



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Vol. 11 No. 3

THE EAGLE

2000

Bolivia and Beyond: Long Distance Rehabilitation Stories

(Editor's Note: Actual email messages are included in quotation marks, without editing)

Bolivia

Tomer, an Israeli volunteer similar to the Peace Corps, contacted Bill Howe after getting his name and email address from our website while searching for help with a jaguar. Tomer went to work for a few weeks at a National Park in Bolivia and liked it so well he stayed. The park, a smaller park near the Madidi Park featured in National Geographic, is located about a day's drive, over crude roads, from the city of Cochabamba. There are few facilities there and he only gets his email when he goes to Cochabamba for supplies.

Tomer and others at the park had raised a jaguar from a cub and he really wanted to see it released back into the wild. However, they had no funding to prepare the animal for release and knew it would not survive without preparations - it would quickly become a victim of a poacher's bullet. Bill worked with Tomer for a couple of weeks trying to find help for him with information about prepping the animal for release before he found people at International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) who would help him. There are few people with experience doing this sort of thing.



Tomer did get the rehabilitation information from IWRC but, unfortunately, their organization did not have the funding to carry out the recommendations. They have been searching for another home for the animal. They think they have found a home for it in Fort Worth. Here is Tomer's actual email message:

"hi bill

sorry that i didn't write until now but i was too busy or in the park. yes i got all the information i needed to preper sama for release but unfortunately after consulting with many more people and after we realized that the park doesn't have the financial resources to do it we gave it up. i was very upset about that but i think it was the only way.

these days i am tring to find a place for him outside of bolivia. i tried to find a park in the US but unfortunately they had no ability to finance the flight. i finally found a zoo (Fort Worth Zoo in Texas) which it's director, Dr. Wiese, is the Coordinator for the Jaguar Species Survival Plan of the (North) American zoo. also this zoo is building a new big exhibit so i think this will be quite a good place for him although i will hate seeing him in a zoo. the madidi park is not where i work it's much smaller without publicity, at list outside bolivia (this we are tring to change this these days) but i know it is a wonderful lace.

tomer"

(continued on page 3)

* CDWR DIRECTORY *

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

EL PASO AREA

CDWR CHIEF DISPATCHER

Helen Bigelow505-882-2910

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Anne Hussmann584-4081

REHABILITATORS

Central -

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

Dr. Gail Patrick (Animal Regs. & Disease Control) ..532-5966

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

East -

Heidi and Dennis O'Neill (small mammals)849-6170

Northeast -

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

Marcia Wheatley (birds/small mammals)821-9374

Sheila Barnes (birds/small mammals)566-5719

West -

Peggy Kirk (birds).....584-5553

Carol Miller (waterbirds).....584-7088

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Central -

El Paso Veterinary Hospital, 4101 Montana.....566-7887

Montana Animal Clinic , 1015 Chelsea778-9588

El Paso Animal Emergency Center, 2101 Texas545-1148

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

East -

Johnsen Animal Hospital, 1851 N. Lee Trevino592-6200

Desert East Animal Hospital, 11635 Pelicano855-4100

Eastwood Animal Clinic , 9509 Montana.....593-0713

Animal Clinic , 7184 Alameda778-5355

Northeast -

Skyline Veterinary Hospital, 4424 Titanic755-7647

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

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

Fairbanks Animal Hospital, 5320-C Fairbanks757-8387

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

West -

Crossroads Animal Hospital, 4910 Crossroads.....584-3459

Country Club Animal Clinic, 5470 Doniphan833-0645

Anthony Animal Clinic, 901 Franklin, Anthony TX 886-4558

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

Northeast - (other areas also)

Joe/Inga Groff755-2957

West -

John/Jane White505-589-3320

Phyllis McCarthy581-1063

Anne Hussmann584-4081

Susie Jensen.....877-4036

East -

Phyllis/Jim Harris

Chaparral, NM -

Jochen Lange824-3090

Jim/Linda McDowell824-4333

LAS CRUCES AREA

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gerri Tillett522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Gerri Tillett (birds).....522-4966

Betsy Meerscheidt (birds).....526-2236

Pilar Hinde (birds).....382-1753

Belinda Dayley (mammals, bats, turtles, iguanas).....382-3736

Elephant Butte

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

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Jornada Vet Clinic , 2399 Saturn Circle382-1710

East Lohman Vet. Clinic , 1700 E. Lohman523-5654

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

David/Sherri Byrd (raptors).....524-2314

Texas Master Naturalist

There is an exciting and nationally recognized volunteer program now spreading throughout the country and particularly in Texas - the Master Naturalist Program. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service collaboratively would like to bring this program to El Paso! The purpose of the Master Naturalist program is to produce a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

The program will provide a conceptual understanding of our natural systems and the detrimental, long term consequences of imbalances and faulty management systems. The program components provide essential information and strategies to restore, regenerate, nurture and conserve our natural resources to include indigenous plant species and animal habitats. Program graduates contribute volunteer hours in outreach programs on environmental stewardship and natural resource conservation, in similar fashion as the highly successful Master Gardeners Program.

