



Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue Inc.

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THE EAGLE

2004

Dedication of a Transporter/ Troubleshooter

I received a telephone call from a woman who had found a hatchling bird on the ground the previous evening. She was at work, so I placed a call to one of our Transporter/Troubleshooters, to pick up a hatchling bird from the home.

We discussed the usual things: Name of person calling, address of where the bird is, phone number, and contact person if different from person calling. Our contact person at the home was a young girl, so I stressed to not scare the girl who will have a Stranger knocking at her door while her parents are not at home. We wear identification badges, but I am still conscious of dealing with younger people. I gave the Transporter driving directions to the street. We also talked about handing out a newsletter. The Transporter called the home number to introduce the organization and inform the young girl that the bird would be picked up in a few minutes. There was no answer to the call, so the Transporter called me back to explain the situation. After further discussion, the Transporter decided to just go ahead and drive to the home as the mother of the young girl said she was there. The Transporter goes out the front door of their house and looks around at an empty driveway and suddenly remembers that one of their vehicles went into the shop for maintenance that morning and the spouse has the other vehicle. I received a sheepish phone call. As you probably have guessed, I called another dedicated Transporter/Troubleshooter.

- Debbie Lofton

She's Ba-ack! And other Updates

Mystery solved! Over a month ago my large (16 inches) female snapping turtle disappeared. I searched the yard high and low and finally decided that someone must have climbed the fence and taken old Maude. There was no way she could simply walked away. My yard is surrounded by a 6 foot high rock wall and the gate is escape proof for a turtle that size. Yesterday the neighbor's dogs were barking furiously - even noisier than their normal din. I looked across the wall and there she sat - taunting the dogs to come a bit closer to her beak. I ran to get my large landing net to try and snare her but she had disappeared before I got prepared. Tonight the barking started again and I was able to lower the net and pull her over the wall. The neighbors, whoever they are, are rarely home. I had left notes for them but no reply. Their back yard is full of trash, tree limbs and several meaner-than-hell dogs. No way I was going to jump the wall to get her. Somehow, old Maude managed to climb a six foot rock wall. That's quite a feat for even an agile animal. She is now back in marital bliss with Humphrey, who has been somewhat sad since the old lady flew the coop. Gators growing like little weeds.



I guess they are about 14 inches long now. Did find out that they definitely have sharp teeth. When I fed them yesterday (I use hemostats) one of the little guys took a flying leap and snagged my little finger. He drew blood. Luckily, he quickly discovered his mistake and dropped off. They are not aggressive at all under normal conditions but when feeding time comes around, they can put a school of piranha to shame.

The young coon is getting a bit braver and will actually come out of hiding now when I put food into the cage. Usually she just waits until it's dark before descending from her nest box for a meal. She's still not cuddling and begging for attention as the fox still does but we are making some headway.

- Bill Howe

Some Well Deserved Thank You's from Las Cruces

Wilma Burch for her daily work feeding and cleaning cages! She never missed a day all summer! Barb Graham and son Ben, who came faithfully each week day for an hour, feeding and cleaning cages! Chris Dahlin, who recently moved to Las Cruces to start her PhD program in Bird Communication at NMSU. She came many times, learned to tube feed the doves, and already knew how to clean cages!!

CDWR Transporters / Trouble-Shooters— Extraordinaire - Thank you

Carol Adcock Linn & Bob Anderson Nancy Bain Sheila & Kevin Barnes Tracy Bean Gus Bigelow David Byrd Darlene Candelaria Rick Carew Danny Cassiano Dr. Nancy Crider Kathy Daniels Jack Diven Family Tillie Espinosa Joe & Inga Groff	John Hanson Susan Hatch Gabe Hernandez Cathy Holdsworth Mary & Ron Hudson Tony & Mary Inocencio Susie Jensen Lou Keith Roger Kopecki Becky Kroeger Jochen & Eva Lange Lynne Larned Bill Meeker	Abe Mendoza Braxton Merritt Carol Nelson Alan Phelps Corbin Phelps Charlene Ruddock John Sproul Bill Stotts Beth & Russ Tucker Gloria Villaverde Wayne Weaver Paul Weber John White Jeff Wiseman
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Your wildlife rehabilitators appreciate all the caring people out there that transport and aid wildlife in trouble – the general public, El Paso Animal Regulation and our cooperating veterinarians. Thank you. You are “the wind beneath our wings.”

A special thanks goes out from westside rehabilitator, Josie Karam, to Beth Tucker, a sub-permittee and rehabilitator in training, for all the help she has provided and the true affection she has shown the wildlife in her care.

Beth was a little leery about caring for the birds until she raised two hatchling pigeons to "fledgling-hood" and experienced the joy of watching them learn to fly. Even though they returned to their "box" at night, each day they would venture a little further and a little longer into a very big world.

