



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

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THE EAGLE

2001

A New Adventure

When Helen convinces you that caring for wildlife is something you ought to do, you immediately start planning. Don't you?

Black Crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets and Cattle Egrets decided that the Pasodale Subdivision in Ysleta would be a good place for their Rookery. The downside to this is every time the wind blows, the young are blown out of the nests, the juveniles get down in the backyards and can't fly out because of the concentration of trees and adults on the ground get caught up in bushes or fences. Last year I ran myself ragged picking up the young ones and taking them to Rehabilitators and taking juveniles and adults and releasing them at Feather Lake.

By the second week of June, 2001, I had already made about 10 deliveries, so....., I got smart and volunteered to care for them at my home. (Smart?????, well anyway) I called Marcia and asked for the Cattle Egret hatchling back. I have never seen someone so willing to return something so fast! She even gave me a cage and frozen mice! I don't know why I thought I was going to have to fight her for the bird. I took my little baby home with me so I could have some time to learn the proper care and buy or steal the supplies and equipment I needed. 'Time to learn' being the key words in that last sentence; within 5 days I had 5 egrets and 6 herons, hatchlings and nestlings.

Do you remember the word 'planning' in the first sentence. Well I went from 'wantin' to 'doin' real fast. I started my planning and preparation after the children had arrived.

I happened to have some supplies around the house which consisted of heating pads, a 5 gallon aquarium, and heated whelping pads (heat mats) and of course, the cage from Marsha. I used the aquarium for my incubator, but after the eleventh baby (size is approximately 5"x3"x4") arrived, I went to Plan B. You, of course, know there is no Plan B.

One of the first things I learned about waterfowl is 'flies'. Yes, I said "Flies". For every baby that was delivered to my house, 40 flies came with it. I had made a trip to John Arnold's for two 3'x3'x3' PVC cages. I learned that bird netting was not going to work because of the flies. I removed the screening material from one of my screen doors and made a cover that would slip over a plastic milk crate that is sitting on its side. The cover resembles a garage with a door that flips up over the top. This worked real well except that my hubby wanted his screen door back and I dumped some of his important 'stuff' out of his plastic milk crate. I bought three crates (*continued on page 3*)



Cattle Egret

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

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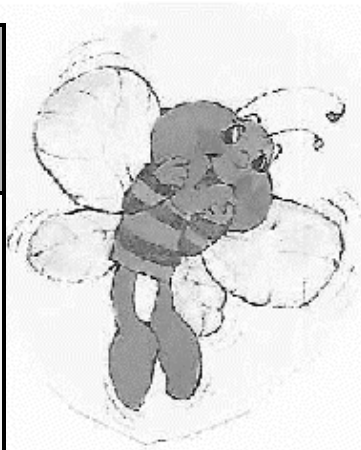
Susie Jensen

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



Put Nature To Work For You!

Nontoxic -- Free organic fertilizer -- Free labor provided by wildlife

Grub removal: skunks, birds, and others

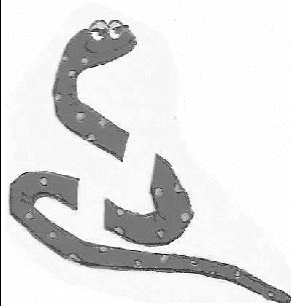
Grass cutting: rabbits, deer, and others

Rat and mouse removal: snakes, foxes, skunks, owls and many others.

Insect removal: bats, birds, insects, spiders and many, many others

Roach removal: lizards, geckos, frogs, toads, vinegaroons and others

Spider removal: wasps, birds, spiders and others



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A Special Thank you to
White Horse Communications
for the donation of our website at:
www.whc.net/cdwr

**Remember to support our cooperating veterinarians!!!
They are our champions!**

A New Adventure *(continued from front)*

for \$.96 cents each and I got a great deal on 100 ft. of old military issue green screening material. I put the crates side by side with their individual screen covers and than made a larger cover out of reinforced plastic to create a sauna. The heating pads are wrapped with a towel and all my little babies are doing great.

Now that the housing problem is solved, we come to food and feeding schedules. I was raised on a 100,000 acre ranch in south Texas, and I figured that if they don't wake up before I do (4am) and they stop feeding at sunset then I am okay. Well the egrets schedule is sunrise to sunset. But the herons did not read the same book that Helen did. They start about 7:30 am but they don't stop. They cluck like chickens all night. My temporary housing set-up is right outside the back of our house, so every time they hear my voice...well I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. I feed them twice during the night, but when I flood irrigate my property every two weeks during the night, they think it is an all night buffet. I don't have any problem feeding mice and fish, but my husband leaves the kitchen when I prepare their food. The first time I cut up that itsy bitsy mouse and he looked over my shoulder hoping it was something for him, I thought I was going to receive divorce papers. He does not eat fish, which compounds the problem. A nervous phone call to Marcia one morning taught me what "Pelting" was. I am not even going to tell my husband about that!

