

~Pellets~

Liberty Wildlife Volunteer News

February 2010



Liberty volunteers birding at White Water Draw

Welcome to our Newbies!

Denise Ramamurthy Tuesday daily care and hotline Fridays

Cressa Alvarez Sunday night feed

Lou Venditti Thursday daily care

Natalie Muilenberg Tuesday daily care

Lou Roach hotline Tuesday and Saturday

Pablo Mavy hotline Monday

Michaele Thomas daily care Saturday

Remember the Orphans!

Orphan care refresher class offered Sat. Mar 27 at 8 am for returning volunteers. Call now to reserve your shift time. 480-213-1327.

Gratitude

When the alarm went off at 5:30am, I did not want to get up and make the effort to drive to Liberty Wildlife. My teacher had just died and I felt awful. He was a spiritual mentor – healer – friend. Although he had lived an incredibly rich, full and long life, his leaving was too soon for me. And I missed him terribly.

However, I went, and upon arriving found out that two other people were sick and would not be there. Being short staffed meant that the shift would take longer - and all I wanted to do was leave. "What a disaster of a day," I thought, yet, I couldn't have been more wrong.

What I thought was the worst possible day to do Rehab alone turned out to be one of the best. Working with the birds quietly and at my own pace proved to be healing.

Wild fierce eyes watching my every move, air stirred by feathers in flight, and loud piercing calls kept me tethered to the moment. My personal pain was forgotten. And in attending to their needs somehow they helped to heal my heart. No words were exchanged. No explanations needed. Nothing required except that I be present. And in the mundane mucking out and feeding process, renewal was found.

By **Deborah Downs** Tuesday daily care

~Whose in the News~

Nina (staff) returned from 5 days in Ireland, which she says were awesome. Great pix on Facebook..

Layla Luna (Tues DC) was accepted into an artist residency program at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming. Artists, composers, and writers are awarded living quarters and the time to fulfill a project. Layla will be working on a body of work depicting critically endangered, endangered, and vulnerable vultures.

An intrepid group of education volunteers traveled to Bisbee for a SABO birdwatching tour of the Sulpher Springs Valley and White Water Draw. Many thousands of sandhill cranes dotted the sky, trilling their eerie calls. These giant birds sail with widespread wings and drop gracefully into the grounded flock. 72 individual red-tailed hawks were sighted along with 30 ferruginous hawks-a few with incredibly beautiful and diverse variations in plumage. Altogether 114 species were sighted including two grey foxes curled on a branch some 30 feet in the air, a ladder backed woodpecker "fighting" her image in a rear view mirror, and a harris's hawk trying to deny a harrier some leftovers. **Peggy Cole, Anne Peyton, Craig Fischer, Wendy and John Bozzi, Morry and Carol Marshall, Deborah Downs, Donna Jabara, Terrie Cook and Gail Cochrane** enjoyed SABO's fantastic expedition. Thanks to Sheri and Tom of SABO for all the fun.