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Wing BEATS

A publication of Liberty Wildlife

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At Liberty for the Long Haul Some Rehabilitation Stories

by Terry Stevens

“Time, time, time, see what's become of me...” Paul Simon

As I explain in my education presentations at schools and civic functions, we as a species have a lot of options if we become sick or get injured. If the problem isn't acute, we can apply a bandage or take some medicine and return to our daily lives within a day, if not sooner. If, however, the injury is more severe, say involving broken bones or some serious poisoning, we might be out of action for weeks or even months. During that time, we have friends and relatives who care for us and provide food and shelter while we recuperate. Animals in the wild don't have that luxury. When they become injured or ill, not only do they need to heal themselves, but they must also keep functioning at a nearly normal level in order to survive. Keeping themselves fed and avoiding predators can't be neglected or they will soon starve or become food for someone else, and all this while dealing with an injury that is quite possibly incapacitating. Life for

seriously injured animals in the wild is hard! The lucky ones find care at Liberty Wildlife...

There are basically only two options for creatures that arrive at the facility: they are either releasable, those which will eventually make the journey back to the wild, or non-releasable, the animals that either die or are put to sleep due to the severity of their injuries. Those that regain their health, but cannot be released to the wild due to their injuries, will be kept in our care for the rest of their lives. Our fervent aim is to release every animal that comes in, and in that, we are better than the national average at a release rate of around 50%. The average stay for releasable animals at Liberty is around two to three months, but that number can actually range from a couple of hours to a couple of years or more before they get their chance to regain their freedom. The reasons for these protracted stays are varied, running the gamut of possible injuries. Broken bones which, in the case of birds whose skeletal structure is largely



photo by Terry Stevens

Liberty Wildlife volunteer, Joe Miller, readies this Golden Eagle for release

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Start With the Belief

"The start to a better world is our belief that it is possible."

Katherine Shaw

The 1972 quote by Pogo, "We have met the enemy, and he is us" has been a reflection of our society for over 35 years. I think the time has come to expand that notion and to complete the quote. The 2007 quote should be, "We have met the enemy, and he is us, yet we must also be the solution". Missing in our obsession of what is wrong with the world is the balancing side - what can we do to right the wrong. Solutions should be all about what we can do, either alone or in groups, and either with or without leadership. This issue of WingBeats focuses on the belief that we CAN forge a better world and that YOU can be part of the solution.

One obvious problem that faces us today concerns native wildlife. Wildlife, this precious resource, needs our help. Animals might be downed by man-made fires, flagrant misuse of poisons and toxicities, illegally stolen from a nest, or suffer other tragedies through no fault of their own. Liberty Wildlife staff and volunteers work every day of the year to allow these injured and orphaned animals to have a second chance at freedom. Sometimes it takes years, and that's okay. Our education volunteers travel across the state to spread the word about the beauty and benefits of native animals. If you love, understand, and respect them, you will want to protect them.

Many other groups are likewise working to help wildlife. Volunteers like **The Weedwackers**, as well as state and local agencies, are spending hours and hours trying to eradicate the buffelgrass that is causing problems for our desert and its denizens. Arizona's **Be Outdoors Arizona** is an example of diverse groups coming together to help stem the tide of the alienation of our children with nature.



photo by Terry Stevens

Volunteers work to save baby birds in the Liberty Wildlife Orphan Care Center

Liberty Wildlife's **Roots and Shoots** program addresses many of the same issues, adding leadership and community involvement to the goals and objectives for the young people involved. Local scientists are looking at issues that impact our wildlife knowing that we can only improve the chances for its well-being with knowledge and information. Using green gift ideas for your holiday purchases lets you do the right thing, allows the recipient to enjoy a sustainable gift, and helps the planet in the long run, a win/win situation.

So please, don't stand on the sidelines. Don't even think of giving up or worse yet, feigning indifference. If you won't get involved, who will? Now is the time.

If you have been thinking about volunteering for something that is "bigger than yourself", what are you waiting for? There are many noble causes that would welcome you as part of their solutions. Volunteering your time or money is a great way to give back; it is a great way to set an example for your children; and it is a great way to be remembered....as someone who made a difference. It is said that volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart, so they make the time.

We have met the solution, and it is us. Believe that we can make a difference. Get involved...TODAY.

Megan Mosby

*Megan Mosby
Executive Director*

WingBeats is an annual publication of Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation issued to supporting members of the Foundation.

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Long Haul *continued from page 1*



R-2 Leg Damage

hollow, sometimes take longer to mend than ground-bound mammalian architecture. Also causing long-term problems for birds is feather damage, which can occur from fire, electrical burns, or exposure to viscous or toxic substances such as petro-chemicals. If enough feathers are affected, flight may be impossible until sufficient seasonal molts take place to replace the unusable feathers. We even had a case of otherwise healthy birds having to extend their stay with us due to legal considerations in a case involving USFWS enforcement. Here are a few of the more memorable long-term Liberty Wildlife patients and their stories...

Several years ago we took in a fledgling bald eagle that was really thin and needed some help. He was treated, fed, given flight therapy, banded with the Arizona tag no. R2 and eventually released. Four years later, a newly mature male bald eagle showed up at Liberty with a gunshot wound to his leg. His band read: R2. Our little man had returned! He was just setting up a breeding territory on the reservation north of Show Low when someone shot him, hitting him in the leg as he stood. The major leg bone, the femur, had a large gap between the ends of the bone where the bullet passed through. Other than that, he was in good shape. Our hopes were high, as over the next eight months, four separate surgeries were performed on him to save this magnificent bird. At various times his leg was

pinned internally, externally, and even injected with an experimental collagen paste, normally costing thousands of dollars, that was donated to us for him. This was supposed to form a matrix around which new bone growth could occur, saving his leg. In the end, nothing worked. Due to the fact that eagles need both legs to support their weight, after eight months and four surgeries, we sadly had to put R2 to sleep. We were all devas-

tated, but no one regretted the uncharacteristically lengthy process of trying to save him.

