



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

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THE EAGLE

2005

THE BIG GRUB

(or Another Way to Amuse Your Grandchildren)

By John C. White

Grandpa went down to the garden to tend his chickens and spotted a large brown grub lying in the path. It was the largest grub Grandpa had ever seen and the ugliest, too. Grandpa wondered what the large, ugly grub would become; maybe his grandsons, Cameron and Parker, would like to have it.

Grandpa found a clear plastic bug box and covered the bottom with alfalfa. He picked up the grub; it was surprisingly strong and thrashed about wildly in his fingers. But Grandpa hung on and dropped the grub into its new home. Cameron and Parker were staying at a cabin in Ruidoso with their parents Deanna and Phelps, and Grandpa went to their house every day to bring in the mail and newspaper, take care of the cats, and water the plants. So Grandpa left the bug box on the kitchen counter with a note stating, "BIG GRUB!"

When Grandpa returned to Cameron and Parker's house the next day he noticed that the grub had grown much larger. It was throbbing and pulsating and gave off a strange glow. Grandpa thought, "If this keeps up I am going to have to get a bigger box."

The next day Grandpa was surprised to find that the cats' litter box had not been used. Their food and water were untouched. There was no sign of the cats anywhere in the house. Then Grandpa saw that the bug box on the kitchen counter was broken and empty. He followed a trail of slime across the counter, across the kitchen floor, across the living room rug, and behind the sofa. There was the grub, which had now grown to giant size, and had bits of cat hair clinging around its mouth.

In a panic, Grandpa raced into the kitchen and grabbed a butcher knife. He made a stabbing motion at the giant grub, but the grub was too quick. It whipped its head around and swallowed the knife, along with Grandpa's hand. Grandpa planted his feet firmly on the grub and gave a mighty tug while beating on the grub's head with his other hand. The grub finally let loose with a horrible 'slurping' sound, but Grandpa's hand was bleeding rather badly from the grub's rasping teeth.

Grandpa wrapped his hand in paper toweling and drove back home, where Grandma bathed and bandaged it while Grandpa related the story. Grandpa was about to call Animal Control and report a cat-eating grub when they both realized that Cameron and Parker's family were due home any minute. Grandpa better get back to their house to warn of the danger. As he turned the corner onto Quail Drive, Grandpa saw the family minivan parked in the driveway. Deanna was already unlocking the front door and Phelps was unloading the van. As Grandpa screeched to a stop in front of the house he watched in horror as Cameron and Parker darted past Deanna and into the house. Then he heard two giant 'slurping' sounds, followed by a huge 'burp' from the grub and a scream from Deanna, who was recoiling in horror.

There lay the grub, throbbing and pulsating, with two boy-sized lumps in its throat. Phelps, with quick thinking, grabbed a rope and tied it tightly around the grub's middle to keep the boys from sliding down into the grub's stomach. Then he jumped up and down on the grub's body, forcing the boys to squirt back out like toothpaste from a tube. Miraculously, each boy was holding one of the cats. All covered with slime, the boys and cats (*continued on page 2*)

Grub (cont. from front)

lay on the floor gasping for breath. It was a near thing.

After many hugs all around, the cats ran upstairs to hide under the bed and Deanna marched the boys to the bathtub and spent the next hour scrubbing off all traces of grub slime. Meanwhile Grandpa drove back home to collect a mean old rooster from the chicken run, and Phelps fashioned a large hook and tied it to the rope he had removed from the grub. The squawking rooster was fixed to the hook and trolled in front of the grub; the ugly creature quickly swallowed the bait hook, line, and rooster.

Phelps set the hook just as if he were catching a bass. Then he and Grandpa threw the rope over their shoulders and, straining with all their might, managed to drag the bloated carcass out onto the front yard. There in the blazing desert sun the giant grub thrashed and twisted in agony. And it shrunk....and shrunk.... and shrunk....until it was no bigger than its original thumb-size.

All that was left was a shriveled, shrunken grub skin. Cameron and Parker would love to tell others about their horrible grub adventure, but no one would believe them. After all, there is no evidence to prove their story. Of course, the cats know.... but they aren't talking.

