



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Vol. 13 No. 2

THE EAGLE

2002

Bits & Pieces

In Memory of Anne Hussmann

If you leave a door open you just never know what might wander in.

Anne responded to the call: squirrel in the kitchen. The squirrel appeared to be a nursing mother, so trapping causing a possible injury was not an option. Leaving young to starve to death is a consequence of trapping.

Anne recruited neighbors and armed each with a sheet. The moving wall of sheets closed in on the squirrel, flushing it through the open door and back to freedom and young.

Anne was nicknamed the "squirrel extractor"

Look What I Caught, Mom!

This spring a hatchling mockingbird came to me as an orphan and he progressed beautifully until it was time for him to depart. I placed him in a large cage a few days before his release so he could stretch his wings and have lots of elbow room in preparation for the big day! It didn't take him long to venture out after the cage door was propped open. That evening he was back looking for dinner. I hacked him out for several days by providing a light meal when he showed up, which was about every two hours. One day after he had breakfast, he didn't return until late that afternoon. Just as I went outside he was flying in for a landing with a big black bug in his beak. He let out a big "CH" sound as if to say, "Look what I caught, Mom!" That was the turning point. We only saw him once a day after that so I guess he is learning how to make a living.

- Geri Tillett

With a Little Help From Our Friends

An Animal Regulation and Disease Control (ARDC) officer rescued a beaver walking down a street in central El Paso. Upon examination it was determined that it was healthy, just confused as to how to get downriver.

Thanks to an ARDC officer it was given a ride to a site far down river so that it could get on with it's life.

In Spite of a Little Help From Our Friends

Two young boys "rescued" a young roadrunner and delivered it to the wildlife rehabilitator nearby. The "bird napped" fledgling missed its parents, needless to say, but was settled into a holding facility for care. It ate reluctantly since the rehabilitator didn't look a thing like its mother.

The next morning mom roadrunner came to claim her youngun'.

They were reunited, and headed west.
Birds are best raised by birds.

Noisy

There seems to be a point in a young Grackle's life when I can place him on a perch on my work table and he will sit there day after day and squawk when he's hungry. No cage is necessary for many days and he makes a cute decoration and conversation piece. The one I received his spring we named "Noisy" because he used his

(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)..... 772-6011

Amy Rembold (doves only)..... 566-8682

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

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

East -

Sheila Barnes (birds) 852-4079

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

Northeast -

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

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 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

Geri Tillett522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Geri 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 Drive525-1000

Jornada Vet Clinic, 2399 Saturn Circle382-1710

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

TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

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



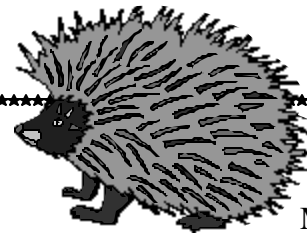
Of course not. But thousands of nestlings are kidnapped each year based on this old wives' tale. Don't believe what you've heard--birds will not reject their offspring if they've been touched.

- If the nestling is uninjured, put it back.
- If you can safely reach the nest, place the baby inside
 - If the nest has been destroyed, use a basket or plastic planter as a substitute and hang it from a tree branch.
 - If the parents don't return by nightfall, call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

- If the nestling has been injured...
- Place it inside a box or paper sack.
 - DO NOT feed the bird or offer it any water.
 - Keep the nestling in a warm, quiet place away from radios, TVs, and curious children.
 - Call a wildlife rehabilitator for help.



Statistics 2001



BIRDS

American Kestrel.....	48
Barn Owl.....	9
Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	49
Black-crowned Night Heron.....	27
Black-hooded Parakeet.....	1
Black Necked Stilt.....	1
Brown Pelican Burrowing Owl.....	15
Cactus Wren.....	1
Cattle Egret.....	3
Chicken.....	2
Chihuahuan Raven.....	31
Chihuahuan Raven Eggs.....	10
Chukar.....	2
Cooper's Hawk.....	7
Curve-billed Thrasher.....	17
Dark Eyed Junco.....	4
Duck - American Wigeon.....	1
Duck - Blue Winged Teal.....	1
Duck - Domestic.....	9
Duck - Mallard.....	30
Duck - Wood.....	5
Flammulated Owl.....	1
Golden Eagle.....	4
Goose - Bean.....	1
Goose - Chinese.....	1
Grackle.....	103
Great Blue Heron.....	7
Great Horned Owl.....	12
Green Heron.....	1
House Finch.....	58
House Wren.....	1
Ibis.....	2
Inca Dove.....	47
Killdeer.....	1
Lazuli Bunting.....	1
Loggerhead Shrike.....	1
Long-eared Owl.....	2
MacGillivray's Warbler.....	1
Meadowlark.....	2
Mockingbird.....	41
Mountain Plover.....	1
Mourning Dove.....	74