Two barn owl stories make the list of long-term incidents. One was an owl I brought in from the Southwest Valley a few years ago that had the misfortune to have fallen into a barrel of used engine oil. The first order was a thorough cleaning with special detergent. I vividly remember seeing this little owl being rinsed under the faucet after his bath. With oily feathers totally soaked and clinging to his scrawny body, he still glared at us defiantly, moving his head from side to side, valiantly assuming the barn owl's defensive posture of "talon dusting." He spent the next two years replacing his oil-damaged feathers while he recuperated at Liberty. Nick-named "Exxon", he finally went through enough molts, was released and did fine. The other barn owl came in with a broken wing and took many months to heal. In the three years he was with us, he even went through a stint as a foster parent for awhile one spring. Everyone assumed

he was going to be non-releasable until the third year. Then he was placed in the sixty-foot flight cage with some of his foster kids, and to our surprise, he flew perfectly! Candidates for release have to demonstrate the ability to fly normally, including gaining altitude, flying silently - for owls at least - and to hunt and kill live prey in their enclosure. He did all this and was released successfully, to the amazement of everyone!

If you're keeping up with the **Nature News**, Liberty's monthly e-newsletter, you know that in July we released two golden eagles that were in our care for two years, being maintained and kept healthy as evidence in an ongoing criminal investigation. The fledgling birds were reasonably healthy but had been exposed to Aspergillosis and because young golden eagles are especially susceptible to this lung disease, had to be treated and cared for in a preventative fashion. The cost of holding these two beautiful birds on our property, including medicine, lab work, and all administrative expenses was estimated at around \$27,000. Obviously, a long stay at Liberty can be labor intensive and a very expensive proposition!

Finally, on December 21, 2005, I went out to a school on the west side to pick up a Great Horned Owl who had come in contact with an electrical transformer.



Flash's electrical damage

photos this page by Terry Stevens

Long Haul - continued on 4



Flash today

photo by Terry Stevens

Normally birds that are injured by close encounters with electricity have a poor prognosis, as the current burns tissue from within. But as I drove him to Liberty, the odor that permeated my truck was more of burned hair than burned flesh. Upon examination, we found he had a lot of damaged feathers (in fact, nearly every feather on his body had some flame damage), but little if any tissue destruction. Time would tell. When after a week he did not exhibit any indications of internal burning, Flash, as he was nicknamed, was placed in an enclosure where he could be as much of an owl as he could, given the extent of his injury. He spent the last two years enjoying free food and shelter from predators as he molted out all the damaged plumage and replaced them with new fresh wing, tail, and head feathers. The plan is to contact the school where his injury took place and arrange to release him in his old territory, possibly at a home football game or some other function. Flash became

another long-term success story at Liberty Wildlife. This particular school's mascot? The Great Horned Owl, of course!

Terry Stevens moved to Phoenix in 1989 and his life here revolved around airplanes and flying. He was building his third airplane when he got involved in doing rescues for Liberty Wildlife. By the time he started doing education presentations his entire focus had changed and he realized he had found a new, all-consuming passion. He was hooked. Now Terry says that the airplane is rusting in his garage while he spends all of his free time furthering Liberty's efforts at rehabilitation and education.

"Responsibility does not only lie with leaders of our countries or communities or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually."

The Dalai Lama

A Final Farewell

by Megan Mosby

This year we had to say a final farewell to two remarkable women who made an immeasurable impact on the lives of many...especially those of us at Liberty Wildlife. Both of these women loved life to the fullest and our world is a bit dimmer without their bright light.

In January we had to say goodbye to our beloved Debi Bisgrove. Debi embraced everything with a positive, contagious attitude and a "we can do it" smile on her face. One of the "Debi stories" related to me by a family member was of a time that she was lying in the grass at her beautiful home with her grandson. When asked

what she was doing she smiled and whispered, pointing up to the sky, "We're watching the hawks!" I wish we could bottle that energy and spread it far and wide. She was a great woman. And, she is missed.

Only five months later, in June of this year, another light left our world, that of Dorothy Moller. Dorothy was one of the first supporters of Liberty Wildlife and consistently supported us for over twenty plus years. She loved all of God's creatures and found absolute delight in learning more and more about the way things worked in the world around her. Her

sense of humor was fun to be around, and her strength to support the things she believed in was remarkable. Her recognition of the vastness of beauty defined her. She loved the Palo Verde in bloom as yellow was a favorite color. And, no one looked better in a fast, sleek car as she maneuvered her way home sheltering the lost turtle found wandering down the middle of the street. We miss you, Dorothy.

Yes, they are missed by all of us at Liberty Wildlife. Farewell good friends. Safe journey.

The Beauty of Flight

Education group launches inspiring free flight program

by Gail Cochrane

“When people see wild animals up close, it changes them. It changes them for the better.” Anne Peyton

Members of the Liberty Wildlife education team are passionate in their belief that taking native wild animals into the community and teaching about them is the key to insuring their future. The volunteers in this group dedicate many hours to the mission, but they also give their hearts to the individual raptors that star in so many outreach programs each season.