After that, Beth was hooked and did a marvelous job of rehabilitating. Recently, Beth has assumed a full time job which, unfortunately, does not allow her to participate as much in rehabilitation, but her talent and desire are still very much alive and the memory of the birds she rehabilitated will eventually call her back.

Thank you, Beth, for a job well done.

YOU SAY YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY LIKE A BIRD....

D O N E !!

**You're *now* a Blackpoll Warbler
weighing as little as eight pennies.
It's Springtime.**

Your mission – and you must accept it or you will die—is to fly from your winter home in northern Venezuela to your summer home in the forests of Maine.

Over 2,300 miles.

You may fly alone. You fly at night.

You can decide for yourself what your route will be how high and fast you will fly. But here's a tip: if you climb to 5,000 feet over the Atlantic and catch a good tailwind, you can maintain a ground speed of more than 50 miles per hour and save about 50% of your energy. And you'll need it because that 1,200-mile non-stop stretch over the ocean is a killer!

Be careful! Hawks are always looking for an easy meal. Storms can drive you off course and wires from those tall communications towers are impossible to see.

But worst of all as you prepare to stop and rest—exhausted from your journey — you discover that the land is gone! No more forests, branches, berries or juicy bugs. Just the roofs of condos and the sprawling parking lots of shopping malls.

One last thing, there are no second chances and no guarantees you'll make it alive. Still want to fly like a bird?

See you in Maine. MAYBE....



Blackpoll Warbler, summer male © Kevin T. Karlson

*** 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 Villaverde..... 577-9505

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)..... 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

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, 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 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
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

Gerri Tillett..... 522-4966

REHABILITATORS

Gerri Tillett (birds)..... 522-4966
Shirley Crain (rabbits & squirrels) 382-4530
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



Betsy Meerscheidt

September 8, 1932 ~ August 17, 2004

There are birds out there
flying, singing and humming
because she cared.

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

Board of Officers

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Vice Pres.: Open

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Open

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Geri Tillett

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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

Ain't Nature Grand....

A family in Oregon found this fawn on their front steps a few weeks ago and took this photo. The white spots on the steps are apple blossom petals. As you know, deer hide their fawns and go away for awhile.



The fawns have no odor yet, and naturally stay absolutely still.

Isn't this an amazing photograph! A great job of camouflage! The fawn stayed there all morning, (they live in Bend, OR), and the mama came to get it after 4-5 hours. Praises to the people for leaving the fawn alone, knowing Mom would be back.

THE MOM "HID" HER BABY ON THE BROWN STEPS WITH WHITE SPOTS.

Open Space and Trail Group Needs Your Input on a Dona Ana County-Wide Plan

A very exciting draft proposal or Vision for a county-wide open space and trail system has been prepared by the Citizens' Task Force for Open Space Preservation (CTF). The draft Vision is being circulated to solicit feedback from organizations interested in open space and trail issues.

Presentations about the Vision will also be made to the general public to gather their input. Using the website below, please read the draft vision document and view the two draft maps, one Las Cruces area, one county, indicating areas to be protected as open space and trails and give us your ideas. A system of connected open space and trails offers numerous benefits, including protection of habitat for flora and fauna.

Based on this feedback, we will revise the Vision, and resubmit to non-governmental organizations to request their endorsement. The Vision will then be presented to local governmental jurisdictions for their consideration. It will be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management as input to the revision of its regional management plan as well.

If you would like to schedule a presentation about the Vision with your department, Board, general membership, etc., please contact CTF.

Thanks in advance for your input.

Citizens' Task Force for Open Space Preservation

PO Box 422

Mesilla Park, NM 88047

Website: www.zianet.com/openspace

Email: openspaces@zianet.com

Mockingbirds Boast Wide Variety of Talents

By Carol Lee

The northern mockingbird is one of the best-known songbirds in America. The state bird of Texas and four other states, it's probably most famous for its extraordinary singing abilities.

In addition to a beautiful song of its own, mockingbirds can imitate the calls of about 39 other species. Their repertoire also includes warbling, whistling and trilling, as well as imitating the sound of a creaking gate, barking dog, chirping cricket and scores of other everyday sounds. As the bird sings, it repeats each phrase three to six times and reportedly can change its tune as often as 87 times in seven minutes.

Its scientific name, *Mimus polyglottos*, means many-tongued mimic. Native Americans called the bird "cencontlatolly," meaning 400 tongues. Not to be outdone by other birds, the mockingbird's been known to sing for over an hour without interruption and can even fling itself from a branch into the air without missing a note.

A mockingbird is the reason the Wildlife Center was founded. It was the first bird I raised in 1986, and lucky for me, I just happened to have a book called "Wild Orphan Babies." Even better, the bird featured in a photo was exactly what I had in my hand — a mockingbird fledgling. My little charge was a delight to raise. One day I noticed his throat moving, and he was mimicking the society finches in the cage hanging beside him. I followed the book to the letter, and in two weeks he was ready for release.

