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Wing BEATS

A publication of Liberty Wildlife

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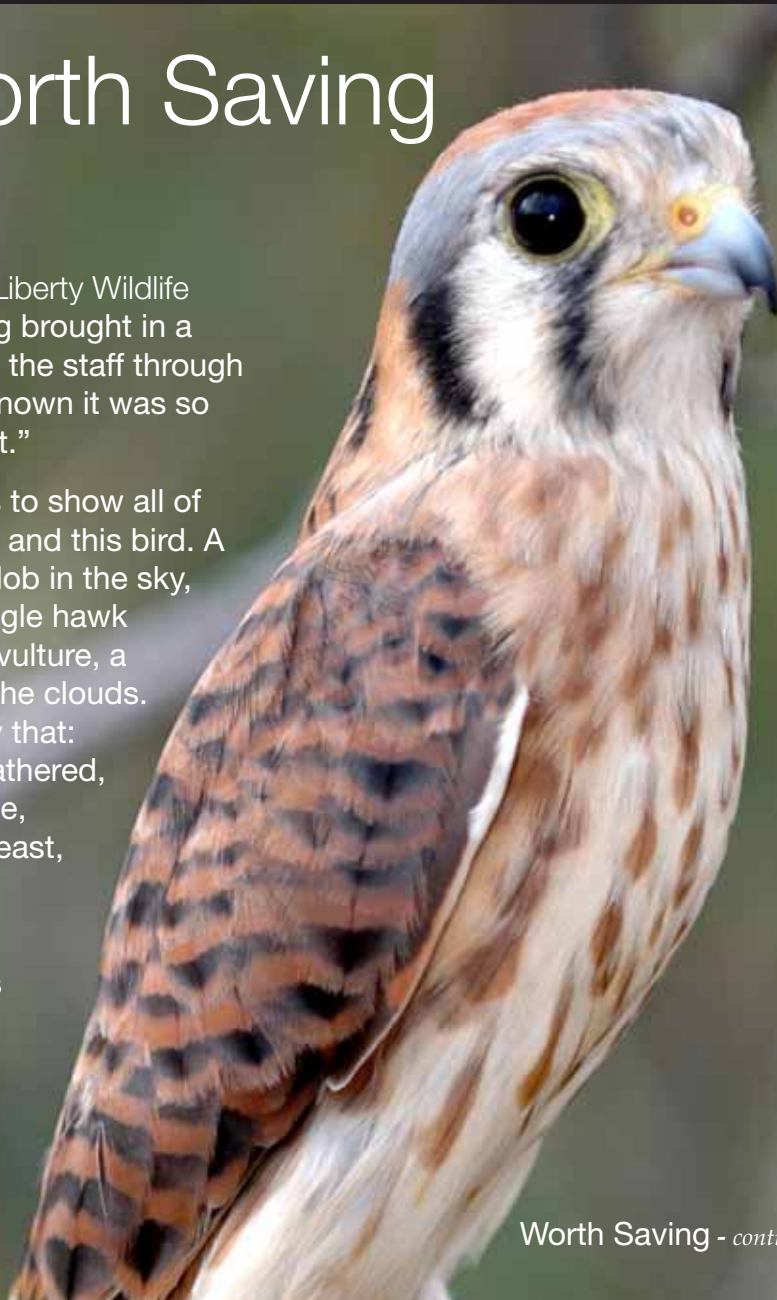
It's a Life Worth Saving

by Greg Martin

There's a popular anecdote among Liberty Wildlife volunteers about a man who, having brought in a bloodied, near-dead owl, looked at the staff through tear-filled eyes and said, "If I had known it was so beautiful, I never would have shot it."

If that owl served a purpose, it was to show all of us the difference between that bird and this bird. A flock of birds is an abstraction, a blob in the sky, faceless, just a shifting mass. A single hawk is but a speck upon the horizon; a vulture, a waving V shape tottering beneath the clouds. When a bird is that bird, it is simply that: just a bird, just an animal, just a feathered, flying object. Sometimes a nuisance, sometimes a menace. At the very least, just a bird.

But if you take the time to look closer, that bird suddenly becomes this bird. It becomes something you know. Something you appreciate. It becomes a beautiful piece of natural perfection, more than a precious stone but every bit



Worth Saving - continued on page 21

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

As we soar through our 31st year of serving the community, the state and now the nation, I realize how relevant Mother Teresa's quote is to the functioning of Liberty Wildlife. Reading through this annual report and newsletter, you will see the works of our staff and volunteers—individual drops making a mighty forceful ocean—an ocean that spreads wide and far and accomplishes so many good things.

Our Rehabilitation arm goes beyond expectations every year with successes in dealing with the most common of little brown birds to the most precious of endangered condors...with diligence and dedication in the care of each—each life a life worth saving.

The Education group grows in experience and energy with the flighted programs and new ambassadors to thrill the soul, to instill awe in a youngster's eyes, to provide a flash of recognition in the face of an Alzheimer's patient, and garner respect from the avid birder traveling here from across the ocean. These educators tell a story of the beauty and benefits of our wildlife neighbors. They light a fire. They remind us that we care...truly care!

Our Research and Conservation team provides interventions to help wildlife as it struggles with the growth of civilization—mishaps that might occur because of encroachment are lessened. Burrowing owls are restored to native habitat. Babies are born in this new setting. Balance is restored.

The Non-Eagle Feather Repository, nationally recognized, has not only provided Native Americans with access to feathers for religious use—feathers that were formerly illegal to obtain—but also this service to the community simultaneously relieves any pressure on birds that might have been illegally taken to protect that Native American culture. This is a win-win program that we are very proud of.

All of these services are supported by an "ocean" of volunteers and a very small staff—each an individual "drop" in a mighty ocean. Look between these pages and see what our ocean can do.

In the words of Ryunosuke Satoro, "Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean."



Megan Mosby
Executive Director

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

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With a Little Help from Our Friends

The Problem

For three consecutive years, a solid pair of bald eagles laid and hatched three eggs each year. All hatched but none survived. All nine eventually found their way to Liberty Wildlife after bailing out of the nest, tumbling long distances away before they were prepared to leave a nest. The culprit was a rare tick that infested the tree, the nest, and eventually the baby eagles. Even if they could be rehabilitated from injuries resulting from the fall, they weren't able to survive the paralysis that resulted from the tick infestation. A solution was needed.

The Solution

The eagle experts from Arizona Game and Fish were finally able to get permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take down the nest. This is something that is only allowed after a good case can be shown for the continued failures. Despite all previous efforts to rid the nest of the ticks, total removal was the only good choice.

Liberty Wildlife volunteer Joe Miller was asked to help in this endeavor and began building two triangular-shaped platforms 7 ft.x7 ft.x7 ft. In the meantime, Tuk Jacobson of Game and Fish climbed the tree and with the assistance of two truck jacks and other biologists was able to lift the infested nest out of the tree and shove it to a waiting 20x20 ft. tarp. They gathered all of the other pieces strewn by the fall of the nest and loaded them in trucks to take out to be burned, hopefully removing all ticks from the area for good.

The next step was to find two suitable new locations for the nest platforms. One of the selected trees was 50 feet from the original nest, and the other one was about 100 feet from the tick-infested nest. The platforms were stabilized in the best part of the trees, and the bundles of sticks that had been gathered from the Millers' home and the area surrounding the new nests' trees became the beginning of a potential home for the pair and their offspring. Grass and leaves were packed into the holes, leaving the framework of a new nest. The finishing touches would be left up to the eagle pair as part of the process prior to egg laying.

The Outcome

On Christmas Day, Liberty Wildlife volunteer Claudia and a friend decided to see what progress if any had been made. Using scopes, they could see the selected nests and that it appeared some work had been done. There was no sign of eagles that day, but hopes were high. The following week, Jan and Joe Miller went to check on them and found that the nest 100 feet from the downed nest had been enhanced by a full three feet. The eagles had been very busy at the artificial nest closest to the river.