These are non-releasable wild animals. Due to their injuries they will not live in the wild again, but have been given the vital job of wowing the public. Several of the education birds have been going out on Liberty Wildlife programs for nearly 20 years. Imagine how many lives these animals have changed!

The raptors in the education program fall into a wide range of adaptability. Acoma, a Red-tailed Hawk who has folding fractures or bendy bone disease, and is imprinted, has been at Liberty since 1986. He is imperturbable, and thus often the first bird new volunteer handlers work with. At the other end of the scale is another Red-tailed Hawk called Chaco, a gorgeous rufus phase raptor, who presents a daily challenge to the most experienced of the volunteer handlers.

All of the raptors in the education collection are painstakingly trained to sit calmly

on a glove and to tolerate crowds and noise. Volunteer handlers spend many hours learning the techniques for handling the birds as well as studying up on the natural history and individual idiosyncrasies of each. This careful and disciplined approach is why Liberty Wildlife's animals can be taken into many different environments from elementary school classrooms to venues such as the Science Center or the Arabian Horse Show, where a crush of people surrounds them. In the interests of enhancing the education program, and to best demonstrate what birds do in the wild, Liberty Wildlife is preparing to launch a free flight program.

Robby Sinkler has been working with Liberty Wildlife's education handlers to get the free flight program under way. Robby and his wife Shannon go into theme parks across the country with professionally designed free flight programs designed for the parameters of each setting. Sinkler's Wild Sky Productions comes to the Phoenix area every year as part of the Renaissance Fair.

“The purpose is always to promote education and to demonstrate what birds do in their natural settings. Free flights enhance an education program and inspire people to care more about the animals,” Robby says.

At Liberty Wildlife, Robby worked first with several chosen education birds, training them to respond to very specific arm movements, hand gestures and voice commands. He comments, “Even a slight

variation in a movement or command can confuse the animal.”

The raptors begin with flying a short distance from one handler to the other handler constrained by a lightweight leash called a creance. The bird is handled and flown every day, with food rewards for the desired behavior. The distance is increased over many, many practices, and the day finally comes when the creance is taken away. While the handlers watch, hearts pounding, the raptor sails silently, calmly, from one glove to the next.

Various zoos, rehabilitation facilities and falconry schools offer free flight programs to the public. These programs are extremely popular, as people are thrilled to witness up close the beauty of a raptor in flight. Training and perfection of the flight program can take up to a year. Robby points out, “It's like rehearsing a theatrical play. Everyone must learn their part and be able to execute perfectly for the performance to flow smoothly.”

Liberty Wildlife's education group is working hard already on perfecting their free flight program. They will be looking to change more people as they touch hearts and minds with the beauty of flight.

“You see wildlife; you learn about it; you love it. Then you will act to protect it.” Terry Stevens



Red-tailed Hawk's spectacular landing



Harris's Hawk awaits the command



Red-tailed Hawk in flight



Harris's Hawk looks for reward

photos by Barb Del'Ve

Masked Bobwhite Quail

Perilously close to extinction in the wild

by Robert Mesta

Early settlers to the southwest fueled the rumors of the existence of a strikingly handsome quail with a black throat and bright cinnamon breast. This secretive and little known bird, the masked bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus ridwayi*) was not identified and named until the late 1880's. Sadly, the destruction of its grassland habitat by cattle grazing and a severe drought eliminated the masked bobwhite from southern Arizona by the early 1900's, shortly after its discovery. Fortunately, masked bobwhites were reported to be fairly numerous in the Mexican state of Sonora as late as 1937. However, again the effects of cattle grazing caught up with the masked bobwhite, destroying the Sonoran grassland plains, and by the 1950's the masked bobwhite had been eliminated from Sonora.



The speed at which the masked bobwhite was driven to near extinction left us with little knowledge of its basic ecological requirements, which became a problem when the masked bobwhite was rediscovered in Sonora in 1964, and the challenge of recovering this bird was initiated. To date, efforts in Arizona to re-establish a population in the wild using captive bred birds have met with little or no success and protecting its remaining habitat in Sonora has proven almost impossible. Adding to this dire situation was the planting of buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*), in a move to increase cattle production in Sonora. Buffelgrass, an African exotic, thrives in the Sonoran landscape allowing cattle ranchers to maintain cattle operations in areas where native grasses have already been overgrazed or eliminated.



Unfortunately for the masked bobwhite, buffelgrass has the ability to crowd out native vegetation, eliminating the diversity of native grasses that this bird depends on for food, cover, and nesting substrate.

A lethal combination of overgrazing, spreading buffelgrass, and continuing drought conditions has triggered a precipitous decline in masked bobwhite numbers and distribution. In 2006, a team made up of biologists from the U.S. and Mexico conducted masked bobwhite surveys from July to December on 27 ranches in Sonora. During this same period refuge biologists conducted surveys on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. These extensive surveys resulted in the detection of only nine masked bobwhites! Three detections were in Sonora and six were on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

At this point in the history of the masked bobwhite it is perilously close to extinction in the wild. Our hopes of recovery depend on the successful reintroduction of captive bred birds into the wild on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and Sonora, and the identification of undiscovered masked bobwhite populations in Sonora.