One morning I went to feed and my babies were standing up. I cried. My children were growing up. The crate is only 13" tall, so the next learning experience is 'what do I do when they start growing up'. I bought some PVC pipe and Helen ordered corner joints and I made four 3'x3'x2' cages. These cages are on a board sitting on saw horses. I can't kneel down and I am tall, so I have this set-up at my level. They still need their sauna environment so it was another sewing session to make screen covers and plastic covers.

Now my babies are juveniles and acting like delinquents. I have not built an enclosure yet, but my delinquent egrets are 13" tall and my delinquent herons are 19" tall. They announced one morning that this 3x3x2 enclosure is not acceptable any longer. I have a 4x4 fence section that I use for puppies and I thought this would work great. I put the enclosure out in the grass under the trees with a little swimming pool buried in the ground. In two days, I learned that heron's climb. I should have remembered this because when I go to Feather Lake the heron's have climbed up into the marsh grasses about five feet above the water level. My last option was to let them loose in my back yard. I have my back yard fenced in separate sections, so I let my children have one side. The drawback to this plan is that my patio is on this side. Now my patio is "white". Daily, I hose down the patio and now we are into taking showers. Another drawback to this plan is that I come out of a glass sliding door (with a doggy door) down three steps to reach them. I know, I know, I don't have to tell you the rest of the story, but I am going to anyway. It took one day for them to jump up onto the steps. Another day to realize that if they "call to me" I will come outside. (You know where they are every hour). And one more day to sit in front of the doggy door and peck on the plastic flap. Now my dog has to scratch on the glass door to come in, because the birds won't move so he can come in through his door. My dog is shorter than the egret and as long as the dog doesn't try to take their food out of the pond they get along. The heron follows the dog around the backyard.

Now I know you experts are asking why I am not "Hacking" them out. I am! I am! I have been to Feather Lake nine days in a row. The first couple of days, I took them at 6:30 am and stayed for about an hour throwing fish into the water and feeding them. I would bring them back home and continue this feeding style in the pool. The fourth and fifth day I left them for three hours and they were sitting in the same place I left them. I brought them back home. On the sixth day same procedure, but they started following me back to the fence. On the seventh day, the egret finally started to venture further away, but the minute I return it runs at me and starts pecking my legs. The heron is still sitting in the same place. Helen says I don't have to go back anymore! I guess I will just let them leave from my backyard.

In between all these young ones, I am receiving older juveniles, first year, and adult birds that have to be released after holding for a few days or even longer. As of July 20th, I have handled eighty-seven birds. I have laughed and cried over my adventures and I would not trade the experience for the world.

- Debbie Lofton

STATISTICS—2000

BIRDS

Albino Dove	2	Flycatcher.....	2
American Kestrel.....	50	Golden Eagle.....	6
Barn Owl.....	11	Golden Pheasant.....	1
Bell's Vireo.....	1	Goose - Ross'.....	1
Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	46	Grackle.....	105
Black-crowned Night Heron.....	7	Great Blue Heron.....	4
Black-headed Grosbeak.....	1	Great Horned Owl.....	4
		Grebe.....	6
		Green Heron.....	5
		Green-tailed Towhee.....	1
		Harris Hawk.....	2
		Hermit Thrush.....	1
		House Finch.....	117
		House Wren.....	2
		Inca Dove.....	79
		Killdeer.....	10
		Ladderback Woodpecker.....	1
		Lark Sparrow.....	1
		Long-eared Owl.....	2
		MacGillivray's Warbler.....	3
		Meadowlark.....	5
		Merlin.....	1
		Mississippi Kite.....	1
		Mockingbird.....	59
		Mourning Dove.....	94
		Nighthawk.....	15
		Northern Harrier.....	2
		Northern Flicker.....	7
		Oregon Race Junco.....	3
		Oriole.....	2
		Pacific Loon.....	2
		Painted Bunting.....	2
		Parakeet.....	2
		Phainopepla.....	7
		Pied-Billed Grebe.....	2
		Pine Siskin.....	1
		Poor-will.....	2
		Quail.....	25
		Red Cross Bill.....	1
		Red-froued Amazon.....	1
		Red-tailed Hawk.....	32
		Red-winged Blackbird.....	1
		Roadrunner.....	21
		Robin.....	63
		Rock Dove.....	97
		Rock Wren.....	1
		Rufous Hummingbird.....	8
		Rufousback Robin.....	1