Again, this year they laid three eggs and fledged two healthy, tick-free eaglets. Hopefully the tick invasion has ended and the pair will continue their prolific and successful reproduction.

by Megan Mosby



Joe Miller builds a foundation for a new tick-free eagle nest



HARD-WIRED TO REAR

by Terry Stevens

From the early days of Liberty Wildlife, one of the continuing seasonal issues we always face has been the influx of orphan raptors each spring.

This time of year heralds the arrival of breeding season for birds and mammals, but also spawns some of the more violent storm activity, which causes havoc with birds whose nests often don't comply with local building codes. This seems especially true of first-time parents, who may not have planned the size and structure of their home to accommodate rapidly growing babies. When the weather and the clutch size collide, we will suddenly be inundated with orphaned baby hawks, owls, etc., which, prior to human arrival on the scene, would not have been an insurmountable problem. However, since the landscape has changed with the introduction of kids, cats, dogs, cars and pools, this "branching out" offers a multitude of perils to which the birds have not yet adapted. Hence, the explosive influx of baby birds.

One of the main difficulties in raising orphan birds of prey is a process known as "improper imprinting," which describes the effect by which the infants become aware of what they are and how to act as the species they were born. The process is largely

psychological but does involve some hard-wiring in the brain and seems to be related to the arrival of food. If the bird is fed by humans instead of its parents, the effects are often far-reaching and permanent. If a raptor is imprinted on humans, their behavior is altered such that they have a greater affinity for humans than for their own species, and from studies done by ornithologists, they rarely if ever reproduce. Therefore, they cannot be released and must be either kept in captivity or euthanized, neither of which is optimal for the individual.

In the past, we would use the classic method of avoiding this phenomenon by having the feeders wear hoods, masks, and gloves to disguise themselves as humans. This technique was mostly successful, but it had some drawbacks and regrettable failures. Then in early 2003, Jan Miller and the Med Services staff had a stroke of genius. One of our long-term education owls, Hogan (who had obviously been poorly named!), laid some infertile eggs and was incubating them. The staff decided to take one of the newly arrived orphaned great horned owls and place it with Hogan, who immediately began to brood and feed the small owlet. Prior to this, Hogan had been a mellow education bird who

tolerated humans completely. Now she became fiercely protective of this baby owl and all the subsequent orphans placed with her. Thus, a new procedure was implemented.

Since this "foster parent" experiment went so well, we now have a staff of adult non-releasable birds of most common species, such as great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, Harris' hawks, kestrels, etc., who each year raise literally hundreds of same-species orphans who now imprint properly and are fully releasable when they are old enough. These foster parents do prodigious duty each spring, with some rearing as many as 25 to 30 orphans at a time, each of which grows up knowing what it is and how to act as such.

Mamma Hogan, as she is now known, has raised over 200 little GHOs, who were all healthy, got released, and had the chance to live their lives as nature intended, flying free and keeping the rodent population of the state in balance.



Foster care continues to expand at Liberty Wildlife



A male house finch is perched on a thin, dark brown branch. The bird has a vibrant red head and neck, with streaked brown and grey plumage on its body. It is facing left, with its beak slightly open. The background is a plain, light grey.

Appreciating the Little Brown Birds

by Gail Cochrane

Male house finch

Arizona birdwatchers are blessed with tremendous variety. The fact that we can travel from desert to grassland to forest within hours gives us the opportunity to see a wide range of birds, even in a single outing! More than a dozen species of stunning raptors hunt from open skies across the state, and nearly as many owl species occupy various niches in the night. Charismatic desert birds such as quail and roadrunners evoke familiarity and fondness.

And yes, Arizona is rich in Little Brown Birds. Tiny and cryptic, some of the small birds seem impossible to identify. A soaring eagle certainly invokes awe, and the passage overhead of a great horned owl takes your breath away, but a nondescript little bird rustling in the shrubbery? Get to know some of the more demure birds and you'll find them well worthy of notice.

Birdwatchers realize the trick to identifying the small and obscure is to examine the clues they present. First hint: habitat. You'll have different birds on your radar on an outing to Flagstaff than you will in Apache Junction. Think warblers and thrushes in the high-elevation coniferous forest. In the low desert, you'll find more thrashers and sparrows. Water flowing nearby attracts riparian species, such as phoebes.

Of the half a dozen wrens that frequent Arizona, each prefers a particular environment, which helps enormously in identification. This may include certain elevations, riparian versus arid, thick cover versus open ground. Cactus wrens are found where cholla cactus grow.

The next clue is the behavior of the bird. Is it foraging on the ground or nabbing insects on the wing? Is it part of a flock, or by itself? Insect-eaters are usually seen alone, while seed- and fruit-eaters congregate around plants that offer sustenance at a given time of year.

The best-disguised birds may have a distinctive song or call. The canyon wren sings a beautiful cascading call that's a sure giveaway when you've happened on this well-camouflaged beauty.

OK, sharpen that gaze! Even from a distance, the shape of a bird is usually apparent. Put into words what you see; slender, bulky, long-necked, or long-legged.

How does it compare in size to a familiar bird like the house finch?

What is the posture? Make a few notes and begin to draw up a profile.

The length of the tail is a great identifier and easy to spot.

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Deadly Lesson

by Terry Stevens

It was quite a gift for a ten-year-old living in a semi-rural environment. All the weapons he had previously owned were of the “cap pistol” type and did no real damage except to the egos of those who were the recipients of the shout, “I got you! You’re dead!” But here was a rifle that, when properly loaded with a small lead cylindrical pellet, actually discharged something more substantial than noise or a plastic dart. It had been given to his father in exchange for some project he had done outside of work, and was now presented to the boy with the admonition, “Be careful.”

As it happened, the boy and his family lived next to a forest preserve and down the road from a farm, both of which produced large numbers of avian species, not the least of which were a multitude of starlings. These dark little birds did not enjoy the best of reputations, since they had a habit of eating things grown for human consumption and building nests in places that, if left intact, were not only annoying but could also be potentially dangerous to human activity. Therefore, it was probably inevitable that the boy, after pummeling every inanimate object around his house, finally decided he would tackle a more challenging target. Prior to this, the only things he had actually killed were insects. But even though he had felt slight pangs of remorse while savagely destroying large anthills and occasionally killing fireflies, these were easily dealt with in the mind of a ten-year-old.

He knew where the birds lived, as he had seen the two adults coming and going from the split in the eaves along the roof of his house. He planned his assault and waited not too patiently behind a tree offering a vantage point from which he could spot their arrival. He could hear the peeping of the babies as the adult approached but pushed aside any thoughts of concern about their future; after all, they were only starlings. Now the mother returned, a multi-legged meal in her beak. As the adult entered the crack in the wooden panel, the peeping reached a crescendo as the food was distributed to the young. When the cheeps diminished, he knew she would soon poke her head out and, after a momentary pause, fly off again to the forest larder across the street. Rounding the tree, he put the gun to his cheek and aimed at the hole where she had entered.



Starling at nest

He felt only exhilaration as he took a bead on the small black-brown bird emerging from its nest, and while she briefly hesitated, he squeezed the trigger.

There was a slight crack as the air propelled the small missile toward its target, and a sudden flurry of feathers as the bird flailed and fell to the ground at the foot of the wall. Not a little surprised that he had actually hit something, the boy hesitated for an instant and then ran up to more closely examine the dying creature at his feet. The bird did not move much, lying on her side breathing laboriously. A small trickle of blood ran from beneath the feathers under her right wing. Her right eye looked up unblinkingly at the boy as she struggled to breathe. As he looked down at his quarry dying at his feet, his world changed forever in an instant. His elation transformed into horror as he watched the life ebb from the little bird. His stomach churned as the mother gurgled, twitched, and then became still. Just then he heard the peeping of the babies start again and his emotions crumbled like a house of cards. What had he done? He wished and prayed that he could have the last two minutes to live over again. Never had he thought he would feel this way, knowing he had ended the life of another creature. His thoughts were punctuated by the cries of the babies still in the nest as he realized that without their mother, they too would probably die. And it was HIS fault! He took the dead bird, still warm in his hands, and buried it under the lilac bush at the front corner of the house. He then quietly put the pellet gun in the back of his father’s

Deadly Lesson - continued on page 23

Inaugural Liberty Wildlife Legacy Award

Liberty Wildlife presented its first Legacy Award at this year's Wishes for Wildlife. The award will serve to recognize those individuals, organizations, or companies that are truly committed to nurturing nature through their conservation efforts, whether focused on wildlife, natural resources, sustainability or in any way that our environment needs protecting. This award is about leaving a legacy that will endure for our children and countless generations to come.