In order to meet the challenge of

saving this rare and beautiful bird, a bi-national team of biologists from the U.S. and Mexico has been assembled and is currently working on an accelerated schedule to implement a survival strategy that includes:

- Initiating a close working relationship with Mexico
- Mapping all suitable masked bobwhite habitats
- Continuing and expanding the current surveys in Sonora
- Developing conservation land easements with ranchers to protect habitat
- Implementing habitat improvements on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
- Releasing captive bred birds on the refuge and in Sonora
- Developing an education and outreach strategy

A commitment by both the U.S. and Mexico has been made to save the masked bobwhite from extinction in the wild. Biologists are confident that if carried out their survival strategy will work, and they are prepared to work hard to make it happen.



photos this page by USFWS

Robert Mesta is an ornithologist for the USFWS. Robert has spent his entire professional career working to protect, conserve and recover threatened and endangered bird populations. His area of expertise is the recovery of endangered birds of prey. Robert currently coordinates the Sonoran Joint Venture, a bi-national bird conservation program between the U.S. and Mexico.

The Advance of an Invasive

Buffelgrass is Stealing Our Desert

by Megan Mosby

What is it?

Today we are surrounded with potential “threats”- all lurking in our midst - all with ill intentions. There is another threat that you might not have heard of that is determinedly marching north from the southern part of the State. It is *pennisetum ciliare* - better known as buffelgrass.

Buffelgrass was introduced into Northern Mexico in the mid-twentieth century to prevent erosion and to provide food for cattle. Originally found on the grasslands of Africa, it's presence here could turn our desert into a grassland replica. It has already succeeded in doing so in much of Northern Sonora, Mexico.



Buffelgrass invades the desert

What is the Problem?

While it was very successful doing its assigned task, like many exotics it went overboard, gobbling up habitat and out-competing native species. Its plentiful seeds take opportunities to travel far and wide on the wind, animal coats, automobile tires and shoe tread. Buffelgrass grows in thick clumps with massive root systems. These systems spawn out widely and suck up the available water and nutrients that native species have depended on for a millennium. The clumps lie closely together not allowing native seeds to sprout or grow in between. Furthermore,

the grass has a tendency to reseed all during the year, independent of winter or monsoon rains, resulting in amazing reproduction capacity.

Why does it matter?

The invasion of buffelgrass results in a two-fold problem, especially for native wildlife. The first is the devastation of vegetative plant species that have traditionally provided food, shelter, roosting, and hunting habitat for native wildlife. The gravity of the problem increases dramatically from the lower food chain up.

Grasses and seeds that feed insects, rodents, and birds are no longer available. Species dependent on rodents as food, for example, decrease their reproduction according to the lower food availability. When one part of the food chain goes out of balance the entire chain is thrown off with all of the disturbing impacts.

Secondly, because dry buffelgrass is very combustible, it is a magnet for sparks. It only takes one spark coming from anywhere...a car, a cigarette, a campfire, lightning...and the conflagration is on. The fire in closely clumped buffelgrass spreads quickly and is hotter than normal because of the density of each clump. Our desert didn't evolve with this kind of fire. In the pristine desert of old, any fire that might have started wasn't able to spread and was usually out on its own before much damage was done. This is not the case with buffelgrass!

These intensely hot fires mark an end to much of the desert vegetation like our saguaros, the icon of the Sonoran Desert. Not only is this columnar cactus not found anywhere else, its symbiotic

relationship with many desert species is critical to the survival of each. Providing a spot for many animals to nest in the vastness of its arms or the security of a cavity, saguaros also provide food for birds, mammals and insects. The end result is stress on the vegetation, stress on wildlife, and stress on the balance of life in the desert.

What can we do?

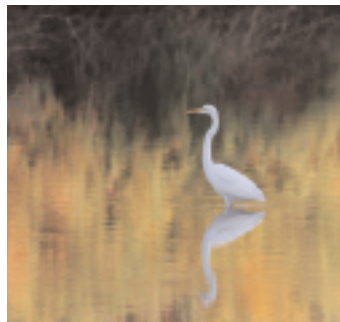
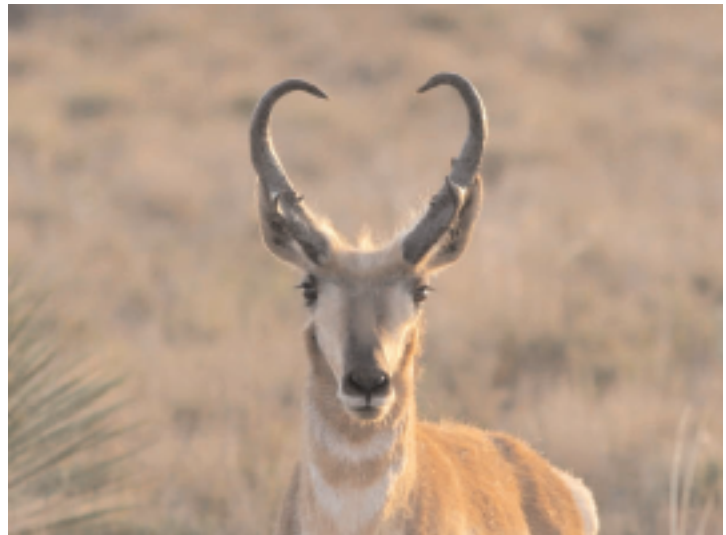
This is not a “slam dunk” for the buffelgrass. It isn't too

late. Agencies around the state are holding summits to address the problems, fire departments are teaching ways to deal with the buffelgrass that has managed its way into our yards. A group of dedicated volunteers, **The Weedwackers**, has organized in Tucson and Phoenix and with backbreaking regularity seeks and destroys targeted patches of buffelgrass in areas of particular importance. You can start by learning to identify the grass. Solve the problem around your home, get involved with groups of volunteers, and request that your local government agencies take this problem seriously.

