



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

Vol. 15 No. 1

THE EAGLE

2004

ARTIFICIAL OWL BURROWS



The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society donated funds raised by their 2003 Christmas Bird Count to CDWR to provide artificial Burrowing Owl habitats and protection of existing natural owl burrows. John Sproul suggested the installation of four artificial habitats at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, so CDWR purchased the necessary materials. Irrigation boxes (12"X17"X14") would do for the nests and 3' lengths of 4" diameter PVC pipe for the tunnels into the nests. To eliminate light into the nests, 90-degree elbows were used. Concrete blocks at the burrow entrances were po-

sitioned to discourage predators. The inside of the PVC pipe was painted and covered with coarse sand to provide traction on the slippery PVC. On Saturday, February 21st, John Sproul assembled volunteers provided by the Trans-Pecos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, Friends of the Rio Bosque, Coronado High School, & UTEP's Department of Teacher Education for the installation of the artificial burrows. John had marked four widely separated 5' high earthen mounds as the sites for the artificial burrows. The unassembled materials were deposited at each site and the volunteers did the final assembly, burying the burrows atop each mound. A well-planned and coordinated collaborative effort on the part of all of the groups involved should help to alleviate the stress on the Burrowing Owl population caused by urban encroachment on their natural habitat.



2003 STATISTICS

BIRDS

Blackbird, Yellow-headed	1
Bunting, Painted	1
Chicken	3
Coot, American	4
Cormorant, Neotropic	1
Cowbird, Brown-headed	1
Crane, Sandhill	2
Crow, American	2
Dove, Fancy Pigeon	7
Dove, Inca	48
Dove, Mourning	110
Dove, Ringed Turtle	7
Dove, Rock (Pigeon)	181
Dove, White	1
Dove, White-Winged	606
Duck, Canvasback	1
Duck, Domestic	7
Duck, Mallard	15
Duck, Mallard, Mexican	1
Duck, Muscovy	1
Duck, N. Shoveler	4
Duck, Ring Necked	1
Duck, Wood	18
Eagle, Bald	1
Egret, Cattle	14
Egret, Snowy	14
Falcon, American Kestrel	44
Falcon, Merlin	3
Falcon, Peregrine	2
Finch, Domestic	7
Finch, American Gold	2
Finch, House	172
Flicker, Northern	5
Goose, Domestic	2
Grackle, Great-tailed	149
Grebe, Pied-billed	2
Grebe, Western	1
Hawk, Cooper's	11
Hawk, Ferruginous	1
Hawk, Red-tailed	12
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	4
Hawk, Swainson's	31
Heron, Black-crowned Night	13
Heron, Great Blue	2
Heron, Green	3
Heron, Little Blue	1
Hummingbird, Black-chinned	87
Hummingbird, Rufous	6
Ibis, Whitefaced	1



Jay, Scrub	1
Junco, Dark-eyed	1
Killdeer	7
Kingbird, Western	31
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	1
Kite, Mississippi	1
Lovebird	1
Mockingbird	56
Nighthawk, Common	18
Nighthawk, Lesser	3
Oriole, Bullock's	5
Owl, Barn	11
Owl, Burrowing	20
Owl, Great Horned	16
Owl, Western Screech	6
Parakeet	1
Pelican, White	1
Phainopepla	1
Phoebe, Say's	3
Pigeon, Racing	2
Pyrrhuloxia	1
Quail, Gambel's	20
Rail, Sora	1
Raven, Chihuahuan	26
Roadrunner	17
Robin	47
Rooster	1
Sparrow, House	263
Sparrow, White-crowned	1
Starling, European	29
Stilt, Black-Necked	2
Swallow, Barn	11
Swallow, Cave	1
Swallow, Cliff	9
Thrasher, Curve-billed	7
Thrush, Hermit	1
Vulture, Turkey	1
Warbler, MacGillivray's	1
Warbler, Orange Crowned	1
Warbler, Virginia's	1
Warbler, Wilson's	4
Wren, Cactus	1
Wren, House	4
GRAND TOTAL	2249



MAMMALS

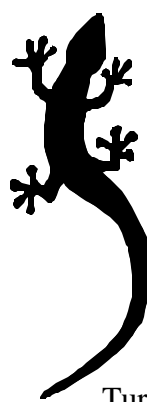
Bat, Brown	1
Chipmunk, Cliff	1
Deer, Mule	3