This year's honorees are **Melani and Rob Walton**. Their foundation has supported myriad causes.

- The clean-up of the disaster resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- The Gulf Renewal project in the Upper Mississippi
- The investigation of the growing dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, which threatens the region's fish and wildlife and the fishermen's livelihood
- The Marine Stewardship Council, which operates the world's largest certification and eco-labeling program for sustainable seafood
- The communities of the Verde Valley to develop nature-based tourism opportunities to restore flows in the river and to link the economic strength of the communities to the health of the river



Here in Arizona, as well as in Colorado, their foundation is working with recreation companies and other river-based businesses to promote water management approaches that enable wildlife to thrive and recreational opportunities to expand while preserving rural agriculture and vibrant local communities. They have supported our Non-Eagle Feather Repository, enabling us to provide feathers, carcasses, and other bird parts to Native Americans for use in regalia, ceremonies and religious practices. This has further provided a relief to native birds that might have been taken to allow for these needs. For these and many other causes related to sustainability and the environment, we applaud Melani and Rob Walton and their efforts to leave the world a better place for future generations.

It is our collective and individual
responsibility...to preserve
and tend to the environment
in which we all live.

The Dalai Lama

Education Partnerships

by Claudia Kirscher

Liberty Wildlife has long relied on the support of local community organizations. A variety of long-standing and new partnerships have been vital to the success of our mission of rescue, rehabilitation, and public education. Here's a sampling:

THE CENTER FOR NATIVE AND URBAN WILDLIFE AT SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CNUW)

Biodiversity tours for Phoenix-area 4th graders began in 2000, offering students an opportunity to appreciate a broad array of native animals and plants. The goal has been introducing native biodiversity, emphasizing the important role of every species in their ecosystems and how this benefits our planet. Liberty Wildlife began partnering with CNUW on campus in 2002. To date, over 12,000 students, parents, and teachers have benefited from this educational opportunity, learning, for example, that raptors represent the top of the food chain and are therefore dependent on the overall health of our ecosystems.

SALT RIVER PROJECT & ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE

Liberty Wildlife has been contracted since 2000 to help with any wildlife issues. This has included relocating nests and nestlings found in unsuitable or dangerous locations, thus reducing bird electrocutions and power outages. Working with these local power companies has resulted in installation of T-perches and transformer covers on utility poles of concern.

ARIZONA GAME & FISH, SOUTHWEST BALD EAGLE NEST WATCH PROGRAM

Since the early 1980s, combined efforts have saved 84 desert-nesting bald eagles. From lead poisoning to bee attacks to young birds falling out of nests to building nests to public education, Liberty Wildlife has worked side by side with AzG&F to return these magnificent birds, healed, to the wild.



DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

For the past 5 years, the Liberty Wildlife Education Team has participated in educating docents and volunteers who, armed with skills of native bird identification and information, further educate the thousands of visitors enjoying the DBG interpretive trails and education centers.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, DESIGN SCHOOL

The Education Team has presented to the sophomore-level Design Fundamentals Bird Habitat Design Studio for 3 years. These students are given a professor-assigned project to design several acres of suitable habitat including landscape and structures that will attract their chosen AZ native bird. This has become the perfect opportunity to emphasize the importance of native plants and animals while creating a balanced environment that has a food and water source that is safe for nesting and a sanctuary for birds. These students are our future!

RANCHO DE LOS CABALLEROS, WICKENBURG, AZ

For over 10 years, Liberty Wildlife has partnered with our on-site naturalist to help educate the guests about the birds and reptiles that might be encountered while hiking or horseback riding at the ranch. Five programs are presented each spring to an average of 50-100 guests each week from all over the U.S. and occasionally from Europe. It is not unusual to find several generations of families returning year after year, many sharing their memories and acquired learning of Liberty Wildlife birds from previous visits.

HYATT REGENCY GAINES RANCH

Through "Camp Hyatt" (6 years) and "Birds of Prey Take Flight" (3 years), Liberty Wildlife has given the guests an unforgettable experience of seeing a bald eagle, a hawk, an owl, and a falcon up close. While watching flight demonstrations, every Friday from October through April, the guests are educated about our mission, the threats to the birds they are meeting, and how they as individuals can make a difference in protecting wildlife. The number of visitors ranges from 50-150 per week, and most are out of state and international, taking the Liberty Wildlife message to far-reaching audiences.



VERDE CANYON RAILROAD, CLARKDALE, AZ

For the past 2 ½ years, the "Raptors on Rails" monthly Saturday program has entertained and educated 300-400 people on each train ride. On board the train, they are afforded the opportunity to stand only a few feet away from Sonora, a bald eagle, a treasured experience for guests from all over the U.S. and Europe. Occasionally, a wild bald eagle and nest are spotted during the course of the trip. There are special loaders for boarding the train, making this trip accessible to the elderly and handicapped. The eagle handlers and Sonora are in many, many family vacation albums!

continued on next page

REGIONAL BIRDING FESTIVALS INCLUDING "WINGS OVER WILL- COX SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL" WILLCOX, AZ

On the day prior to the festival, our Education Ambassadors go to three local schools and do presentations for students of all ages, teaching them about the high diversity of migratory and native birds in their region, instilling respect for their wildlife, and explaining why birds are valuable in our ecosystems and how to protect them in the rural setting. The Liberty Wildlife booth at the three-day festival has, for over 10 years, shared our mission message to not only birdwatchers from all over the U.S., but local townspeople.

THE DONS CLUB DISCOVERY CAMP

A unique experience for 4th-grade students from all over the state of Arizona is being bused to the Dons Camp at the Peralta Trailhead in the Superstition Mountains for a half day of activities plus lunch in a beautiful desert setting. Usually over 200 children are brought out on each of six Fridays, January to February. Over

the course of five programs a day, they learn about the desert, do cowboy chores, pan for gold, go on nature walks, and have an educational session with Liberty Wildlife educators and birds. We try to bring birds they may see while on their nature hike. Heavy emphasis is given to teaching the children how to help wild birds by disposing of their trash properly and the consequences to wild animals if they don't. For over 12 years, Liberty Wildlife has brought community awareness and support to our mission and message against the backdrop of pristine desert.

DESERT RIVERS AUDUBON SOCIETY/AUDUBON OF ARIZONA

In 2004, Liberty Wildlife began an educational partnership with Desert Rivers Audubon Society during its free family birds walks at both Gilbert Riparian Preserve in Gilbert and Veterans Oasis in Chandler. DRAS offers the loan of binoculars, books, and a bird guide for a morning of bird-watching in these water recharge parks. Again, our educators bring birds that might be seen in these outlying former agricultural areas where



wildlife encounters are frequent, emphasizing that we humans moved into and took over their habitat. We hope to eradicate fears of wildlife, explain how to coexist, and protect these animals so vital to our environment and ecosystems. Our monthly programs at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center further enhance our opportunities for outreach to the general public.

Contributions by:

Mona Berrier
Max Bessler
Claudia Kirscher
Carol Marshall
Joanne Mayer

Jan Miller
Joe Miller
Anne Peyton
Jean Rigden
Ed Weigand

Another Foothold into the Educational Arena

This year Liberty Wildlife added to our educational offerings. We created and presented our first Continuing Education class for the U.S. Green Building Council, Arizona Chapter's State Conference. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers Tony Sola and Claudia Kirscher, with support from Jan and Joe Miller, our message is spreading to an important group of learners.

The U.S. Green Building Council awards credits to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) professionals for learning about Wildlife-Friendly Determinance, which was addressed in Tony's continuing education class. LEED is an internationally recognized mark of excellence in design, construction and maintenance, and it is changing the look of our cities, new developments, and gentrified areas across the U.S.