African grasslands have a place in our world...in Africa. Our Sonoran Desert is uniquely beautiful, and it is our duty to wildlife and ourselves to stop this thieving, invasive attack.



The Wonder of Wildlife



Photos This Page - left to right

Top and middle:

- 1) Hedwig, Great Horned Owl
photo by Terry Stevens
- 2) Pronghorn Antelope
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 3) Greater Egret
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 4) Osprey with fish
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 5) Red-tailed Hawk
photo by Terry Stevens

Bottom: (cared for at Liberty Wildlife)

- 6) Great Horned Owl with baby
photo by Terry Stevens
- 7) Young skunks
photo by Terry Stevens
- 8) Henry, Barn Owl
photo by Ron Martin



Photos This Page - left to right

Top half:

- 1) Golden Eagle in flight
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 2) Rock squirrel getting a better view
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 3) Desert bighorn sheep
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 4) Red-tailed Hawk
photo by Kenny Wilkins

Bottom half:

- 5) Short-eared Owl
photo by Lesley Guenther
- 6) Prairie Dog
photo by Kenny Wilkins
- 7) Red-tailed Hawk in flight
photo by Kenny Wilkins



Are Urban Raptors at Home in the City?

by Philip Tarrant

A scientific study

The Phoenix metropolitan area is an unusual environment for avian wildlife. It is one of the few urban ecosystems in the world that may actually provide a richer habitat for birds than the surrounding landscape. Historically, the desert of central Arizona was an area of scrubby bushes, cacti, low growing trees, and limited water resources, but the arrival of humans changed the landscape dramatically. First, agriculture and irrigation expanded across the Sonoran desert, replacing the native plants with crops of cotton and citrus trees. More recently, lawns, exotic trees and swimming pools have superseded the agriculture, as well as consuming many of the remaining desert fragments.

Long term ecological research conducted by Arizona State University researchers has confirmed that this land use conversion does reduce species richness. The diverse populations of desert birds give way to more homogenous populations of sparrows, rock doves and grackles; great generalists with proven track records in the presence of humans. With these thoughts in mind I set out to examine how well the raptor population is adapting to the challenge of rapid urbanization with all its effects on habitat and prey availability.

My first goal was to survey a sample of raptor nests in order to understand the

choices raptors were making with respect to habitat. Secondly, I wanted to see if I could get an indication of what was happening to the population in general, that is whether the population was increasing, stable or in decline. The nest survey was relatively straight forward and using volunteer reports from several sources, including Liberty Wildlife volunteers, I managed to survey 50 active nest sites during the spring and summer of 2006. The population question was more difficult, but I eventually decided to use bird counts and casualty rates as an analog for population. Liberty Wildlife kindly gave me access to several years of casualty data, which when combined with ASU bird counts and my own surveys, gave me an interesting insight into those species which are present in the metropolitan area.

The results of the study suggest that there may be reasons to be hopeful about the resilience of the raptors that live in central Arizona. For example, the urban area expanded by 33 acres per day between 2000 and 2004 and over the same period the population grew by over 430,000 people. However, in spite of this tremendous growth, there was a slight increase in the number of birds observed during bird counts completed between 2001 and 2006. Although this increase is not statistically significant we can probably say that the population is not decreasing. Casualty rates over the same period were stable, suggesting that this increased urbanization is not resulting in increased mortality. Based on the nest data collected, nesting raptors are choosing non-native structures such as buildings and eucalyptus trees almost half of the time, indicating that these are considered as acceptable alternatives to rock-faces and saguaros.

What is probably true is that some species are faring better than others, and it may be that, as is the case with smaller birds, the future raptor population may be dominated by only a few species. This shift might already be occurring as only three species (Great Horned Owls, American kestrels



Red-tailed Hawk nest on high voltage electricity tower north of 101

and Red-tailed Hawks) accounted for 61% of the urban sightings in this study, whereas 16 species made up the remainder. Some native raptors, for example burrowing owls, will be more susceptible to the risks posed by non-native predators such as domestic cats. This appears to be the case at the riparian preserve in Gilbert where feral cats are abundant, and the burrowing owls that used to nest there are no longer present.

To know if these demographics are changes resulting from urbanization we should compare the urban species distribution and density with that found in some of the remaining isolated desert areas. This comparison would tell us more about urban raptors, but perhaps that little challenge is a project for another day!



Red-tailed Hawk nest on Manzanita dorm at ASU, Tempe

photos this page by Philip Tarrant

Philip moved to Arizona from the United Kingdom with his wife Laura in 2001. He studied at Arizona State University, completing a B.S. in Conservation Biology, a Master of Natural Science and a Certificate in Geographical Information Systems. He currently works as a researcher at the School of Life Sciences at ASU, as well as providing biological services to the Research and Conservation Department at Liberty Wildlife.