Ferret	3
Fox, Arctic	1
Fox, Gray (NM)	4
Hamster	1
Hedgehog	1
Javelina	3
Lion, Mountain	1
Mole	1
Muskrat	1
Opossum	7
Rabbit, Cottontail	52
Rabbit, Domestic	5
Rabbit, Jack	8
Ringtail Cat	1
Skunk, Striped	6
Squirrel, Ground	29
Squirrel, Rock	10
GRAND TOTAL	139
MAMMALS	139



REPTILES

Gecko, Leopard	1
Iguana, Green	13
Lizard, Texas Horned	1
Lizard, Southern Prairie	1
Salamander, Barred Tiger	1
Snake, California King	1
Snake, Coachwhip	1
Snake, Gopher	9
Snake, Hognose	1
Snake, Python	6
Snake, Rattler	8
Snake, Sonora Gopher	1
Toad	1
Turtle, Chihuahuan Mud	1
Turtle, Common snapping	17
Turtle, Desert Box	44
Turtle, Eastern Box	1
Turtle, Florida softshell	1
Turtle, False Map	1
Turtle, Common Musk	7
Turtle, Red-ear pond slider	66
Turtle, Spiny softshell	6
GRAND TOTAL	189
REPTILES:	189



Total animals assisted: 2577
Total Dispatched calls: 3556
Web site inquiries: 10,000

*** 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 DISPATCHERS

Helen Bigelow.....505-882-2910
Debbie Lofton915-772-6011

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Gloria Villaverde577-9505

REHABILITATORS

Central/East

Bill Howe (turtles/snakes/lizards/small exotics)..... 772-0695
Debbie Lofton (birds/water birds/sm raptors/sm mammals) .. 772-6011
Mickey Rupprecht (small birds) 774-9997
Gloria Villaverde (reptiles).....577-9505
Sheila Barnes (birds)..... 772-8399

Northeast -

Charles/Carrol Bella (raptors/reptiles/mammals) 751-4711
Holly Sanchez (small birds).....822-1902
Deacon Foote (turtles & iguanas)..... 757-9330

West -

Helen Bigelow (raptors).....505-882-2910
Carol Miller (water birds)584-7088
Josie Karam (small mammals/birds/turtles).....581-1510
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 Texas545-1148

East -

Johnsen Animal Hospital, 1851 N. Lee Trevino592-6200
Desert East Animal Hospital, 11635 Pelicano..... 855-4100
Eastwood Animal Clinic, 9509 Montana593-0713
Americas Animal Clinic, 630 Americas Ave 858-1971
Animal Clinic, 7184 Alameda 778-5355

Northeast -

Skyline Veterinary Hospital, 4424 Titanic 755-7647
Northeast Veterinary Clinic, 9405 Dyer..... 755-2231
Fairbanks Animal Hospital, 5320-C Fairbanks 757-8387
Harwood Veterinary Clinic, 4404-A Edgar Park 755-5653

West -

Crossroads Animal Hospital, 4910 Crossroads584-3459
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
Nancy Bain 822-9228

West -

John/Jane White.....505-589-3320
Susie Jensen.....877-4036

East -

Linn Anderson.....859-5413
Alan Phelps.....598-2103

Chaparral, NM -

Jochen Lange..... 824-3090

LAS CRUCES AREA

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Geri Tillett 522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Geri Tillett (birds)522-4966
Las Cruces Reptile Rescue 373-1486

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

Therapy (continued from page 4)

hanging from the corners, which hangs 18” down from a tree branch and I smear suet paste on it and stick berries and the re-hydrated fruit into the peanut butter. These items will bring insects from your yard/garden, and this is a natural “insecticide” as the birds will eat them also.

RECIPE FOR SUET PASTE

- 1 part peanut butter
- 1 part shortening
- 1 part whole wheat flour
- 3 parts cornmeal
- 1 part cracked corn

RECIPE FOR SUET TREAT

- 1 cup Bread Crumbs
- ½ cup Raisins
- ½ cup Peanut Hearts or chopped Peanuts
- ½ cup coconut
- ½ teaspoon sand
- 1 cup lard (or ground suet)

Mix first five ingredients in large bowl.
Melt lard in a double boiler.
When in liquid form, pour over dry ingredients and mix well. Spoon mixture onto piece of waxed paper.
Form into ball by bringing sides of the paper up and around the mixture. Refrigerate until firm. in mesh bag or cut to fit suet feeder.