In Tony's words, "Every one of the attendees approached me throughout the day to

say how much they enjoyed the presentation, how much they learned, how it was the highlight of the conference, etc." I had heard that (even though this is a group concerned with protecting the environment) a couple of people had said beforehand, "Why should we care about birds?" Based on this, Claudia set out to get some converts. One gentleman approached her to say, "I have to be honest. When I first heard about the presentation, I said, 'Come on, guys! Birds? Why would you do that to us?' But your presentation was very enjoyable and taught me a great deal, and I really see how I can apply this to my practice." He allowed that we had a convert! Indeed, we had 80 converts! There were attendees who took information to sign up to volunteer at Liberty Wildlife.

This has all of the earmarks of a totally successful, motivational, and innovative program.



Tony Sola, with Liberty Wildlife Education Ambassador Snickers, a great horned owl



Bald eagle
photo by Terry Stevens

Put Another in the Win Column

by Megan Mosby

Starting in late 2010, calls came in to the Hotline that a bald eagle was “hanging out” on a golf course at a retirement community in east Mesa, AZ. Residents had taken photos and sent them to the AZ Game and Fish Department, but no official sighting was made at that time. Then in late fall 2011, not that far from that community as an eagle flies, came more sightings of an adult bald eagle at a lake in a residential area in Gilbert, AZ. And, it was banded! Experts were sent out to identify it and found the band number was 21C.

Eagle 21C was identified, and records revealed some interesting data. On May 20, 2007, a newly fledged eagle was found down in the Needle Rock breeding area on the lower Verde River. She was brought in to Liberty Wildlife for assessment and potential rehabilitation. Assessments found nothing broken. However, it appeared that the eagle was suf-

fering from elevated liver enzymes possibly from exposure to organophosphates (found in pesticides).

She was given supportive care, flushed with fluids to cleanse the system as much as possible, and when stronger and able to fly, presented with live prey in the form of fish in a pool. While this isn’t close to learning from mom and dad, she got the knack of it and indicated readiness for release back into the wild.

On December 6, 2007, she was taken to Roosevelt Lake equipped with a tail-mounted radio transmitter so that experts could track her movements. Unfortunately the transmitter was lost or disappeared about a week later. Her fate was unknown for the next four years, and she was thought to have died.

But, she surprised us all...she was back. Her band was sighted in Gilbert. She had entered the breeding population. She had taken up

with a mate. They had built a nest. Although this first attempt at nesting failed, we are told that this isn’t too unusual for first-year breeders. We will keep our fingers crossed for a return next winter of 21C and her mate.

As Kyle McCarty of AZ Game and Fish says, “This is one of those rare cases where we learn the fate of a young, fledgling bird that had no hunting experience in the wild prior to being released. Thanks to Liberty Wildlife’s care, we get to put this one in the ‘win’ column.”

The Arms of Liberty Wildlife

STRETCH

A Little Bit Farther

Early in the year, we had the pleasure of working with Sergio Ribeiro, Jr., from Brazil. Sergio was a Work and Travel Participant and a Greenheart Club Member. Sergio's experience in Scottsdale started with working at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa. Included in his travel experience was an opportunity to volunteer during his Work and Travel program. He researched on the internet for a volunteer opportunity in Scottsdale, Arizona, and found many nice places, but the one that caught his attention was Liberty Wildlife. He loved animals and particularly liked the idea of helping them return to the wild, so Liberty Wildlife was contacted to inquire about the possibilities of his volunteering for us.

He eagerly agreed that working with the animals was a wonderful experience, but also, "I have met so many nice people here that have embraced me on their team. I am so thankful for the opportunity. While I haven't changed the world, I feel that I am moving in the right direction." I'm pretty sure that the birds of Arizona think the same way.

It appears that not only was it a great experience for Sergio and the animals that he helped, but all of the volunteers who worked with him recognized his dedicated spirit and learned a great deal from working with him. That seems to be a perfect outcome to a great experience.



***Teaching children about
the natural world should
be treated as one of the
most important events
in their lives.***

Thomas Berry

*Lance, Harris' hawk
Education Ambassador
photo by Barb Del'Ve*

SUCCESS

OF THE TWO-LEGGED KIND

by Nina Grimaldi

Success is measured in many different ways, big achievements and small ones. This year our success was measured in the form of a burrowing owl.

In the summer of 2011, the Research and Conservation Department was hired to relocate burrowing owls that would be impacted by construction of a new solar facility.



When the project was finally done, Liberty Wildlife had a “gaggle” of burrowing owl babies to feed, to raise, and to eventually release.

Removal of babies and eggs from the burrows and then collapsing the burrows



Owls removed from the site - photos by Terry Stevens

Owls from the site growing up

By end of the summer, we had 32 owls to release, and we had the perfect place to make it happen. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community asked us if we wanted to use a site they had recently developed into a wetland. Burrowing owls had once lived on this piece of land, and we were about to make it complete again.



An owl from the site learning to use the artificial burrow system at Liberty Wildlife



Digging the holes - photos by Tony Sola



Stevie, Jan, and Larry get a burrow ready

We installed a total of 26 artificial burrows at the site. Artificial burrows (ABS) are made up of corrugated pipe and a bucket. The owls are given two entrances per bucket to allow for escape from predators.

Releasing burrowing owls is not like releasing all the other raptors at Liberty Wildlife. We cannot simply take them out and let them go. Federal regulations and guidelines set by permits require that these owls be held at the site for 30 days. Burrowing owls are site-specific, and this helps to break that and helps build site fidelity. Pre-constructed panels are designed by Liberty Wildlife and constructed to house these potential releases.



*Unloading the panels
photos this page by Nina Grimaldi*

We built three cages at the site for the first release. Each cage covered three burrows. We placed 25 owls in the area and split them up among the three enclosures. We later built one more enclosure and released the remaining 7 owls.



Zip-tying the roof on



Each day, the owls were fed and given water. Any repairs needed were addressed. At the end of 30 days, the cages were dismantled and the owls were free.



In the spring, we started to notice the owls pairing up. Several burrows had nesting material at the entrances, which we took as a sign that nesting season had begun.

In June of 2012, we had our first baby sighting...a complete cycle and nature at its best. This is success!

A huge thanks to all involved.



An adult post-release

Striding into the Future *with Volunteer Talent*

by Terry Stevens

For years, even having one of the best hotline set-ups in the rehab world didn't make it easy for our phone staff to find rescue volunteers to match up with all the calls that come in to Liberty's hotline. Long sheets, even books of names and addresses didn't keep them from spending precious minutes, or even hours sometimes, trying to match an injured bird or mammal with an appropriate and available rescue volunteer. And the more animals we took in, the worse the problem got, especially in the springtime. It seemed as though nothing would help – until Liberty volunteer John Glitsos entered the picture.

a red pin, surrounded by 26 green pins representing 26 Rescue & Transport volunteers in order of their proximity to the rescue. Clicking on any pin produces a new window, which contains the contact phone numbers and availability of that volunteer on whatever day it happens to be. Future refinements are in the works and will be added as time (and computer power) permits.



John was a volunteer who seemed like your all-around nice guy – quiet, soft-spoken, friendly – but it seemed he had been a software engineer in his pre-Liberty life. When we found out what hidden talents he possessed, we asked him if he might help us with the problem of finding volunteers to match rescues. His solution was nothing less than remarkable.

An entirely new program was written for Liberty Wildlife by John and it's been a life-saver! With his software installed on a hot-liner's computer, they no longer have to search through pages of names and phone numbers after matching the area of the rescue with the people in that vicinity. Now all they need to do is type in the address of the injured animal (or the person making the call), and a map appears that shows the location of the rescue with



We had one volunteer who lived in New Jersey work a full shift on the hotline for an entire season with not much help from locals. Currently, we have another hotline volunteer who lives in Massachusetts accomplishing the same feat.

Thanks to John and his massive talent in the software field, Liberty Wildlife is dashing headlong into the 21st century – and accomplishing its goals better and faster each day.