Thank You

Over the past year the following Valley veterinarians have donated their time and expertise to Liberty Wildlife. We would like to acknowledge their tremendous gifts at this time.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you:

Dr. Kathy Orr - Liberty Wildlife founder

Dr. Tanya Wyman at Animal Health Services

Dr. Cliff Favor at Animal Health Services for the use of the x-ray machine and the surgery room

Dr. Todd Driggers at Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic

Rebecca Moffet - vet tech at Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic and Liberty Wildlife volunteer

Dr. Irv Ingram at All Creatures Animal Clinic

Dr. Jennifer Urbanz at The Eye Clinic for Animals

Paradise Valley Emergency Clinic and staff

Roots and Shoots Sprouting at Liberty Wildlife

by Gail Cochrane

Most everyone has heard of scientist and authority on chimpanzees, Jane Goodall, but not everyone is aware of her projects to empower young people. A dynamic youth-driven network, **Roots and Shoots**, is based on Goodall's belief that with knowledge of issues young people can indeed change the world. Many agree, and Roots and Shoots programs are springing up around the globe. These groups bring together youth who share a common desire to help make our world a better place. The young people focus on making positive change happen for their communities, for animals and for the environment.

This is a natural match to the Liberty Wildlife mission, and finally allows us to include youngsters in our efforts to nurture the nature of Arizona. The Liberty Wildlife chapter of Roots and Shoots got underway in June of this year with monthly meetings. Already the kids have learned about the natural history of native wildlife such as owls, snakes and tortoises, and about how a rehabilitation facility such as Liberty Wildlife helps these animals.

In an early meeting the group toured the facility and wrote about what they learned.

"This wonderful experience has added greatly to my love and concern for desert

birds. Near the end of the tour I was able to stand about 10 feet away from our country's symbol, the Bald Eagle. After the Bald Eagle, we saw a Golden Eagle. B-e-a-utiful bird! We got to see it eat a dead chicken, also about 10 feet away. My favorite bird that was at Liberty was the screech owl. They are only about 9 inches tall! I loved my visit and I hope that I would be able to visit there again! Maybe volunteer when I'm older too."

Ashlee Nelson, 12 years old

"Going to Liberty was one of the coolest experiences of my life. Seeing all of these birds and just watching them was amazing. The bald eagle eating the mouse was so cool, it showed me how smart these birds really are. I would definitely go back to Liberty again and again."

Jordyn Collins

In September the Roots and Shoots participated in the Desert Open Space project at Superstition Farms. They learned about urban farming at the vegetable plot, explored the tortoise habitat, the farm animal exhibit,

a model of gray water and rainwater harvesting, and much more.

As Liberty Wildlife's Roots and Shoots group learns more about the community and the environmental projects already in place, they will begin to formulate their own plans to complete three annual service learning projects that will involve the environment, animals and the human community.

Young people ages 11-17 interested in participating in Roots and Shoots should contact us regarding fall enrollment. Call Barbie Baugh at 602-997-2750.



photo by Barbie Baugh

Liberty Wildlife's Roots and Shoots take a break from hiking at North Mountain Preserve

Be Outdoors Arizona

Encouraging out-of-doors experiences

by Megan Mosby

Richard Louv's recent book, **Last Child in the Woods**, has provided the impetus for vigorous discussions across the country about a crisis of great proportions. He writes about the need for children to return to the out-of-doors. The past few decades have shown a great decrease in the time children play outside and a huge increase in the time spent indoors in sedentary activities, in front of the TV, computer screen, or playing electronic games. Recreation has taken the form of "safe activities" as the media devotes much time to the "scary" things that can happen to children who play out-of-doors. He details scientific studies that point to increases in diabetes, obesity, and other illnesses seemingly exacerbated by the lack of physical activities children used to get by playing in nature and having free, unstructured time.

"Parents identify safety as the biggest barrier to children's independent play."

As a result of this movement, the **Children and Nature Network** has evolved (see cnaturenet.org) to address these issues. Citing studies by authorities from physicians, scientists, nutritionists, etc., the Network strives to present the latest research on the subject. Also found on the web page are suggestions and examples of "safe" ways other organizations are perusing to get youth outside for

some part of the day - hopefully a prescription for healing the break between children and nature.

Studies show that children are "smarter, more cooperative, happier and healthier when they have frequent and varied opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors." They further state that, "Play in nature, particularly during the critical period of middle childhood, appears to be an especially important time for developing the capacities for creativity, problem-solving, and emotional and intellectual development." Other studies indicate that "nature-smart kids get higher test scores," "nature activities soothe ADD symptoms," and that "nearby nature reduces stress in children."

Keeping in step with the rest of the country, a diverse group of individuals and organizations with missions supporting nature and nature based activities, has come together to initiate a new organization, **Be Outdoors Arizona**. With the mission "to encourage nature-centered outdoor experiences that enrich the lives of children," the group has created a web site designed to facilitate the mission.

The member groups and individuals intend to network with each other to



photo by Craig Fischer

Children learn about bald eagles from Liberty Wildlife education presenter

share resources, cross-reference programs promoting nature based themes, and advocate for policy and legislation supporting the efforts to "get people out-of-doors."

For more information on **Be Outdoors Arizona** and how you can get involved, go to BeOutdoorsAZ.org.

"Over the past several decades, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of overweight children in the United States."

Want to keep abreast of the happenings at Liberty Wildlife? Register to receive our monthly e-newsletter, Nature News, by visiting our website at www.Libertywildlife.org. Be sure to check out the KidStuff section for fun animal puzzles and games for kids.

November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
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March 2008	April 2008	May 2008	As we go to press! The date for next year's "Birdie Fore Birds" golf tournament is September 27th Mark YOUR Calendars!
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photo by Barb Del'Ve

North American Kestrel

Liberty Wildlife Events - you can help too!

by Megan Mosby

In the past Liberty Wildlife has focused our fund-raising opportunities on one main (and wonderful) event, *Wishes for Wildlife*. However, we recognize the value that diversity plays in keeping things stronger and better. With that in mind we have introduced some new fund-raising events that allow more opportunities to support our mission.

