

## Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue

### To Rescue a Bird from a Chimney: By Helen Bigelow

#### **Rescue from the roof**

(1) *Needed - plastic bucket, long rope, broom, bird seed, flashlight.*

Tie one end of a rope to a broom handle and other end to the bucket handle and place the bird seed in the bucket. Place the broom across the top of the chimney (a safety measure to keep from losing the bucket and rope down the chimney). Lower the bucket into the chimney down to below the level of the bird and tilt the bucket (if possible). Luminates the procedure with a flashlight, if needed. Hopefully, the bird will get into the bucket and can be lifted out of the chimney and released.

(2) *Needed - 1/2" flexible PVC or garden hose, flashlight.*

Close the fireplace screen after opening the damper. Flush the bird off the chimney ledge and into the fireplace by lowering a long PVC or garden hose down the chimney. Once the bird is in the fireplace, carefully corner it, gather it up into an old pillowcase. Take it outside and release it. Consider placing a cap on the chimney.

#### **Rescue from the fireplace**

(1) *Needed - seed, shallow container of water, flashlight.*

Open the damper and place the seed, water and flashlight (turned on for light) in the fireplace. Close the screen and hope the bird drops down into the fireplace. If it does, close all doors to the rest of the house and use a pillow case to capture the bird for release outside.

(2) *Needed - gloves, old shirt (protection from soot).*

Sometimes you can reach through the damper to capture the bird. It is usually on the heat-a-lator ledge.

**Or call a chimney sweep from the Yellow Pages. The cost could include cleaning the chimney while they're there. For a price they will also CAP the CHIMNEY.**