Another Honor for the Non-Eagle Feather Repository

by Megan Mosby

Winning a national award and recognition for our feather repository was quite a high last year. The Partners in Conservation Award recognized the success of this pilot program, and we were very proud to be presented with this award by Secretary of the Interior Kenneth Salazar. However, another honor was bestowed on us in September when we were paid a visit by Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director for Region Two, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, out of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Tuggle was instrumental in recognizing the need for a non-eagle feather repository enabling Native Americans to finally have a legal means to acquire feathers for religious practices and regalia – a very forward-thinking thing for him to plan and see executed.

He arrived at our facility on a warm September afternoon and took the tour. He met with staff and volunteers, experienced some of our Education Ambassadors, took in the last of our Orphan Care charges and viewed our raptors in rehabilitation readying for release. His vast experience was obvious, as we weren't able to show him anything he hadn't already seen, worked with, known intimately – and that was fun for us.

He spent a goodly amount of his time going through the processes and procedures that make our feather repository so successful. He received copies of letters of appreciation from Native American individuals who have benefited

from our feathers. He enjoyed photos of fans and regalia that were sent back to us as final products of our feathers. He was shown beaded jewelry and other Native American craftwork that were sent in appreciation.

Some of the statistics that were supplied to him include the following:

Number of states feathers were sent to (see map):	37
Number of requests made of the repository:	1,200
Number of requests filled and shipped:	960
Number of tribes sent to:	136



Dr. Tuggle visits Liberty Wildlife and meets with Executive Director Megan Mosby (center right) and biologist Nina Grimaldi (left), along with observing an Education Ambassador handled by Peggy Cole (right).

Wild

life



Top: Northern mockingbird

Middle: Condor
Grand Canyon

Bottom: Elk

photos by Allen Spencer





Top: Great horned owl
Liberty Wildlife Education Ambassador
photo by Terry Stevens

Bottom: Harris' hawk
photo by Barb Del'Ve

Left: Prairie Falcon
Liberty Wildlife Education Ambassador
photo by Barb Del'Ve

Top: Egret

Middle: Wilson's warbler

Bottom: Diamondback rattlesnake
photos by Allen Spencer

Who are the Liberty Wildlife Volunteers?

by Carol Suits
Volunteer Coordinator

We recently surveyed our volunteers to better understand the demographics of this vibrant group of people that show up every day to nurture the nature of Arizona by helping native Arizona wildlife. We were a bit surprised at some of the data and conversely nodded wisely at what we already knew to be true regarding other outcomes. Overall, we were more than a little impressed with the caliber of people we're proud to call Liberty Wildlife Volunteers.

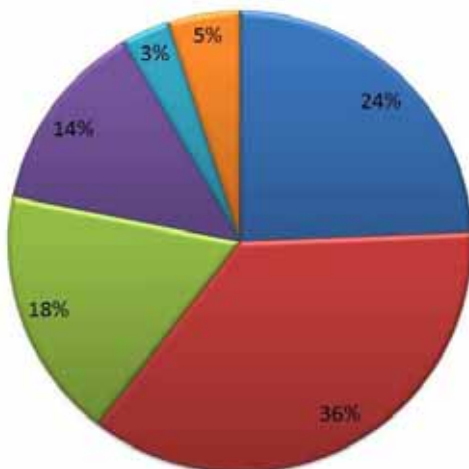
■ Our volunteers come from 36 different states and 5 countries.

Volunteers' Place of Origin



Years of Service at Liberty Wildlife

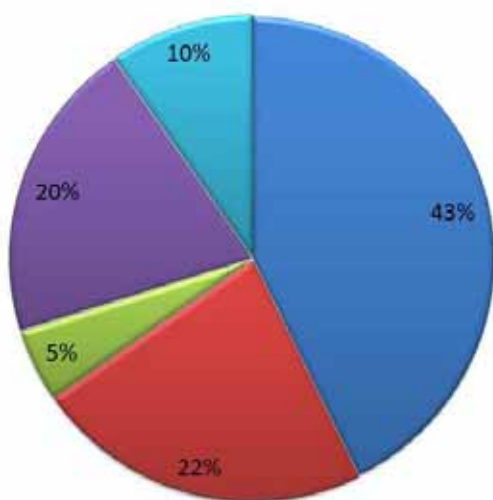
■ 0-1 yr. ■ 2-5 yrs. ■ 6-10 yrs. ■ 11-15 yrs. ■ 16-20 yrs. ■ 21+ yrs.



■ While about one-quarter are new to Liberty Wildlife, nearly an additional one-quarter have been volunteering for 16 years or more.

Employment Status

■ Full-Time ■ Part-Time ■ Unemployed ■ Retired ■ Student

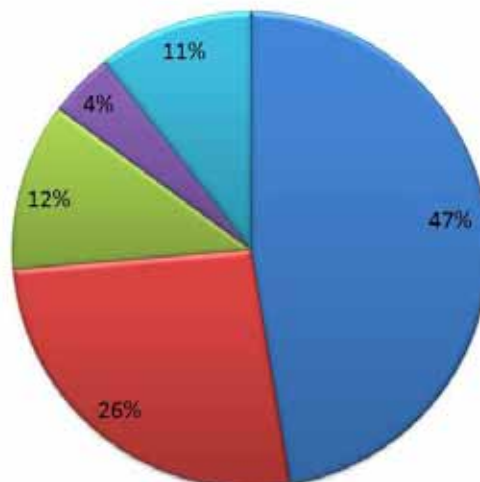


■ 65 percent of all volunteers at Liberty Wildlife work full- or part-time, while 20 percent are retired.

■ Rescue & Transport and Daily Care are chosen by more than 50 percent of the volunteers.

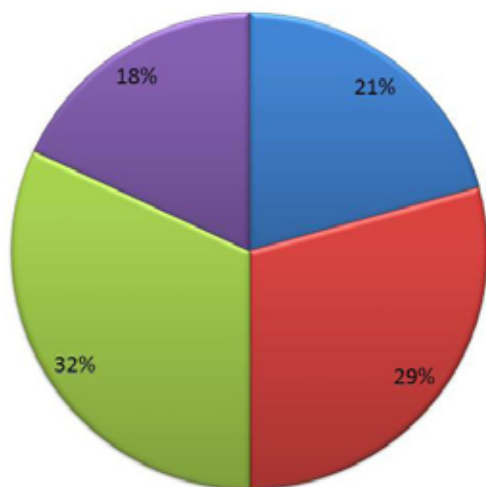
First Job at Liberty Wildlife

■ Daily Care ■ Orphan Care ■ Hotline ■ Rescue & Transport ■ Miscellaneous



Percentages for each Age Range

■ 18-30 yrs. ■ 31-49 yrs. ■ 50-65 yrs. ■ 66+

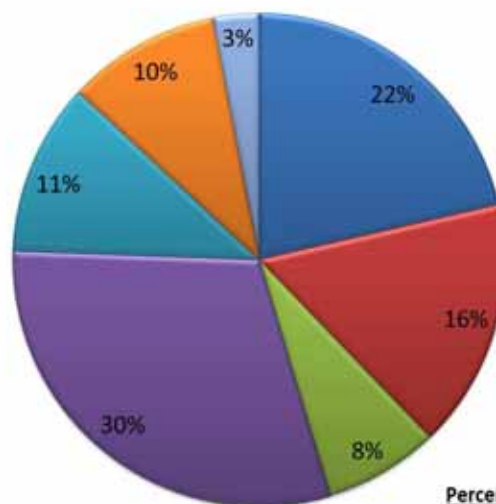


■ Their ages split evenly at 50 percent, with half at 18 – 49 years of age and the remaining volunteers at 50 – 66+ years old.

■ Nearly a quarter of the volunteers opt to take additional training to work in Education or Medical Services.

Current Job at Liberty Wildlife

■ Daily Care ■ Orphan Care ■ Hotline ■ R & T ■ Ed & Hand Feed ■ Medical ■ Misc.



Percentage with multiple jobs:

2 jobs	45%
3 or more jobs	24%

■ 45 percent of them work in 2 jobs at Liberty Wildlife, while nearly 25 percent volunteer in 3 or more!