You are invited to the orientation program meeting of the El Paso Master Naturalist Chapter at **9:30 AM on Friday, August 25, 2000** at the **Texas A&M Research and Extension Center, 1380 A&M Circle, El Paso** (across Gateway East/Avenues de Americas). Please call the Extension Service at 859-7725 for attendance confirmation and any other questions.

*** CDWR ***
El Paso / Las Cruces

Board of Officers

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Joe Groff John Kiseda
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Peggy Kirk

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

Bolivia *(continued from front)*

The case had additional meaning for Bill, as he had spent two years in Bolivia as a Peace Corps volunteer and knew well the obstacles facing Tomer. Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in the world and the fact that they even have National Parks now is just short of miraculous. Now they just need funding to keep them viable.

Up North Somewhere

“Today my boyfriend found a baby white tail fawn in our back acres and the mother was killed by wolves and she was alone and our dog brought her in to the house, we have been feeding her goats milk and keeping her warm in our house but we don’t know what else she needs and when we called the fish and wildlife department they said all they will do is probably kill her and if we were just to let her go she probably die on her own so there is a camp ground near by that I know that the deers are not afraid of humans and they run wild so we are thinking if we can take care of her enough to get her strength back we will let her go there. She only looks like a couple days old she is not walking very well she is still wobbly when she does walk. So we were hoping you could give us some suggestions on what to do and what we need for her. Please Email me back at Ladyrose...com
Thanks, Sheila Elliott”

Columbia, Missouri

Also, a couple of evenings ago Bill had a long distance phone call from a fellow in Columbia, MO, who found our website and was trying to give a guy in Laredo a hand with an endangered Texas Tortoise. Bill communicated with both of them. The guy had found the tortoise at a construction site and was not getting any help from Texas Parks and Wildlife in relocating it. “I’d say our site has been worth the effort.”

Texas, Kentucky & California

Peggy Kirk, westside Rehabilitator, writes: I get messages quite frequently from people who need help. One of the better ones was a lady relatively close to San Antonio (50 miles) that had found a baby hummer. She got my name on the internet and I faxed her all of the information I had on hummingbirds and fed ex-ed her a small package of Nektar and some pipettes. She raised the baby and then drove it to San Antonio to a rehabilitator to hold over until it could be released (as I recall, the weather was bad at the time). Two weeks ago I got an e-mail from a 14 year old boy in Kentucky that was raising a family of Carolina Wrens that he had saved from a neighbor who was smashing nests attached to his garage. He needed all of the information on temperatures, feeding supplies, etc. He managed to do quite well with the babies. He was in a small burg without rehabbers. It is kinda fun to be able to help long distance. Last year I had a person in California with an injured crow. The people managed to save it but did not think it was releaseable. They were able to find a crow sanctuary within 60 miles and drove the bird to the sanctuary. Neat stuff!

(continued on page 4)

Bolivia (continued from page 3)

Costa Rica

Message received by Bill Howe via email through our website:

"Hi!

I saw your website and your page on Calvin the Coatimundi.

As a former wildlife rescue worker, I know you guys are probably ridiculously busy, but if you could give me somewhere to turn on this, I'd appreciate it:

My mom lives in a rainforest in Costa Rica. People are always bringing her orphaned and abandoned animals. The most recent baby is a coati. The baby is female and has been imprinting on humans for about a month. Her exact age is unknown. My mom would like to try and get a wild female coati troop to adopt her, but is not sure how dangerous such an attempt would be or how to go about it.

I've searched the 'Net relentlessly, but can find no info on this scenario. If you know of anyone or any place with more info, we'd appreciate it. The same goes for a brother and sister pair of toucans that have been imprinting on humans for about a year now. Thanks in advance, and thank you for your much needed work.

Sincerely,
Heidi Allen"

Bill's reply email to Heidi:

"Subject: Re: Regarding coatis

Thanks for visiting our website and thanks for the question.

I doubt if you will have much luck finding many people who have had much experience with coatis. I have had 4 but none were suitable for release. I still am holding Calvin.

If the animal could be raised with another coati of similar age it would be a help. That way the animals will imprint less on their human keepers and more on each other. Also, feeding foods that the animals would find in the wild would help to prepare them for a life of foraging. They are omnivores in their diet - eating what ever they can find - bird eggs, small animals, tarantulas, fruits, etc.

