



# Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

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THE EAGLE

2001

## Uno, Dos

April 2, 2001, I received a call from Fairbanks Animal Hospital. Debbie, in a hushed voice, said a lady

was in the Hospital with 2 little furry things and wanted to know what to feed them. I said have her bring them to me because I can't tell over the phone what they are. Debbie said no, she's yelling at me and wants to raise them herself. (I love it when people want to raise wildlife but don't know what



**Marcia Fulton with Uno (or is it Dos?)** they have, what to feed them or how to feed them). So I advised Debbie what to feed and told her to give the lady my number if she needed any help.

About 7:30 that evening I receive a call from Rita. She is the lady with the little furry things. She is almost in tears as she tells me her story. She was out at some property that she owns in Chaparral, New Mexico, watering trees. She saw water *(continued on page 3)*

## The Kestrel Who Went to Second Grade

I received a Kestrel one day from a gentleman who said he picked it up from the middle of the street with cars going over her in La Mesa, a small town a few miles south of Las Cruces. I thought the bird was paralyzed when I picked her up from the cardboard box in which she was confined. She didn't move a muscle and her right eye was swollen shut. Obviously we assumed she had been hit by a passing car.

I treated the eye, dropped some pedialyte onto her beak, and placed her in a carrier in a quiet place to see if she would recover from the shock she seemed to be in. By the next day she was alert and eating. By the third day she was eating three small mice a day and I put her in a large cage. I could



**Geri Tillett preparing to release the Kestrel** fully recovered, so continued another day to feed her in the cage so she would have the strength to be released.

*(continued on page 2)*

**\* CDWR \***  
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**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 Kestrel who went to Second Grade** *(continued from front)*

I remembered that my good friend, Jean Gilbert, was a second grade teacher in La Mesa Elementary school, and since I wanted to release this bird back where she was found, I phoned Jean to see if her class would like to witness the release the following day. The class welcomed me with great enthusiasm and I was able to tell them the story of this bird and give a lesson in kindness and wildlife conservation. When we went outside I opened the box and carefully removed the bird (which was the first time they had seen it). I wanted them to have a good look before she flew off. She spread her wings and looked back at the entire class. They ooh'd and ah'd over her beauty.

Then I let go and she flew up onto the roof of the school and turned and looked down at us for a few seconds, then took off and circled further and further away until she was out of sight.

The children could hardly contain their excitement. We went back to the classroom and I was able to answer more questions, even one who asked how much I got paid for doing this.

It gave me a chance to explain what a 'volunteer' is, and why we need to give our wild birds all the help they need. The next day a mother of one of the students told the teacher her daughter certainly learned a lesson in humanity and was very excited about what she had witnessed the previous day.

I'm hoping for more Kestrels, as they are great teachers!

Geri Tillett - 2001



**Mrs. Gilbert's 2nd grade class  
Las Mesa Elementary—March 2001**

## Uno, Dos (continued from front)

coming out of the ground a few feet away from where she was watering. Her first thought was that a pipe had broken and water was gushing out of the ground. Closer examination showed a hole and at the hole were two little muddy animals that had been washed up onto the ground. She felt so bad, she was going to bury them, but she didn't want them to be dirty. So she washed them off and left them in the sun while she finished watering the rest of the trees. When she came back to bury them, she could hear them squeaking and could see them breathing. At that point she was just flabbergasted and felt was her obligation to make sure that they would survive!

I now find out why she is SO emotional about the little critters. She tells me that she is Jewish and was in the concentration camps as a young girl and that all life is precious to her. She felt that it was a miracle that the little critters were still alive and it was up to her to take care of them. After she got them home and tried to feed them, she found out that her hands could not work the syringe to feed them. Could she bring them to me in the morning?

I felt that she was correct in the fact that they were still alive was not only a miracle, but also a testimony to their determination to live. I told her I could pick them up now if she wanted. She was very relieved and gave me her address.



**Ord's Kangaroo Rats, Uno & Dos**

“What are they?” Rita asked. I told her I didn't know, but would look them up in one of my books when I got home and I would let her know.

The first thing I did was feed them when I got home. The first few feedings are a little tough because I don't feed them the way momma does, but it doesn't take long for them to get the hang of it.

Come to find out they are Ord's Kangaroo Rats. I name them Ono and Dos, and the fun begins.

I weigh them the next day – 18 gm and 17 gm. To tell them apart, I mark Dos with a little red dot of vegetable food coloring. It's amazing how my fingers stay stained red for days and the dot on Dos disappears by the next feeding. I'm having a hard time finding the dot the next time, so my husband Robert says “Put a larger dot on him.” I said, “You do it, my fingers are red enough.” So he proceeds to put a bigger dot on Dos and get his fingers all red. The dot disappears the next feeding and Robert's fingers are red days later.