We Had a Baby Shower

by Susie Vaught

This year marked our first Baby Shower for Baby Birds, held at Cactus Park in Scottsdale. The Education Ambassadors were there, educating the visitors. A children's area gave kids an opportunity to make pinecone bird feeders, and included plastic eggs with goodies for human kids, two piñatas, cookies, and water. Over 400 people attended, bringing baby bird gifts! Now, what do you bring to a Baby Bird Baby Shower? Dry cat food, dog food, paper towels (LOTS!), toilet paper, and bird seed, of course! Others donated money to help buy special foods, such as Exact hand feed formula, crickets and mealworms, mainstays for successfully raising our orphans.

And It Rained Babies

The Orphan Care Season at Liberty Wildlife got off a little slowly this year. By mid-April, we were commenting on how slow the birds were to start coming in. Then the floodgates opened and the orphans began pouring in! It is interesting to note that there is an order (for the most part) of when we get what type of orphans. The early nesters are mainly the seed-eaters, as early summer has ripening seeds and fruit available for the parents to feed their babies. So we get whole nests containing 4 or 5 tiny house finches arriving once or twice a day, with eyes closed and gaping mouths begging for food. Then baby Gambel's quail, fluff balls with giant feet, arrive, sometimes a dozen at a time. Gambel's

quail eggs are also brought in and are popped into our newly donated incubator. Opening the incubator door to tiny baby quail jumping around like popcorn is a real treat. The doves begin next as a small but constant stream of arrivals. As the summer heats up, we begin to receive the insect-eater babies. Nests of Say's phoebes with bright eyes, Abert's towhees with their cute begging motions, mockingbirds in their gray and black feathers, curve-billed thrashers with long beaks, hummingbird babies drinking Nekton every 10 minutes, gila woodpeckers grabbing food and pecking the hand that feeds them, screeching grackles with huge feet, bald heads, and voracious appetites, and the ever present stream of doves. The mourning doves are the early arrivals, then the Inca doves, and finally white-winged doves. The white-wings change the steady stream to a torrent. Doves are notorious for putting 5 or 6 twigs together, calling it a nest and laying eggs. Everything is fine until the monsoon winds start, then the house of twigs is scattered and the babies fall to the ground. If they are lucky, they are found by a

warm-hearted person who will pick them up and bring them to Liberty Wildlife.



Orphan Care volunteer helping during feeding time

They Were Raised and Released

The success experienced this year is due to the generous donations from the public and the thousands of hours of time given by our volunteers. Without these dedicated people, we would not be able to care for the orphans. I am thankful every day for the wonderful people who show up every week, eager to see what has changed, who has grown up and been released, and the new babies who arrived seeking shelter and love.

Babies in Orphan Care:



Inca dove

cotton-tail

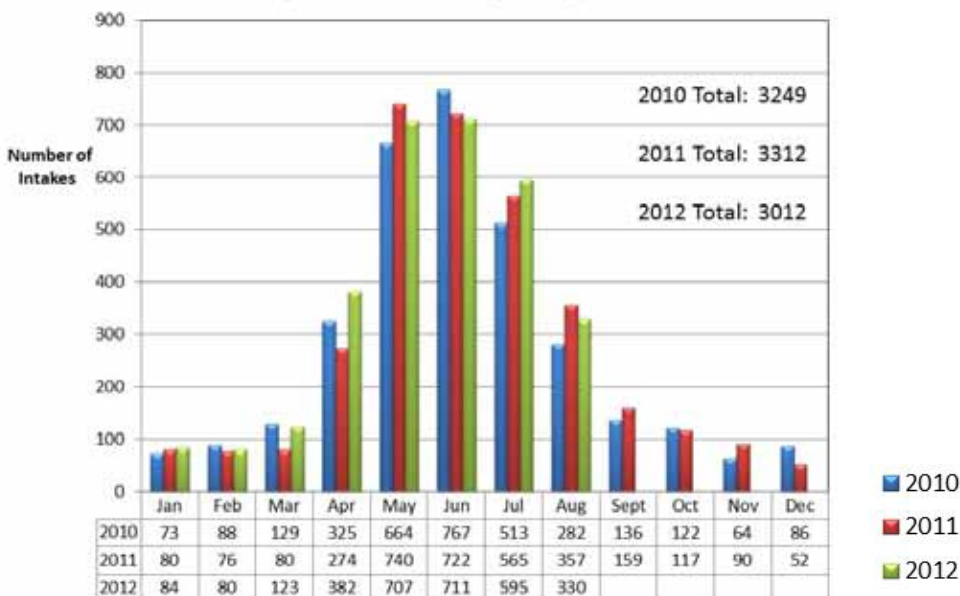
hummingbird

ground squirrel

A nest of Say's phoebes

It is easy to see from this graph that our busiest months are April-August, our orphan care season. Years may differ slightly in numbers, but the “season of babies” reigns as most intense.

**Comparison of Month Intake Volumes
January 2010 through August 2012**



...Worth Saving *continued from page 1*

the world’s treasure. Three thousand birds or more pass through Liberty Wildlife every single year. Some are poisoned, some are sick, some are starving; some die. But every bird that dies with us would have died in the wild. And many birds that would have died in the wild, find a chance to live again because of the work our volunteers do. Years ago, I held a dove while my father, a former Navy Corpsman who had sutured men in Vietnam, sutured a slit in the back of its neck. It looked like someone had taken a scalpel and split it open from the base of the skull to the top of the shoulders. Everything inside, spine and blood vessels, things that should never see the light of day, was laid bare for us like a page from a medical book. I cupped the dove in my hands while my father calmly went to work; even calmer? The dove. It didn’t matter that my fingers pressed it into my palms, or that my father’s needle was weaving surgical thread into and out of its skin. The bird just sat there, and while it may not have had anywhere to go, it was an amazingly stoic display, a marvel especially from something so seemingly fragile as a dove with an open neck.

It makes for an odd way to look at life, when a dove can survive something like that, while a bald eagle can die after eating a lead sinker the size of a pea. Every bird at Liberty, all three thousand or more, is this bird. An individual. A life. And that is what makes it beautiful and tragic all at once. Nature is less forgiving than the human heart. Many of the birds we save would have died without us; but many, truth

be told, would never have been injured if it wasn’t for us, for the impact we have, for the damage we do. The point of Liberty Wildlife is to do good, if we can, one bird at a time. Every bird that comes to us is one more that might be returned from whence it came; one more to breed and pass on its beauty and its grace; one more to bolster its numbers as habitat loss takes its toll. Every bird is as individual as the people volunteering their time to provide for it. The lesson of the lost owl is that abstraction is what kills without reason; abstraction is what bulldozes indiscriminately; abstraction is what causes someone to do something that, if they had only known more, they never would have considered.

The idea isn’t to say to people, “no, that’s wrong.” The trick is to say, “look at this,” “learn about this,” “understand this.” Half of Liberty Wildlife is dedicated to rehabbing wild birds and restoring them to the freedom of the sky. The other half is meant to educate, to illuminate others about the very things that we, as volunteers, are privileged to learn about every day we come here. What we want the public to learn is the very same thing that we learn and continue to learn. The very same thing that my father and I, over a dozen years here, have learned:

It’s not that bird or this bird. It’s not an owl or a grackle or a baby bald eagle. It’s a life. Each and every one is a life. And they are all worth saving.

Website



..... Instructional

A couple of years ago, we updated our website and with the help of our partner Cramer-Krasselt came up with the current version, which we hope is both attractive and user-friendly! Realizing that all websites are different, we felt we should offer some rudimentary instructions on how to navigate the site, so people who use it can easily find the information they are seeking.

Entering **libertywildlife.org** in the address bar on any web browser should lead you to our home page with a large hawk graphic on top (see above).