On September 22, 2007 golfers assembled in support of our first annual golf tournament, **Birdie Fore Birds**, at Starfire at the Scottsdale Country Club. A shotgun start initiated the fun which included prizes for closest to pin, best score of the day, best dressed, longest drive, golden ticket surprises, raffles, poker hands, and the opportunity to win a Jeep Liberty (generously offered by Performance Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge) for a Hole in One!

Next in the lineup for a chance to support Liberty Wildlife is our second **Casino Night**. Saturday, November 3rd you can

join us for a fun evening at the Scottsdale Athletic Club. Hang onto your Halloween garb because prizes will be awarded for the best costume. Of course, casino activities are the most important thing (costumes are optional), and you will be able to participate in a number of games of chance including Texas Hold'Em, slot machines, roulette, black jack, craps tables, and a money wheel. If that isn't enough there will be a cigar roller, a Tarot card reader, and a dance floor with a DJ. Raffles and prizes for the best three costumes and other surprises will top off the evening. Don't miss the fun.

Yet another new event will be a motorcycle (scooters allowed) rally, **Born To Be Wild**, March 9, 2008. There will be T-shirts for early entrants, food, live music, vendors, a poker run, raffles, doorprizes, and a lot of good fun....all in support of our native wildlife. Check our web page for more details to come.

In addition to these new, fun get-togethers for wildlife, you must join us for this year's *Wishes for Wildlife* on May 3, 2008. Beautifully set at the Hilton, Tapatio Cliffs, you will be able to dine under the stars, bid on a bevy of wonderful items, and enjoy a free flight display of a stunning bird of prey. Please visit our web page, www.libertywildlife.org, to see a slide show from last year's event and to learn more about this year's *Wishes for Wildlife*.

We depend on your generous support to fulfill our mission to "Nurture the nature of Arizona." Thank you in advance for all that you do to make this possible.



"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt

Conservation in Arizona

A reading list

by *Lisa Skramstad*

Wilderness and Razor Wire

By Ken Lamberton

Published February, 2000

by Mercury House



Ken Lamberton's short essays were written from his small, enclosed observatory, the Santa Rita prison. In such an extreme setting, these essays reveal the preciousness of wilderness to provide that sense of freedom

when confronted by our own prisons. Lamberton's carefully constructed prose connects in a meaningful way his observations of nature and our inherent desire to be a part of that nature.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arizona's Rim Country: Working in the Woods

By Robert J. Moore

Published August, 2006

by University of Nevada Press

This book is the result of numerous interviews of men who came to Arizona during the Great Depression to work in Roosevelt's new Civilian Conservation Core. Though the men came mainly for the money, the stories they tell are of the personal growth and deep connection they felt from working to save the wilderness from erosion and wildfires and to build the necessary infrastructure to allow the work to continue in the future. This is a stunning look at an interesting historical time, complete with the voices and images of those who experienced it.

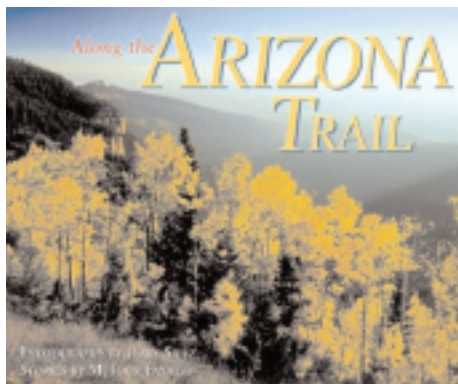
Along the Arizona Trail

By John M. Fayhee

Photographer Jerry Sieve

Published September, 1998

by Treasure Chest Books



The combination of Jerry Sieve's gorgeous photography and John Fayhee's energetic writing, this book brings to life a trip along the Arizona Trail, with both the beauty of nature in its pristine state and the ugliness of modern life imposing itself in the landscape.

Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water

By Marc Reisner

Published January, 1993 (revised edition)

by Penguin

Reisner takes a journalistic approach to reveal the complex and competing politics of water in the American West. He digs deep to the fundamental thoughts behind what in retrospect seems profoundly unwise, using non-renewable groundwater to transform the desert into something it is not, all at an astounding cost, both monetary and ecological.

Frog Mountain Blues

By Charles Bowden

Published September, 1994

by University of Arizona Press

In this book, Bowden describes in vivid detail the encroachment of civilization on the wilderness of the Santa Catalina Mountains. His story describes the

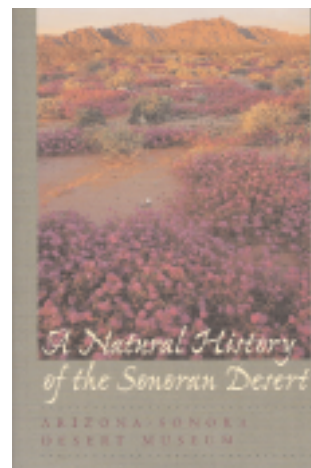
various threats of mining, ranching, and recreation on this mountain range. Scattered throughout the book are Native American stories and songs, a plea to go back to an age where land was not viewed as a commodity to buy and sell, and also a realization that this problem is not going to be solved by borrowing another culture. Instead we must create a new culture that holds preservation as a valuable goal.

A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert

By Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Published December, 1999

by University of California Press



This highly usable book is by no means exhaustive, but it gives a very interesting overview of the natural history of the Sonoran Desert. It can be used as an overall field guide, though if you are looking for vast information on one specific aspect it will most likely fall short. There are quite a few illustrations, but they are more for reference than for visual impact.

