to control a wide variety of insects above and below the ground and inside and outside the home. Grub worms, fire ants, nematodes, aphids, roaches and fleas are just a few of the pests diazinon is registered to control.

Besides its use around the home and garden, diazinon is also registered for use in other settings, including agricultural and ornamental landscaping areas. It has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 1952, but only recently has it been identified as a threat to non-target species: birds.

In 1986 EPA began a special review of diazinon because of increasing evidence that it posed an unreasonable risk

to birds. EPA has investigated reports of approximately 60 bird kills in 18 states in which diazinon was either confirmed or implicated as the primary cause. The kills involved many types of birds, including migratory and non-migratory waterfowl, songbirds, shore birds and wading birds.



Most of the reported bird deaths were associated with large, grassy, open areas such as golf courses. Areas like these are preferred feeding sites for large flocks of birds because they provide lots of space and the opportunity to feed, relatively undisturbed, for long periods of time.

Diazinon can be applied in liquid and granular formulations. According to EPA, birds are exposed to diazinon on large, grassy, open sites when they eat grass, grass roots, grass seed or the worms and insects commonly found in grass. During feeding, birds may ingest diazinon granules. The birds can *(continued on back)*

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.

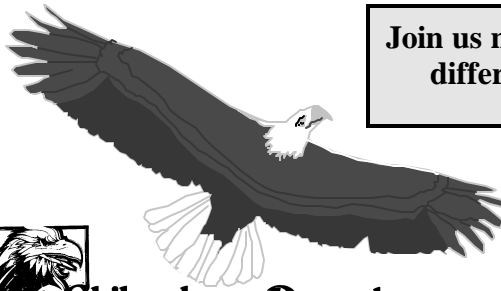
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

P.O. BOX 96
CANUTILLO, TEXAS 79835
www.whc.net/cdwr

Join us now and help make a difference for wildlife!

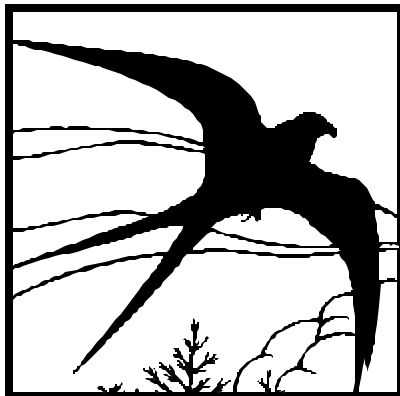
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Diazinon (continued from page 5)

also absorb toxic amounts of the chemical through their feet and legs.

One of the most dramatic bird kills investigated by EPA occurred at a country club in Long Island, New York. Seven hundred geese died shortly after feeding on a diazinon-treated landscape.

After a lengthy hearing process, EPA, on March 29, 1988 prohibited the broadcast use of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms.



EPA ruled that the benefits of continued use of diazinon in large grassy areas did not outweigh the danger to birds.

Even though EPA is banning broadcast use of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms, pesticide products containing diazinon are still registered and available for home and garden use. When using diazinon or any other pesticide,

you should be aware of the possible problems it may cause for non-target animals, particularly birds.

Careful reading of a product's label before you buy it and again before you apply it is one of the best pesticide-safety precautions you can take.

If you use pesticides and are concerned about the effects they could have on the birds that frequent your landscape, use them with discretion. Find out from your local Audubon Society or Texas Parks and Wildlife office when the spring and fall bird migrations pass through your part of Texas. To protect the birds, you may want to reschedule your pesticide applications planned for these times, or you may want to look for alternative, less toxic pest-control measures.



Texas Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 19847
Austin, Texas 78711