- If you are looking for **basic information** about the organization, such as volunteering, wildlife emergencies, publications, etc., hover (place your cursor on) on any of the topics below the hawk. Each topic will produce a drop menu for additional information related to the topic in this “header” line.
- For example, if you wanted **to make a donation**, hovering over “How Can I Help?” will drop a menu with several options, the first of which is “Make a Donation.” Click this button and it will lead you to the store page, where you can complete your donation.
- Clicking on the header line topic button itself will give you a page with **general information** about that topic along with all the drop-menu items for that page on the left-side column.
- In addition, there are special buttons on the right side of the home page leading directly to the **Liberty Wildlife Online Store**.
- These special buttons will also lead you to information and forms for the **Non-Eagle Feather Repository**.
- If you would like to receive our monthly electronic newsletter, **Nature News**, click on Publications and scroll down to Nature News. A form will come up for you to fill out and submit. You can also find our archives for Nature News, **WingBeats** and our blog, **This Week at Liberty** and **Hoots, Howls, and Hollers**.
- It could be that you are looking for information about our annual dinner/auction, **Wishes for Wildlife**. If so, go to **www.wishesforwildlife.org** for all the basics.
- If you are on any page within the site, clicking on the Liberty Wildlife logo in the upper left corner takes you straight to the **home page** once again.
- Have fun exploring the Liberty Wildlife site. We hope you find what you are looking for and more!



...Little Brown Birds

continued from page 5

Wrens often flick their tails about or cock them over their backs. Forked tails are easy to notice, as are those that fan out.

The shape of the beak is surefire evidence as to the type of bird. Binoculars will help here. Birds with cone-like beaks crack seeds for a living, such as the finches and sparrows. Sharp, pointy beaks are the sign of insect-eaters, like gnatcatchers and verdins. A very long, thin beak belongs to a bird that pulls insects or small reptiles from crevices, perhaps a rock wren.

Oops. There it goes! Birds in flight are especially challenging, but the flight itself offers clues. Does the bird fly in a straight line or does it bound through the air? Is it soaring, darting or flapping loudly?

Even little brown birds sometimes display sharply defined markings, such as eye rings, throat patches or prominent bars on wings. Add those to your list of clues. See how far you got before you had to decide if those breast feathers were rufous-buff or grey-brown? Don't even get me going on worn plumage, immature plumage, and intermediate plumage. You'll have more than an inkling of the identity of the mystery bird if you've made some careful observations. LLBs really aren't so dull after all.

A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children.

John James Audubon

Deadly Lesson *continued from page 6*

closet, went upstairs to his room, and wept bitterly for a long time...

I never told my dad why I didn't play with the gun anymore. Being an airplane mechanic, he didn't care much for starlings, and as such, he probably would have been glad to hear of my conquest. At any rate, that one incident shaped my feelings about guns and the lives of other creatures forever. And the more I talk to people both at Liberty Wildlife and elsewhere, the more it seems to me that most folks have experienced some sort of singular epiphany that defines their attitude about such things as well. When

some kind of cathartic event involving death occurs, it is as though people develop either a renewed respect for life – all life – or a taste for more killing. Which way they will go and why is anybody's guess. Maybe this is why the Education function of Liberty is so important overall.

Perhaps if that little starling had known what path her death would put me on thirty years later, she would have forgiven me. I really hope so.

Green At Work!



Did you know that you can support Liberty Wildlife at your workplace? Liberty is among 28 leading environmental and conservation nonprofits that make up the Environmental Fund for Arizona – a vibrant partnership of Arizona’s “green” organizations working all across the state to improve our natural environment.

Since 2001, thousands of Arizona employees have been offered a “green” choice through EFAZ as part of their workplace giving campaigns and collectively have raised over \$1 million for the vital environmental work being done by our member groups, including Liberty Wildlife.

You can donate through EFAZ in the workplaces listed below. Also, if your current workplace doesn’t offer a “green” choice yet, contact EFAZ to learn how easy it is to start an EFAZ program!

American Express
Ameriprise
State of Arizona
City of Chandler
City of Goodyear
City of Flagstaff
City of Mesa
City of Phoenix
City of Tempe

City of Scottsdale
City of Surprise
City of Tucson
Town of Queen Creek
Coconino County
Pima County
Maricopa County
Desert Botanical Garden
DMB Associates

JP Morgan Chase
Maricopa County Federal Employees
Prescott College
Raytheon
Boeing
Southern AZ Federal Employees
United Health
Wells Fargo



To learn more, visit www.efaz.org.

Please contact Laine Seaton at the Environmental Fund for Arizona if you’re interested in starting or including EFAZ in your workplace giving campaign! (480) 510-5511 or laine@efaz.org

Create Your Legacy with Liberty Wildlife

Join our

“Wings of an Eagle” Legacy Circle



Please let us know if you have designated Liberty Wildlife in your will or estate charitable plans so we can include your name in our **Wings of an Eagle Legacy Circle**. This is one way that you can leave your legacy with Liberty Wildlife and ensure our future sustainability through your philanthropic planning. If you have any questions about philanthropic planning, please contact Megan Mosby at (480) 998-0230.

You are very important to us!



You can help Liberty Wildlife be a big-bucks winner by making a pledge in the "Birdies for Charities" competition at the 2013 Waste Management Phoenix Open!

If you are considering making a donation to Liberty Wildlife by year's end, please sign up through the pledge form for the Birdies for Charities drive. This will help Liberty Wildlife gain great exposure at the 2013 Phoenix Open and also provide a 10% BONUS charitable gift from the Thunderbirds Charities. Please leverage your gift this year by filling out the attached form and helping us be one of five charities with a presence at the 2013 Waste Management Phoenix Open. You don't need to make your gift in 2012 – just fill out the attached form and submit it to Liberty Wildlife before February 3, 2013. Remember that 100% of your donation goes directly to Liberty Wildlife! It is easy! Please call (480) 998-0230 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your help in making Liberty Wildlife one of the signature charities at this great event! This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to make a difference for native wildlife, nature and the community.

PLEDGE FORM

1



I PLEDGE AND PROMISE TO DONATE TO THE BIRDIES FOR CHARITY PROGRAM FOR EVERY BIRDIE MADE DURING THE 2013 WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN. (5-year average number of birdies made = 1,500)

PER BIRDIE PLEDGE
1¢ MINIMUM

ONE TIME DONATION
\$20 MINIMUM

Make checks payable to
Thunderbird Charities

Check #

2

Name

Company Name (only if using company address)

Address

Suite or Apt. No

City

State

Zip

Telephone (Including Area Code)

Email

3

THIS PLEDGE FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO:

Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation
PO Box 14345
Scottsdale, AZ 85267

Birdies for Charity Number: 263

Visit www.birdiesforcharityaz.com
for more information or to make a pledge on-line

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

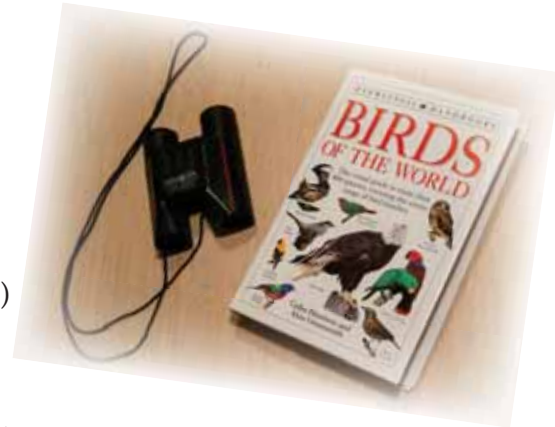
Four Pages of Activities for Kids

Outdoor Scientist:

Help your child identify an area to explore. It can be the backyard, a nearby park, close to a school or any place you feel is safe but allows the child a degree of autonomy. Forging a personal relationship with the natural world through repeated observation and exploration becomes a habit that is an invaluable learning experience carried into adulthood. Whether these field trips take 5 minutes in the backyard or are incorporated into a family outing several hours long, encourage several experiences, taking clues from your child about what is most interesting and engaging.

Things You Need: Let your child help gather all the “tools” for this adventure!