Also, I don't know what type of housing your mother has for the animal, but a large pen would be best. The coati is a good climber and loves to dig so top and bottom of the cage would have to be made escape proof.

Leave the animals alone, except to feed and water them. Also hide the food to force the animals to practice foraging skills. This will also lower the animals association of humans with food.

When the animals are near release, move their pen to the release area. Leave them penned for a few days to allow the critters to become familiar with their new surroundings. Continue to leave food and water. After a day or two, leave the door of the pen open during the day. If the animals return to the pen at night, provide

food and water and close the door. Continue this practice until the animals have begun to forage on their own and do not return to the cage.

As to the toucans, leave them outdoors on a perch during the day. The birds should gradually fly off and explore their surroundings. Continue to provide food and water until the birds leave and don't return.

Hope this helps some.

Bill
C.D.W.R."

**Be sure to visit our website at www.whc.net/cdwr
It has recently been updated and now allows for
viewing and downloading of various articles,
including animal care and rehabilitation.**

Special Delivery Bird

One afternoon in early January I received a phone call from a lady who told me she was taking the mail out of her mailbox and found a baby bird huddled under a newspaper in the back of her mailbox. She reached in, removed it, and took it into the house to get it warm. Since she didn't know what to feed it, she coiled a towel into a nest-shape and decided to place it in a forked branch of a tree in her back yard in hopes mama bird would find it and feed it. She watched it for a while and no mama showed up. The baby seemed quite content to just sit there and wait.

At this point, she called me to see if I would come and pick it up. She couldn't bring it to me since her car wasn't operating. I said if she would put it in a box or paper sack I would make the drive across town to get it. She promised to call me back just as soon as she had it secured in a container. Fifteen minutes later she called to say the bird flew off as soon as she reached for it! The mystery of whether it came by air mail was never solved, but it certainly departed that way!! - *Geri Tillett*

Not an Angel

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets, and cross the bridge together.

The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" The older dog stood up and barked, "Quickly, get over to the path."

"But that's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge.

As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared.

The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered.

"No, son," the older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a wildlife rehabilitator."

Interesting Tidbits

- ◆ Don't use honey solutions or molasses for hummer mixture. Only white processed sugar is the closest thing to real nectar. Honey solutions produce a fungal disease fatal to hummingbirds.
- ◆ BATS also love hummingbird feeders - they are "voracious" nectar lovers.
- ◆ Bird claws, like human fingernails, grow continuously. In the wild they do not have a chance to grow too long because they are always working their fingers to the bone trying to make ends meet and building a nest egg.
- ◆ You can't tell a male pigeon from a female pigeon.
- ◆ Hummingbirds lay two pearl-sized eggs. The babies hardly have bills at all when hatched. Hummingbirds don't have gall bladders.
- ◆ A grosbeak is strong enough to crack a cherry pit with his beak. It's not a macho thing, he's after the nourishment inside.
- ◆ A Swainson's hawk eats grasshoppers.
- ◆ A free ranging house cat may kill more than 1,000 wild animals a year. A large number of stray cats or free ranging cats reduce the prey for hawks.
- ◆ A single Big brown bat can eat between 3,000 and 7,000 mosquitoes in a night.
- ◆ Grease, oil, petroleum jelly or similar substances are nearly impossible for a bird to wash or preen out of their feathers. Goopy feathers are useless for flight or insulation.
- ◆ Nesting birds: They pick the weirdest places to nest. In your gutter, clothes dryer, kitchen fan vent (house sparrows & starlings), above your front door (barn swallows), in a bucket in your garage (Carolina wrens), in your hanging basket (house finches), a pile of twigs on your window sill (doves and pigeons), and in the shrubs next to your front door (mockingbirds).
- *Sheila Barnes/Internet*

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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.

General Meeting Announcement

The Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue would like to invite you to our August meeting. We are proud to announce that Michael Pacheco will be our speaker. Michael is a Wildlife Damage Management Biologist with the Texas Wildlife Services Program. Michael will share what the agency does and the scope of his responsibilities where he serves as a liaison between humans and wildlife whenever there is conflict, considering the best interests of both. Due to the fact that wildlife populations are increasing because of conservation efforts, and humans are thriving, more conflicts arise. Michael insures that the wildlife in urban areas is protected for everyone to enjoy.

Please Join Us!

Tuesday, August 22, 2000

7:30 p.m.

Westside Regional Command Center, El Paso Police Dept., 4801 Osborne, El Paso

For additional information contact Susie Jensen, 877-4036



**Chihuahuan Desert
Wildlife Rescue Inc.**

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

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

Join us now and help make a difference for wildlife!