In case you don't know, Kangaroo Rats are nocturnal. I forgot how dark it is at 3 a.m. But in true male fashion Robert wakes up long enough to ask what I'm doing and rolls over and goes back to sleep. That's okay though, there is something soothing being the only person awake and watching Uno and Dos holding onto the syringe (continued on page 4)

Rita met me in the yard and showed me into the bathroom where she had the little guys in a box on top of a heating pad. She was doing everything right, but could not get her 70 plus year old hands to work properly.

I pulled back the towel and looked into the box. I don't know what it is about rodents that steals my heart away, but I was looking into the faces of two of the cutest things I had ever seen. Eyes were shut, and they were what I call silkies. Soft brown fur, little white spots over the eyes and ears, and a long black and white striped tail.

## Uno, Dos (continued from page 3)

and eating until they fall asleep in my hand.

It doesn't take them long to consider me momma. I put my hand in the box and they climb into it. With their eyes now open, the milk doesn't seem to hold them over for too long. I go way back in my brain and remember when my kids were babies and the doctor told me to add a little baby cereal with the formula. It would keep them from getting hungry so fast. Boy am I glad I remembered that, I get a few more hours sleep than I did in the beginning.

Uno and Dos are growing, literally by the day! Rita wants to go with me to release them back to the wild. I decide to release them at Hueco Tanks State Park. There is food and water, as well as other Kangaroo Rats out here. They will be protected from people and be able to live a healthy and wild life. So on April 24th we take them out and release them. They turn and give us one last look, then scamper up a sandy bank and disappear under a desert bush. I will never get over the strong will to live that wild animals have. Maybe that's why we do what we do. How can we not?

Marcia Fulton



Dos (or Uno) being fed by syringe

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## Come and Learn About West Texas' Flying Jewels

Texas Parks and Wildlife and UTEP, Centennial Museum brings to El Paso two evenings of free presentations on West Texas Hummingbirds.

Mark Klym, from Texas Parks and Wildlife (Austin), is the coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and expert on Texas hummingbird diversity and ecology. He will be presenting on hummingbirds for two evenings on August 14 and August 15. Presentations are free and will be held from 6:30 PM to 9PM at the Centennial Museum, UTEP (on the corner of University and Wiggins).

Each presentation will begin with an introduction to the 18 hummingbirds recorded in Texas with special emphasis on West Texas hummingbirds. The presentation will include simple tips on identifying these flying marvels. Mark will then give simple tips to attract and maintain hummingbirds in your yard using native drought-tolerant plants. Then Mark will present simple tips to help control ants, wasps, and other pests around your feeders.

Come enjoy them all, learn how to attract and nurture our hummingbirds and how you can help Texas Biologist learn more about these marvelous Texas treasures.

**Contact: Lois Balin**  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Phone: (915) 834-7070  
Fax: (915) 843-7060

**Contact: Scott Cutler**  
Centennial Museum  
Phone: (915) 747-6668  
Fax: (915) 747-5411

**\* 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 .....505-882-2910

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Gloria Villaverde.....577-9505

**REHABILITATORS**

**Central -**

Bill Howe (turtles/snakes/lizards/small exotics)..... 772-0695  
 Dr. Gail Patrick (Animal Regs. & Disease Control) ..... 532-5966  
 Amy Rembold (small birds).....566-8682  
 Gloria Villaverde (reptiles).....577-9505

**East -**

We need help!!!!

**Northeast -**

Charles/Carrol Bella (raptors/reptiles/mammals)..... 751-4711  
 Marcia Fulton (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 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  
 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  
 Jim/Linda McDowell .....824-4333

**LAS CRUCES AREA**  
**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Geri Tillett .....522-4966

**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

**Don't forget to visit our website  
 for lots of bird care information and fun!!!  
 www.whc.net/cdwr**

**Plea for Help!!**

Baby bird season is upon us. We are very short on rehabilitators and transporters. Please help us and the wildlife in our care.

**Thank you Volunteer Pilots of  
 Cielo Dorado!!**

These wonderful people have filled a critical void by creating a volunteer pilot group to transport injured wildlife to specialized care facilities throughout New Mexico in their private planes. They have already made numerous flights, carrying a Red-Tailed Hawk, great – horned owl, and other animals. **Kudos to you all!!!!**

**Godspeed to the Bowman's as they move  
 to San Antonio. Thank you for everything,  
 we'll miss you. Health & happiness to  
 you all!!**



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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Dear CDWR Members:

Thank you for all your support over these past four years. And thanks especially for your love and concern during my recent illness.

We will always cherish the friends we have made here and will carry with us many fond memories.

Sarah & Mary Bowman

Thank you to the El Paso Zoo for fostering the three Great-Horned Owl babies!!



**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.