Lisa Skramstad has a B.A. in English Literature and Creative writing from Cal State San Bernardino. She works in the financial industry and volunteers for Liberty Wildlife in Daily Care on Sundays. She lives in Tempe with her husband, son, dog, cat, and 2 rats.

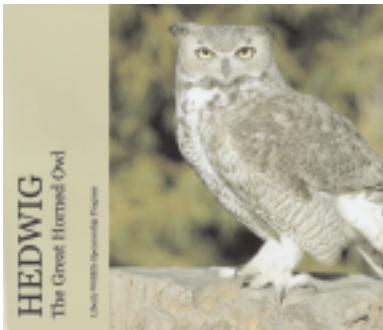
Celebrate with sustainable holiday giving

by Gail Cochrane

Like fashion, gifting ideas change with the times. I remember giving my dad a new pipe every year for Christmas and pouches of tobacco for his birthday. This seems socially taboo now! Hopefully the years of conspicuous consumption are behind us as well. Rather than another doodad or knickknack that will be soon cast aside, this year consider a gift that gives back to the planet as well as pleasing the receiver.

Easy to wrap and mail, and most unique

■ Adopt a Liberty Wildlife education animal through our **AWE Program**. Your loved one will receive a tour of the facility and get to meet "their" animal, as well as receiving a beautiful coffee table book full of photos and facts on that animal and its species. www.libertywildlife.org. See the education link.



■ Present memberships to **Liberty Wildlife**, the **Phoenix Zoo**, or the **Desert Botanical Gardens**. Your loved ones will receive priceless knowledge about the flora and fauna of the desert. www.libertywildlife.org www.phoenix-zoo.org www.desertbotanical.org

■ Give a **National Parks Pass**. The America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Annual Pass is \$80 and is good for one year from date of issue. The pass admits one vehicle and four adults (children under 16 are free) to any national park. Senior passes are available as well for those over 62 and cost only \$10. www.nps.gov/fees

■ Present a gift subscription to a nature or science magazine. Excellent adult publications include: *Nature*, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*, *Discover* or *Birder's World*. For children consider: *Your Big Backyard*, *Click*, *ZooBooks* or *Ranger Rick*.

■ Give a gift certificate for a cleaning service that uses all green products. In the East Valley contact **Maid to Order Cleaning**. This professional service uses homemade natural cleaning products that incorporate aromatherapy and are safe for use around kids and pets. 480-353-9815 or www.maid2ordercleaning.com.

Earthmaids serves the greater Phoenix metro area with organic, environmentally safe professional cleaning services. Toll free 1-877-624-3326 or info@earthmaids.com.

Specific Gift Items for Green Giving

■ **Solio** - Power up your gadgets by plugging into the sun. This universal charger has its own lithium battery that you can charge anywhere the sun is shining. Then just plug in your cell phone, I-Pod or Blackberry. Great for hiking, camping, kayaking, or road trips. \$99.95 at REI, Target, Saks, Amazon.com, or at www.solio.com.



■ **Liberty Wildlife Charity Charm** - This beautiful sterling silver charm of the



Liberty Wildlife logo comes with black cording for necklaces or clips on charm bracelets. Gift boxed for \$40. Order at www.libertywildlife.org.

■ **GeoSafari Field Explorer Kit** for ages 5-12. Colorful sturdy field study tools include adventure binoculars with 4x magnification, swiss army style nature lab for viewing, studying and releasing a wide variety of species, and a magnifying bug viewer. \$20.95 from Educational Insights. www.educationalinsight.com



■ **WindowAlert** is a decal that may be applied to home and office windows. The decal contains a component which brilliantly reflects ultraviolet sunlight. This ultraviolet light is invisible to humans, but glows like a stoplight for birds. The decal can save the life of birds that fly into home and office windows. Decals come in both static-cling and low-tack adhesive versions. Priced from \$6.45 and up. www.WindowAlert.com

More Inspirations

Consider gifting with any of these general items that can be found in many local stores or online.

- Bird feeders
- Fair trade coffees
- Bird baths
- Hemp shopping bags
- Bat boxes
- Organic wines
- Natural cosmetics and soaps
- Notebook for field study
- Bug box/magnifying glass for field study

According to Sierra Club, a 2004 survey revealed that one-third of Americans feel that greed and materialism are our most urgent moral problems. This holiday season try being kind to the planet and see just how good gift giving can feel.

Join or renew!

It is with your help that Liberty Wildlife has furthered wildlife conservation through quality rehabilitation, education, and consultation services. Because of your support - and your interest in aiding wildlife - we hope that we can count on you to help us continue these programs.

Maybe it's a good time to add a gift membership for a friend - or maybe raise your own membership level.

Each member will receive the annual publication, *WingBeats*.

*Cut along the dotted line and mail with check to: P.O. Box 14345
Scottsdale, AZ 85267*

Membership Levels

- ☐ **\$25 Standard Membership**
- ☐ **\$50 Orphan Sponsor**
Provides funding to raise a group of songbirds.
- ☐ **\$100 Education Sponsor**
Provides funding for a school or youth program.
- ☐ **\$250 Rehabilitation Sponsor**
Provides funding to rehabilitate an animal.
- ☐ **\$500 Conservation Sponsor**
Provides funding for major equipment.
- ☐ **\$1,000 Life Member**
Provides funding for major equipment or services.

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