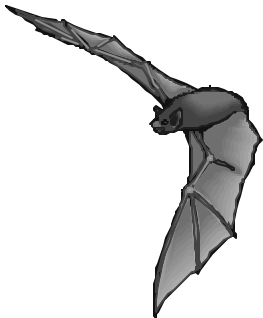


Sage Sparrow.....	1
Sandhill Crane.....	1
Saw-whet Owl.....	2
Screech Owl.....	1
Seagull.....	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	6
Snowy Egret.....	25
Sora.....	1
Sparrow.....	256
Spotted Towhee.....	1
Starling.....	20
Swainson's Hawk.....	9
Swallow.....	28
Towhee.....	1
Turkey Vulture.....	2
Verdin.....	3
Vireo.....	1
Virginia Warbler.....	2
Warbler.....	2
Warbling Vireo.....	1
Western Kingbird.....	20
White-winged Dove.....	500
Wild Turkey.....	1
Wilson's Warbler.....	1
Yellow Headed Blackbird.....	3

BIRD TOTAL: 1952

MAMMALS

Antelope.....	1
Bat.....	1
Bear.....	1
Big Brown Bat.....	4
Cave Bat.....	11
Cottontail.....	58
Coyote.....	1
Evening Bat.....	2
Field Mouse.....	13
Gopher.....	1
Gray Fox.....	10
Ground Squirrel.....	2
Hedgehog.....	1
Hispid Cotton Rat.....	1
Horay Bat.....	1

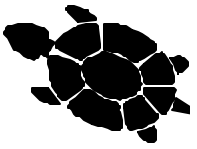


Jackrabbit.....	6
Little Brown Bat.....	2
Mule Deer.....	2
Pack Rat.....	3
Raccoon.....	10
Ring-tailed Cat.....	3
Rock Squirrel.....	12
Silver Haired Bat.....	3
Spotted Skunk.....	5
Striped Skunk.....	12
Townsend Long-Eared Bat.....	4
Wood Rat.....	3

MAMMAL TOTAL: 173

REPTILES

African-hinged Tortoise.....	2
Caiman.....	1
Desert Box Turtle.....	18
Green Toad.....	1
Horned Lizard.....	2
Iguana.....	3
Python.....	1
Red Ear Pond Slider.....	1



Turtle..... 7
Soft Shelled Turtle..... 1
REPTILE TOTAL: 36

OTHER

Channel Catfish.....	4
Dragonfly.....	1
Red Swordtails.....	75
Tarantula.....	1

OTHER TOTAL: 81

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS ASSISTED: 2242

NUMBER OF CALLS DISPATCHED: 1699

*** 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 Bigelow505-882-2910

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gloria Villaverde..... 577-9505

REHABILITATORS

Central -

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

Amy Rembold (small birds)..... 566-8682

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

East -

We need help!!!!

Northeast -

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

Sheila Barnes (birds/small mammals)..... 566-5719

West -

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

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

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Central -

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

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 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

Phyllis McCarthy..... 581-1063

Susie Jensen 877-4036

East -

Phyllis/Jim Harris

Alan Phelps 598-2103

Chaparral, NM -

Jochen Lange..... 824-3090

LAS CRUCES AREA
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Geri Tillett522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Geri Tillett (birds)522-4966

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

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

**With Deepest Appreciation to Our
Major Contributing Friends of 2000**

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**Thank you!!! We honestly couldn't help our wild
friends without your help and all our other wonderful
members and donating businesses.**

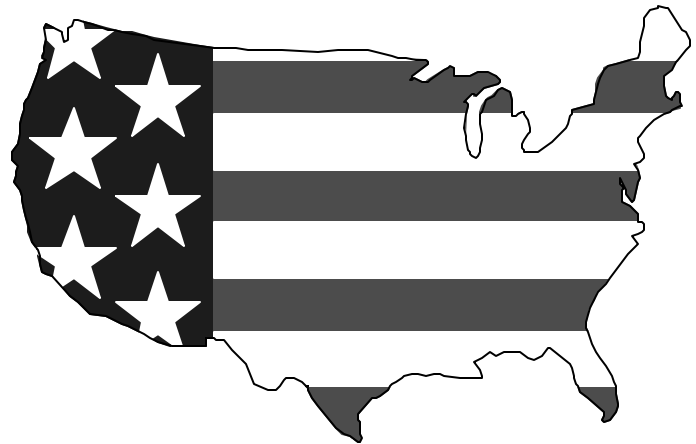


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**Join us now and help make a
 difference for wildlife!**

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Not to hurt our humble brethren is
 our first duty to them, but to stop
 there is not enough. We have a
 higher mission — to be of service
 to them whenever they require it.
 - St. Francis of Assisi



God bless America!



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.