- Debbie Lofton

Board of Officers

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Debbie Lofton

Elda Rodriguez

Enrique Rodriguez

Geri Tillett

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

THERAPY NOT NEEDED

It is my birthday and I am sitting at the dining room table looking into the back yard and field. The two-digit number called “age” is getting larger and larger. I am enjoying watching the different types of doves eating grain, but I want more. MORE BIRDS, MORE VARIETY, MORE EXCITEMENT! Hmm, I think what I need is a therapist, but I don’t want to pay somebody to tell me to get off my behind and do something. I am still sitting at the table contemplating life, when my Mother-in-law comes to help me celebrate this new year of my life. ****##@@** You understand those words, don’t you? She brings me the nicest card and inside are very inspiring words about celebrating life’s little joys, blah, blah, blah. Also inside the card is a recipe for a treat for feeding wild birds. The pictures of birds on the front of the card are Robins and Bluebirds. I don’t have any Bluebirds, but I certainly have Robins chasing around the yard. I look inside a very old bird guidebook and call a local wildlife rehabilitator to find out what other birds might eat this suet treat. Finally, I am moved to excitement! I rush to a store to buy all the ingredients, but they have no sand. I rush home with all my goodies, and look to the yellow pages. I only need ½ teaspoon of sand! I live in the Chihuahuan Desert for goodness sakes! I rush to a garden nursery. Twenty-five pound bags!!!! I tell anyone who will listen, I ONLY NEED ½ TEASPOON. I am willing to sweep the concrete for ½ teaspoon of sand. Can’t you help this older woman on her birthday with a little bit of sand? I am not going to say where I finally acquired the sand, but let’s say there are people still talking about the frantic woman in the middle of a large street intersection with a broom and dustpan. After that experience, I now buy my supplies in large quantities. I wrote that story a couple of years ago, and as Paul Harvey says, “the rest of the story”...

Another one of those “two-digit” days is coming up, but I can tell you that when I sit in my dining room and look out into the back yard and field, I have MORE BIRDS, MORE VARIETY, MORE EXCITEMENT and without a therapist. I have my very own wild bird circus! The birds play with the treats, hang upside down from them, kick them around on the ground, stand around and look at them trying to decide what they are. Different times of the year bring different types of wild birds, but there is always a show. Hanging that first suet feeder in a tree, led to hanging other types of food objects just to see what would happen. A desire to bring more birds to your backyard is all you need! A note of caution, don’t hang the treats too near the ground, as it leaves the birds vulnerable to cats. Years ago, I came home from work to find a Red-naped Sapsucker hanging upside down from my hummingbird feeder, drinking the sugar water. He held on and kept tilting that feeder until there was not one drop left. I thought if they would hang from that feeder, what else would they hang from.

My daily apple to keep the doctor away is now shared with the birds. I cut small wedge slices all the way around the apple, and those are mine and I hang most of the apple from a branch in a tree. I used to slice the apples and place on the ground, but one time a Mockingbird was walking around with the core around his neck. It was a funny sight, but it made him vulnerable to predators. I use a long upholstery needle with a length of twine inserted through the apple with a large metal washer on the bottom to keep a knot from slipping back through the apple. This hangs about 12” down. The reason is they can’t sit on the branch to eat it. The little birds hang from the twine and eat, the large birds grab the apple or washer and hang upside down. When the apple is gone, they play with the “shiny” washer. Cut an orange in half and the same principle applies. After they eat the inside of the orange, I remove and fill the peel with different items. I dehydrate fruit (figs, apricots, prunes, etc) in large amounts once or twice a year and store. I remove small amounts and soak in water to rehydrate. I built a 12” x 24” platform out of a board with chain *(continued on page 3)*

New Mexico Wildlife License Plate: 'Morphed and Modified' but Finally Here

After a decade of struggles on many fronts (too numerous and complex to mention), the New Mexico Wildlife License Plate Bill—House Bill 656, "License Plates Featuring Wildlife Artwork"—has finally been signed into law as of 2:17pm Sunday, April 6, 2003. This means that.... finally!.... New Mexicans will be able to purchase an official New Mexico Wildlife License Plate, featuring the handsome Gambel's Quail. Part of the proceeds of this plate will help fund Share with Wildlife, as well as other nongame or habitat conservation projects of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF).