Nighthawk.....	17
Northern Harrier.....	1
Northern Flicker.....	2
Parakeet.....	1
Phainopepla.....	1
Pyrrhuloxia.....	2
Phoebe.....	1
Pied-Billed Grebe.....	1
Quail - Gambel's.....	20
Racing Pigeons.....	3
Red Cross Bill.....	1
Red-tailed Hawk.....	26
Roadrunner.....	11
Robin.....	35
Rock Dove.....	100
Ruby Throated Hummingbird.....	1
Rufous Hummingbird.....	3
Savin's Gull.....	1
Say's Phoebe.....	7
Snowy Egret.....	76
Sparrow.....	132
Starling.....	14
Swainson's Hawk.....	16
Swallow.....	5
Turkey Vulture.....	10
Violet Green Swallow.....	1
Virginia Warbler.....	1
Warbler.....	1
Western Screech Owl.....	1
Western Grebe.....	2
Western Kingbird.....	22
White-winged Dove.....	395
Yellow Headed Blackbird.....	1
TOTAL.....	1547



MAMMALS

Bobcat.....	8
Cliff Chipmunk.....	1
Cottontail.....	72
Coyote.....	1
Gopher.....	1
Gray Fox.....	17
Ground Squirrel (striped).....	1
Jackrabbit.....	14
Little Brown Bat.....	3

Long-tail weasel.....	1
Mule Deer.....	2
Ord's Kangaroo Rat.....	3
Pack Rat.....	1
Porcupine.....	1
Raccoon.....	6
Ring-tailed Cat.....	3
Rock Squirrel.....	7
Silver Haired Bat.....	1
Spotted Skunk.....	3
Striped Skunk.....	15
TOTAL.....	161

REPTILES

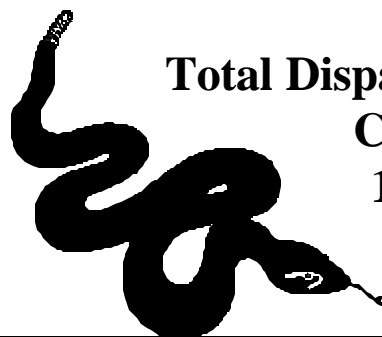
American Alligator.....	6
Collared Lizard.....	1
Desert Box Turtle.....	49
Eastern Garter Snake.....	1
Frog.....	1
Horned Lizard.....	4
Iguana.....	7



Lizards.....	3
New Mexico Garter Snake.....	13
Red Ear Pond Slider Turtle.....	12
Spectacles Caiman.....	1
Trans Pecos Rat Snake.....	1
Water Turtle.....	21
TOTAL.....	120

Total Animals Assisted: 1828

Total Dispatched Calls: 1586



Board of Officers

President: John White

Vice President: Carol Miller

Secretary: Gloria Villaverde

Treasurer: Susie Jensen

Board of Directors

Dr. Nancy Crider, DVM

Inga Groff

Debbie Lofton

Enrique Rodriguez

Barbara Snow

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

This Old Swallow Nest

A lady called voicing great concern about a swallow's nest that was coming loose from its moorings. Since I live only 20 minutes away, I went to her home to assess the situation that afternoon. I found an old swallow's nest on an stucco covered horizontal beam on the woman's patio. The right half of the nest had pulled away from the beam and was in imminent danger of falling.

My heart warmed to the lady as she told me her story. Swallows had used the nest for the last five or six years. Her eyes lit up as she talked of the thrill of seeing the birds return each year. (Just the way I feel as our migrants return each spring.) The lady and her son (now away at college) would enjoy sitting on their patio and watching the swallows as they refurbish the nest, line it with feathers, lay and hatch eggs, and rear their young. This year the nest had degraded badly, needed an overwhelming amount of work, and there was no mud available due to our drought.

So I returned home to consider the options. A padded shelf under the nest might help, but I didn't want to damage the stucco by mounting it. The shelf could be held in place by a couple of Quick-Grip clamps, but it and the clamps might very well scare away the swal-

lows. So I decided that simplest would be best. I got my caulking gun, loaded with Liquid Nails, and prepared to return the next day to glue the nest back in place.

Fortunately my wife, Jane, gave thought to the problem also. After the last rainy season I had harvested a 5 gallon bucket full of clay from a ponding area east of our house. Jane uses this as one component of her potting mixes, and suggested that I take some along just in case. So I put several inches of clay chunks in an old coffee can and was on my way.

Back at the nest site I found that swallows had already begun lining the nest, and the lady said that they had been perching on her porch lamp to consider their situation. Up the ladder, I found the situation to be much worse that it first appeared. The old nest was riddled with deep cracks and was in danger of falling apart. I put a small dollop of Liquid Nails behind the main part of the nest and held it in place for about 5 minutes until the adhesive began to set. Then I added water to the clay, mixed it thoroughly, and began dabbing the clay into the fissures of the nest. It was easy to glue all of the pieces together and then reaffix the whole nest back to the beam. As I worked, the swallows flew by several

times to observe.

As viewed through my 'retrospectoscope,' the clay mud alone probably would have done the job. But, like a man wearing belt and suspenders to hold up his trousers, the combination of adhesive and mud should ensure that the nest stays put. The kind lady has phoned several times, effusive in her thanks, and to inform that the swallows are using the nest. In fact, there are now three of them squabbling over it. I feel as proud as Norm must when he completes a project.