- Jane & John White

Adventures at the Canal

Two days before Christmas, our beloved dispatcher Debbie calls to see if I could pick up and release a turtle. It was right around the corner from my house. Okay, no problem, right? So I call Kevin on his cell phone and inform him we have a pickup and release. He's game. So we pick up the turtle and head off to the canal. Debbie said there would be water for him. Having never been there before. I trust her. But it's getting dark, so Debbie says we'll need a flashlight. Ok, we can stop and buy one. I want to finish the last minute holiday shopping after the release anyway, so Kevin and I have on fairly nice clothes, Kevin has on his new dress cowboy boots (3 inch wedged heels). I have on my new work boots (that I won't wear for work 'cause I don't want them messed up). So we stop at the store to get the flashlight. Got it and proceed to the release site. Debbie said it would be dark, and boy was she right! Okay, we find a place that resembles the spot, but NO WATER in the canal. We call Debbie to verify we have the right place; yep, we're in the right place. So after we leave the car lights on, we start wandering up and down the canal, looking for water, or a pocket big enough to put him in. I get the turtle out of the box and I'm holding him all the while wandering up and down the canal. Unbeknownst to us, we are being watched by the border patrol. So we find a spot to walk down. I have the turtle, so I go down the bank. Down was the easy part. The turtle smells water, starts squirming like he's on a dinner plate with a last prayer on his lips. I traipse thru the muck to a pocket of water and let him go. Of course I want to see where he goes, so I'm trying to follow him. Not a good idea Kevin says. So I proceed to walk back up the embankment. Yahuh, I'm slipping and sliding like I'm trying out for the 10k march. Kevin starts to laugh at me; meanwhile I'm huffing and puffing, and complaining that this is too much like exercise. Nasty word (exercise kills people!!) I keep on huffing and puffing like a train on it's last dying breath. I find a path sideways up the hill with Kevin helping me. By this time we both are laughing like a couple of lunatics on a day pass from the nut house. As we're walking to the car, 2 border patrol cars with lights on, come speeding at us like we're making a break for Mexico. I'm still huffing & puffing, so my speech isn't the greatest. But they understand we're there to release a turtle. Nope, not two crazies trying to sneak into Juarez. Well, Kevin and I start patting ourselves on the backs for a job well done, and discussing our adventure. We're hungry so drive thru dinner it is. Works for me. It's about 20 minutes from the canal to the burger joint. About 10 minutes into the drive I start itching, then sneezing, then coughing. Kevin asks me what did I walk thru? Don't know and don't care at this point, I'm hungry, itchy and about as pleasant as a wart hog. We get the food and make it home. But I'm into a full-blown asthma attack at this point. Kevin ushers me into the shower, and scours the house for Benadryl. Tylenol PM it is. Needless to say I slept for two days, and Kevin had a peaceful, albeit quiet 2 days. His visions of a romantic evening shot to, well you know, there's always next time.

- Sheila Barnes

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Out of deep respect for Helen Bigelow and a request from my wife, Harvette, I accepted the request to become President of CDWR. I am sad that I did not get to know and work with John White.

I met Helen when Harvette took me out to her place to see the birds. Harvette is a bird watcher and lover. I am a Relational Theologian. By vocation, I am a Pastoral Psychotherapist. I serve as the Executive Director of the Pastoral Counseling Service of El Paso. By avocation, I am an organic gardener. Organic gardening is the metaphor of my life.

I feed the invisible critters in the soil, they feed my plants, and my plants feed Harvette and I. The critters, plants and I need each other and one is not more important than the other. We are a system.

So, it is with the larger system of the natural environment, the visible critters, and we human beings. We are interdependent and inter-related to each other. As we "take care of the least of these" critters (birds, animals, reptiles) so we stay sensitive to the worth and value of each other as human beings. Martin Buber, the Jewish sage, called this an "I-Thou" relationship rather than "I-it" relationship.

I have much to learn. I am touched by the wisdom and skills of the caring people who serve through CDWR.

- Herman Green

*** 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 Bigelow505-882-2910
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 Rupperecht (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).....472-2589
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).....920-7867

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

East -

Johnsen Animal Hospital, 1851 N. Lee Trevino.....592-6200
Desert East Animal Hospital, 11635 Pelicano855-4100
Eastwood Animal Clinic, 9509 Montana.....593-0713
Americas Animal Clinic, 630 Americas Ave.....858-1971
Animal Clinic, 7184 Alameda778-5355

Northeast -

Skyline Veterinary Hospital, 4424 Titanic755-7647
Northeast Veterinary Clinic, 9405 Dyer755-2231
Fairbanks Animal Hospital, 5320-C Fairbanks.....757-8387
Harwood Veterinary Clinic, 4404-A Edgar Park755-5653