For nine days, he gradually increased his time away from me and returned less and less often for supplementary handouts. On the 10th evening, he did not fly to my shoulder to come back to the safety of the cage for the night, although he warbled from a neighbor's tree to let me know everything was just fine, and that now he was independent. Along the way, he'd endured a severe, sudden afternoon thunderstorm, as well as a scuffle — undoubtedly with another mockingbird. He could also kill the largest of beetles with the best of them.

As a direct result of that wonderful experience, the Wildlife Center took root two years later, and in 1995 the mockingbird became the logo for our quarterly newsletter, *The Mockingbird Chronicles*.

Mockingbirds are superb parents. After courtship and mate selection, they frequently form long-term pair bonds. Interestingly, scientists found that females are attracted to males that make the most different sounds. Both parents are involved in nest building. The male gathers materials, and the female puts it all together. Grass, roots and leaves form the soft lining of the cup-shaped nests, which often are placed in low bushes, vines or shrubs near buildings. Two to six bluish-green eggs with brown markings are laid, hatching in about 13 days. About 12 days later, the mocky youngsters are fully feathered and ready to leave the nest. Their tail feathers are short but will continue to grow. The parents will later build a second nest, and the next brood will appear here in July.

Fearless when there are eggs or youngsters in the nest, mockingbirds will harass cats, dogs, squirrels and other birds. They are not afraid to take on human intruders, either. Very territorial, they may also attack car mirrors, doors or windows when they see their own reflection, assuming it's a trespasser.

Like other young songbird fledglings, mockingbirds normally spend a few days on the ground perfecting their skills. So unless a young bird is injured, leave it alone. The parents are nearby, teaching it important survival skills. If a youngster is in harm's way, quickly move it to a safe location nearby. Mom will probably buzz you, but a 3-ounce bird won't hurt a 130-pound person.

Mockingbirds eat insects, fruit and berries. When feeding on the ground, they often spread their wings, exposing the white undersides. Some believe this wing flashing is used to startle insects into moving around so they can be caught. Even young orphans exhibit this behavior.

During the winter, mockingbirds eat mostly vegetable matter. They can be attracted to your yard year-round by a half orange or apple skewered and tied to a tree. Grapes are another favorite, and some bird lovers even purchase mealworms to make the demanding job of parenting two families a year a little easier.

The adaptable mockingbird lives primarily in the eastern, southern and midwestern states and is found throughout Texas. It is at home in rural and urban settings. This feisty songster is a true Texas native. When Texas chose the mockingbird as its state bird in 1927, the resolution said that the bird is "a fighter for the protection of his home, falling, if need be, in its defense, like any true Texan."

*CAROL LEE is the executive director of the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Inc., spwrc@cox.net.
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Sunday, May 16, 2004*

**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.

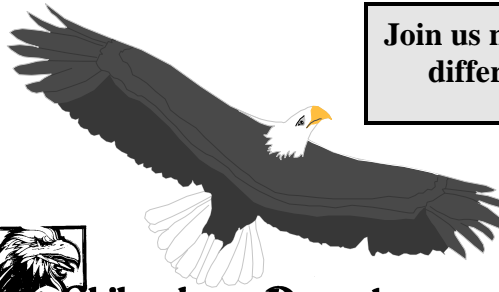
Name: _____

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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Another Success Story from Las Cruces

By Wilma Burch

A few months ago, a pigeon couple made themselves at home at Geri Tillet's bird rehab. The female found a good spot between Geri's husband's rock collection on the shelf next to the garage door where she could overlook the bird bath and the feeder. She did not waste any time to lay eggs. All Geri needs is more birds! Therefore she made an exchange with an infertile egg when the bird left the nest to feed.

Mrs. Pidge, as Geri named her, was patiently sitting on the eggs, waiting from day today, to become a mother. One day, Geri received a tiny baby pigeon and immediately had an ingenious idea. With some treats we lured the bird from the nest, and Geri quickly exchanged the egg for the baby. Moments later, the "new mother" returned to the nest. For a second, she seemed to be stunned. Then she was all over the little one, talking to it very excited, and what seemed to be kissing it, from the top to the bottom. She started feeding it, in between she talked and talked. It was obvious she said something like: "My beautiful, sweet, darling baby, I am so sorry I was not here when you hatched! OI would have loved to help you out of the shell — but I will make up for it." She kept grooming her baby, and when I set down a bowl with extra treats, she bit me twice in a split second, to let me know I better keep my sticky fingers away from her newborn.

From nowhere the "father" appeared on the scene, hitting me hard with his wings, to let me know he, too, meant business.

We gave them some privacy, and later found the proud mama hovering over here baby. Only the little head was extending under her wing, and they both looked most content.

By now, the baby has tripled in size and we are anxiously waiting if "Mrs. Pidge" is raising a little girl, who will build a nest next to her, or if a handsome boy will fly away, to look for a bride. More likely, he will not venture out too far, knowing there is always plenty of food in Geri's feeder.

- Wilma Burch is a daily volunteer for Geri's rehab work