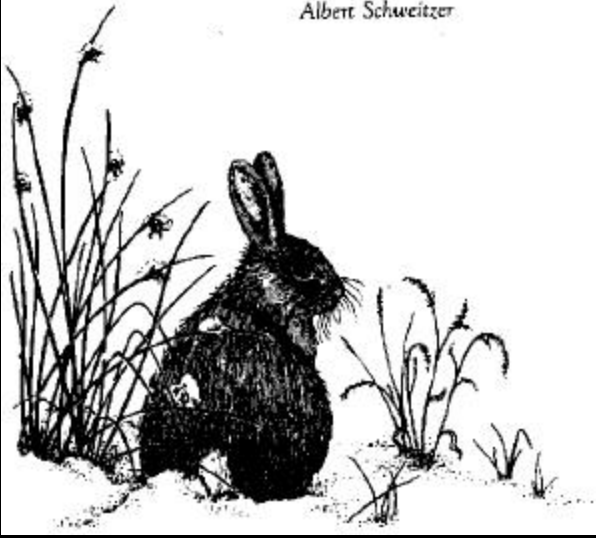
- John C. White, Transporter/Troubleshooter

A Special
Thank You
to Dean Travis of
Valley Feed for his
support of CDWR
with the creation
of our special
account!

Another Special
Thank You
to Larry Webb of
Webb Feed for
giving us such a
good deal on
Exact baby bird
formula!

The deeper we look into nature, the more we realize that it is full of life, and the more profoundly we know that all life is a secret and that we are united with all life that is in nature.

Albert Schweitzer



Bits & Pieces *(continued from front)*

Noisy *(continued)*

squawk every few minutes, unless of course, he was taking one of his frequent naps. Eventually he began to jump down from the perch and explore around the work table. His territory gradually grew to include the entire garage. He learned to fly to the top shelves and was master of all he surveyed. From those high places he would sometimes decide it was time to eat and make a crash landing at my feet, missing the table. He loved to pick up papers and drop them on the floor. The cuteness gradually wore off because he left a 'trail' everywhere he went, and it became quite a problem when the 'trail' soiled my record book and other items in the garage, such as my husband's camera bag. So, he finally "graduated" to the large outdoor cage I save just for Grackles. He still squawks when he's hungry but is learning to pick up his own food now. And our garage is a bit cleaner.

- Geri Tillet

Noisy II

I received a call from Helen one May morning concerning a "killer grackle" found at a day camp in the upper valley. The caller said the grackle was acting very peculiar and she was afraid the thing would attack and hurt one of the children while they attempted to swim.

I arrived with my 3 year old in tow, deciding to leave my armor in the truck bed as to not frighten the children or the bird any further.

What I found was one very loud, hungry fledgling grackle encaged under a plastic milk crate. I gently lifted the crate, talking softly to the bird. It began gaping it's red mouth widely, beating his wings and squawking to signal it's hunger. The children around the pool took a step backward. I picked the bird up, and to the amazement of the crowd, promptly placed it in my son's arms, where it stayed until we delivered it to a rehabilitator, to the utter delight of both Sam and his mother.

- Susie Jensen

Bird Antics

We have a Summer Tanager who lights on our skylight and pecks at it and looks down at us. Some friends of ours in Arkansas have a Roadrunner that brings snakes, lizards or whatever it has captured and brings it to their window and pecks on the glass. If they don't clap he smears it on the window until they do clap, then goes to the next window and repeats this for all four windows. He is also very friendly when they are out in the yard.

- A friend in Oklahoma



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.

Arizona Animal Adventure Tour

Thursday through Monday, October 17-21, 2002

This tour is the first ever animal adventure tour for the Humane Society of El Paso. Partial proceeds are to benefit the Humane Society of El Paso. We would like to invite all CDWR members and supporters to join in the fun. Friday: Tour the new **Nina Mason Pulliam Campus for Compassion**: Just opened on May 4, the first animal shelter and welfare society of its kind in the greater Southwest and constructed with \$13 million in donor funds; **Wildlife World Zoo**: Arizona's largest collection of exotic animals up close and personal with a tram ride through the African area and a boat through the Australian. Saturday: **Phoenix Zoo** with a Behind the Scenes Tour. There is also a narrated tram tour thru the zoo. That evening: **Broadway Palms Dinner Theater** - "Ragtime." Sunday: **'Out of Africa' Wildlife Park** with lunch included (featuring "Tiger Splash" and a chance to feed a tiger!) Drive to Tucson and check in at the Sheraton. Dine at **Govina's** Natural Foods Buffet. Monday: **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum**: world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden with more than 300 animal species and 1300 plant species in their natural settings. **Cost**: \$895.00 per person/double occupancy; \$995.00 per person/single occupancy. Cost includes the motorcoach, refreshments on the coach, escort, 3 nights hotel accommodations at the Country Inn & Suites, Mesa, Arizona and 1 night at the Sheraton Tucson; 10 Meals, entrance fees for all included activities, luggage handling and driver tip. For more information call Sandi Gibson at Around and About Tours, 833-2650, or the El Paso Humane Society at 532-6971



Chihuahuan Desert
Wildlife Rescue Inc.

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difference for wildlife!

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