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 Groff755-2957
Charlene Ruddock.....755-5575
Nancy Bain822-9228

West -

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

East -

Linn Anderson859-5413
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
Shirley Crain (rabbits & squirrels)382-4530
Las Cruces Reptile Rescue373-1486

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

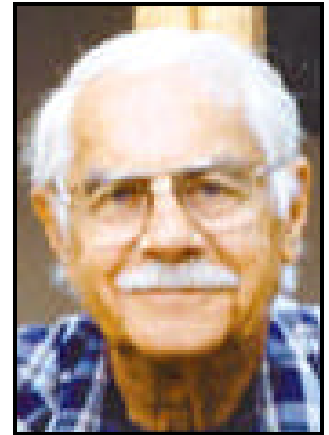
TRANSPORTERS/TROUBLESHOOTERS

David/Sherrri Byrd (raptors)524-2314
Abe Mendoza382-1732
Jack Diven Family527-2661

Bird Watcher

*Across the earless
face of the moon
A stretch of Vs
Honks homeward.
From the lake
Laughs the last joke
Of a solitary loon.
Winter silences us all.
I will miss
These conversations
The trips at dawn
And dusk,
Where I listen carefully,
Then answer
Only with my eyes*

- Jane Yolen



***John White
January 4, 2005***

In loving memory

*Thank you for
blessing our
lives with your
presence. You
have made a
truly vast
difference.*

*** CDWR ***

El Paso / Las Cruces

Board of Officers

President: Herman Green

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Treasurer: Susie Jensen

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Josie Karam

Debbie Lofton

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



© Laurie Excell

CDWR 2004 Statistics

Birds

Avocet, American	1	Flycatcher, Ash-throated	1
Blackbird, Brewer's	2	Goldfinch, Lesser	2
Blackbird, Redwing	1		
Blackbird, Yellow-headed	1		
Bobwhite, Northern	1	Goose, Domestic	3
Canary	1	Goose, Snow	1
Chat, Yellow-breasted	1	Grackle, Great-tailed	128
Chicken	25	Grebe, Eared	1
Chickadee, Mountain	1	Grebe, Pied-billed	2
Chukar	1	Grebe, Western	2
Cockatiel	5	Grosbeak, Black-headed	2
Coot, American	1	Guinea Hen	1
Cowbird, Brown-headed	1	Gull, Ring-Bill	1
Crane, Sandhill	1	Hawk, Cooper's	5
Dove, Inca	75	Hawk, Harris	1
Dove, Mourning	144	Hawk, Red-tailed	8
Dove, Ringed Turtle	1	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	7
Dove, Rock (Pigeon)	218	Hawk, Swainson's	11
Dove, White	5	Heron, Black-crowned Night	32
Dove, White-Winged	824	Heron, Great Blue	1
Duck, Blue-Winged Teal	1	Heron, Green	3
Duck, Bufflehead	1	Hummingbird, Black-chinned	63
Duck, Domestic	15	Hummingbird, Rufous	2
Duck, Mallard	32	Junco, Dark-eyed	1
Duck, Mallard Hybrid	18	Killdeer	6
Duck, Wood	14	Kingbird, Western	47
Eagle, Golden	1	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	1
Egret, Cattle	7	Kite, Mississippi	2
Egret, Snowy	29	Mockingbird, Northern	45
Emu	2	Nighthawk, Common	17
Falcon,		Oriole, Scot's	2
American		Ostrich	1
Kestrel	48	Owl, Barn	2
Falcon, Merlin	1	Owl, Burrowing	17
Falcon, Peregrine	2	Owl, Great Horned	14
Finch,		Parakeet	7
House	175		
Flicker,			
Northern	1		

(continued on page 4)

CDWR 2004 Statistics (continued)

Birds (continued)