Design Modifications: The original bill was proposed and championed by Representative Mimi Stewart, D-Bernalillo County/District 21, with input by former New Mexico State Game Commissioner Steve Padilla. Since so many other 'specialty license plate' bills were fighting for passage—with 15 such bills finally being signed into law—the New Mexico State Legislature amended all these bills to make things easier for the Motor Vehicle Division, being hit with handling so many new plates all at once. As amended and finalized, now each of these specialty plates—the wildlife plate included—must have its artwork fit into an image area of 4-1/8" x 3-1/8".

How to order the New Mexico Wildlife License Plate: Starting October 15, 2003, the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division began accepting orders for the New Mexico Wildlife License Plate. License plate orders placed under the new requirements should be available to the individual requestors beginning January 2, 2004.



If you wish to obtain a New Mexico Wildlife License Plate you may access the required order form from two web sites or by phone.

From the Internet: Motor Vehicle Division web site: <http://www.state.nm.us/tax/>. Select "Forms" then select Motor Vehicle Forms, then scroll down until you find the "Application for Wildlife Plate" form. Select the form and print it. If you are placing this plate on an already registered vehicle, your check, made out to the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division, will be in the amount of \$25.00. Fill out the form and send it, and the check, to the address listed on the form. When the Motor Vehicle Division receives your request, it will be processed and the plate forwarded to you. If you are placing this plate on an unregistered vehicle, you need to have the vehicle registered and then apply for the specialty plate or go to the Motor Vehicle main office at 1100 South St. Francis, Santa Fe, NM Room 2085 for assistance.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish web site: <http://www.gmfsh.state.nm.us>. Scroll down near the bottom of the page and click on Wildlife License Plate. Click on "Application" and the same specialty plate order form that is found on the Motor Vehicle web site will be displayed. Select the form and print it. If you are placing this plate on an already registered vehicle, your check, made out to the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division, will be in the amount of \$25.00. Fill out the form and send it, and the check, to the address listed on the form. When the Motor Vehicle Division receives your request, it will be processed and the plate forwarded to you. If you are placing this plate on an unregistered vehicle, you need to have the vehicle registered and then apply for the specialty plate or go to the Motor Vehicle main office at 1100 South St. Francis, Santa Fe, NM Room 2085 for assistance.

By phone: If you do not have access to the Internet, you may call (505) 476-8111 and have the form sent to your home.

Step Up to the Plate... "Step forward and be counted!" urges Chief of Public Affairs Don MacCarter. "Buy a New Mexico Wildlife License Plate on behalf of our nongame species statewide. Help make this plate a success in New Mexico, providing much-needed, new funding for species that really need it."

**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:

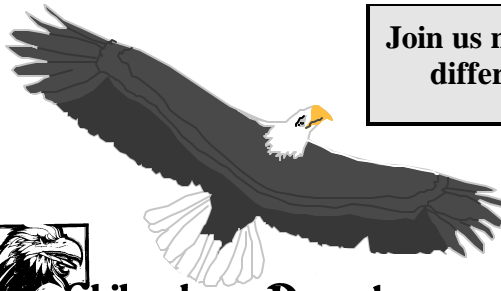
INDIVIDUAL: \$10.00 _____
FAMILY: \$15.00 _____
CONTRIBUTOR: \$25.00 _____

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.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

CDWR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization



**Chihuahuan Desert
Wildlife Rescue Inc.**

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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THE PERFECT RELEASE: IT WENT THAT -A-WAY!!

A Burrowing Owl was rescued and taken to Country Club Animal Clinic where it was stabilized and passed on to a CDWR Rehabilitator, along with three medicines to be administered on a daily basis. The owl recovered rapidly and was ready for release in short order. The rather feisty owl was taken to the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in a cardboard box, complaining all the way. It was arranged with John Sproul to open the box on the count of '3'. The owl was out of the box like a scalded pussycat and out of the picture before it was even snapped. Many birds, upon release, will go to a nearby perch to assess their new surroundings. But not this owl; it was gone 100 yards in a trice and into the underbrush, never to be seen again. We hope that it enjoys its newfound freedom and its new habitat.