Parrot, Conure	1
Parrot, Quaker	1
Peacock	1
Pelican, American White	1
Pelican, Brown	2
Pheasant, Chinese Ringtail	1
Pheasant, Golden	3
Pheasant, Ring-necked	1
Phoebe, Say's	2
Pigeon, Fancy	8
Pigeon, Homing	3
Pipit, American	1
Poorwill, Common	5
Quail, Gambel's	19
Raven eggs	16
Raven, Chihuahuan	12
Roadrunner	13
Robin, American	41
Sparrow, Chipping	1
Sparrow, House	307
Sparrow, Rufous-Crowned	13
Sparrow, White-Crowned	1
Starling, European	18
Stilt, Black-Necked	1
Swallow, Barn	24
Swallow, Cave	4
Swallow, Cliff	1
Tanager, Summer	1
Thrasher, Crissal	1
Thrasher, Curve-billed	18
Thrush, Hermit	2
Thrush, Swainson's	1
Vulture, Turkey	3
Warbler, Orange Crowned	4
Warbler, Virginia's	2
Waxwing, Cedar	3
Whip-poor-will	1
Woodpecker, Ladder-backed	4
Wren, Cactus	1
Wren, House	4

TOTAL Birds: 2642



ARTHROPODS



Centipede, Desert	1
Crab, Hermit	3
Tarantula	1
Vinegaroon	1

TOTAL Arthropods: 6

FISH

Moray eel, Snowflake	1
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REPTILES

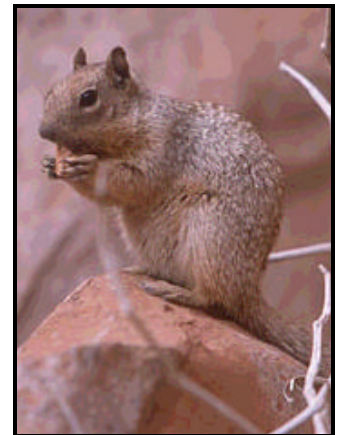
Alligator, American	7
Caiman, Schneider's dwarf	1
Gecko, Mediterranean	1
Gecko, Tokay	1
Iguana, Green	7
Lizard, Texas Horned	1
Snake, Sonora Gopher	6
Snake, Mexican Black	1
Snake, Python	2
Snake, West. Diam. Rattler	3
Toad, Fire-bellied	102
Tortoise, Desert Sulcata	2
Turtle, Alligator Snapper	1
Turtle, Chihuahuan Mud	1
Turtle, Common snapping	1
Turtle, Desert Box	70
Turtle, Malaysian Box	1
Turtle, Mississippi Mud	2
Turtle, Red-ear pond slider	114
Turtle, Sonora mud	1
Turtle, Spiny softshell	5
Turtle, Yellow mud	2

TOTAL Reptiles: 332

MAMMALS

Bat, Brown	2
Bat, Calif. Myotis	1
Bat, Cave	1

Bat, Pallid	2
Beaver	1
Bobcat	1
Deer, Mule	1
Ferret	1
Fox, Gray (NM)	1
Gopher, Desert Pocket	5
Guinea Pig	1
Hamster	6
Mountain Lion	1
Opossum	2
Pig, Domestic	1
Rabbit, Cottontail	49
Rabbit, Domestic	19
Rabbit, Jack	5
Raccoon	5
Rat, Domestic	5
Skunk, Spotted	1
Skunk, Striped	6
Squirrel, Ground	5
Squirrel, Rock	11
Squirrel, Tree	1



TOTAL Mammals: 136

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS REHABILITATED: 3115

TOTAL CALLS DISPATCHED: 2524

**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

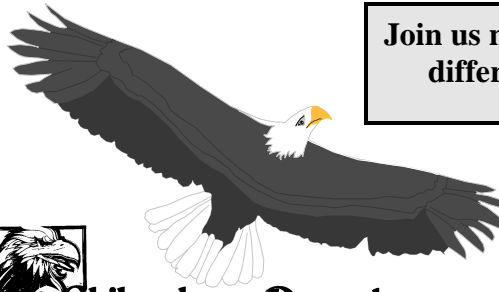
Membership gives you the opportunity to help orphaned and injured wildlife and to support the efforts of the CDWR volunteer rehabilitators. Membership includes a yearly subscription (4 issues) of the newsletter.

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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With Deepest Appreciation CDWR Acknowledges Our Major Supporters

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support them.***

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Karen Sydek
Mary Anne Thibodeau
Janice Thompson
Mary Ann Thompson
Melissa Thornberry
Shain & Julie Vinikoff
John & Jane White
Jerry Wilhelm
Patricia and Seth Wood

***Last but not least: to our
dedicated and wonderful re-
habilitators and those who
support them. We love you.***

I would like to send my "Get Well" wishes to Helen for a very speedy recovery. All of God's little creatures miss you...
Josie, westside rehabilitator

Wish List

Heating Pads
Paper Towels
Kleenex