- Pencil, pen, colored pencils or markers
- Baggies or other clear plastic containers
- Notebook or journal
- Clipboard
- Copy of “Outdoor Scientist” field observation form
- Magnifying glass
- Camera
- Field guide or tablet to identify birds, trees and insects (optional)
- Binoculars
- Watch to note time of observations
- Water, sunscreen and snacks, as needed
- Backpack, tote bag or shopping bag to carry these items to the site



Things To Do: Here are some suggested activities to get you started.

- Choose a spot: Provide your child with a few safe locations to choose from as a first experience in observing the natural world.
- Take a picture of the area, animal, etc. Take a picture of the scientist(s)!
- Make a drawing of the landscape around you. Be sure to encourage observation and drawing of as many details as possible.
- Use the “Outdoor Scientist” field observation form to list the animals, insects and plants seen.
- Collect non-living items if they are plentiful in number and do not harm the environment.
- Write an entry in the journal describing one animal, insect, plant or tree, and write a story about it. Draw a picture including the location.
- Note the time of day and describe the current weather conditions.
- Make a list of questions and search for the answers either in the field with the field guide or tablet, or later at home.

Later, at home, encourage your child to talk about the experience. For example: “What did you see?” “What did you like best?” “What can we do next?” “Can you share this experience at school?” Assist your child in using resources such as books and internet field guides. A good online source is www.eNature.com.



photo by Allen Spencer

OUTDOOR SCIENTIST

Field Observation Form

Curve-billed thrasher

List the things you see. Describe it and fill in a square each time you see it again. Add more lines as you find more things!

1. How many total things did you see?

2. What did you see most often?

3. Find out if there are different animals, plants and insects in another backyard or at a park. Start another chart.

Build Like A Bird:

Here's a way to help your child think as animals do while making something interesting. Ask how they think a bird makes its nest. What materials do birds use? Since birds don't have arms, how do they build the nest? Next, explore your own backyard or a neighborhood park to gather potential bird nest materials.

Things You Need:

- Sticks
- Grass
- Leaves
- Discarded paper
- Pine needles
- Weeds
- What else?



Things To Do:

- Scavenge for the things you need, and bring the items inside.
- Place the items on a newspaper, and ask your child to try to manipulate the grass, twigs and other items into a bird's nest shape.
- Talk about which of the gathered items work best for making a nest.
- Encourage weaving the items together.
- See if they can use just two fingers, mimicking a bird's beak.
- Use the internet to research native birds, what they use locally to build a nest and how they put a nest together.
- Take the completed nest outside to figure out where a bird would build it in your backyard or neighborhood park. Can you spot a bird's nest?

Oil and Feather Experiment:

The news carries stories of oil spills and will often show efforts to clean oil-soaked birds. While this is a sad occurrence, children don't often understand the danger to the bird or the difficulty in cleaning up the mess. Here is a way for your child to experiment with the effects of applying water, oil and soap to a feather. Feathers are constructed of strands of hair and miniature "hooks," which keeps the feathers close to the body and maintains warmth and dryness. Oil compromises this ability and endangers the bird's life.

Things You Need:

- Liquid soap
- Water
- Corn oil
- Toothbrush
- Bowl
- Feather* – As you may know, all native bird feathers are federally protected and it is illegal to possess them. Craft stores have feathers, or chicken or turkey feathers would be perfect for this experiment.



Things To Do:

- Encourage your child to make a chart with "absorbed," "repelled" and "changes" across the top and "water," "oil" and "soap" along the left side with appropriate grid lines. As the experiment progresses, the chart can be filled out to show the effects of water, oil and soap on the feather.
- Give your child the feather to examine.
- Now your child can begin the experiment by first dipping the feather in water. Did the feather absorb or repel the water? Note the result on the chart.
- Next have the feather dipped in the oil. Ask if the feather absorbed or repelled the oil. Did anything else unusual happen to the feather?
- Sprinkle water on the oil-soaked feather. Does the feather absorb or repel the water this time?
- Ask your child to place some water in a bowl and add the liquid soap.
- Try to remove the oil with the soapy water and the toothbrush. What were the results? (When oil was added, the feather should have drooped and lost its ability to repel water.)
- Did the feather get clean? Was it restored to its original condition?

Optional: Find something on the internet showing volunteers working to help oil-soaked birds to share with your child.

Bird Bones:

How can bird bones be hollow and still be strong enough to support the bird's muscles? Here's an activity that will test how strong a hollow structure can be by finding out how many pennies a structure supported by hollow paper "bones" can hold. Be ready to be surprised!

Things You Need:

- Printer or other standard-sized paper
- Paper plate
- Tape
- Pennies

Things To Do:

- If this is a new concept, explain to your child that birds have hollow bones and that hollow objects are lighter than solid objects, which allows birds to use less energy to fly.
- Starting on the longer side, have your child roll a sheet of printer paper into a tube and tape it so it's about one inch in diameter and eleven inches tall. Repeat this step to make three "bones" in all.
- Stand the three bones on end and balance the paper plate on top. Taping the bones in place will help stabilize the structure.
- With your child, guess how many pennies the plate will hold before the structure falls over. Write down your estimates.
- Add pennies to the plate one at a time, distributing the pennies evenly around the center of the plate to keep the structure balanced.
- Continue until the structure falls. Have your child add up the pennies. Were either of your estimates close?

Build A Bird Bath:

Here's a weekend project that's easy, artistic and encourages the love of nature. A simple clay bird bath can be set up almost anywhere in your yard, allowing your child to watch animals venture in for a drink of water or a refreshing bath!

Things You Need:

- 3 clay pots sized 8", 10" and 12"
Wipe them down with a damp rag and let dry completely.
- 14" clay saucer, also wiped down
- Tempera paints
- Clear acrylic sealer spray
- Silicone adhesive
- Paint brushes/sponges
- Damp rag
- Newspaper
- Pencil and notepad
- Water and bird seed

Things To Do:

- Cover a work area with newspaper. Discuss what your child wants to paint on the pots using the brushes and sponges.
- While the paint dries, head outside to select a location for the bird bath. Take the notepad and pencil and embark on a backyard safari. Observe which birds and other animals are in the yard and predict what might happen after a bird bath is put up.
- Write your discussions and observations on the notepad.
- Apply several coats of clear acrylic sealer spray to the dry painted pots to waterproof them. This should be an adult step!
- Once dry, stack the pots upside down, biggest on the bottom, and top off with the clay saucer on the bottom of the smallest pot.
- Use silicone adhesive to secure the saucer and let it dry.
- Now the experiment begins! Fill the bird bath with water and observe the activity. Encourage your child to describe the visitors, perhaps learning the name of the animal.
- After a few days, empty the water and fill the bird bath with bird seed. Ask your child to predict which animals will visit this time. Will there be a difference?
- Learn about cleaning the bird bath to provide a healthy environment for the animals.
- Keep the bird bath outside as the seasons change. Caution: Avoid freezing temperatures to avoid cracking.



Where's
the
Owl?



Wishes for Wildlife

2012



Freeport-McMoRan CEO Richard Adkerson releasing a rehabilitated great horned owl into the largest full moon of the year.

This year's fundraiser gala, *Wishes for Wildlife*, was a lovely event provided by the guiding hands of this year's "flight crew," **Jamie Lendrum**, **Melissa Leonesio**, and **Pam Overton-Risoleo**, with **Kathleen Lang** acting as the "wind beneath their wings." Their wings took flight.

The location was the Montelucia Resort and Spa in Paradise Valley. The setting for the outdoor silent auction and cocktail portion of the event couldn't have been lovelier. Release of the rehabilitated great horned owl was timed so that its return to the wild was silhouetted against the biggest full moon of the year...a treat for the entire neighborhood to appreciate from balconies, sidewalks and pathways. And, as she flew to freedom, I am pretty sure there was a smile on her face! There were certainly lots of smiles from the audience.

The guests entered the ballroom for dinner and were awed by the decorations provided by Avant Garde. Dramatic arrangements of peacock tail feathers could take your breath away and indi-

vidual table decorations continued the theme with lovely flowers and short peacock tail feathers included. The smell of the room was accented by these lovely arrangements.

Our emcee, **Robin Sewell**, did her normal job of wowing the audience with both her beauty and her vast experience throughout the state of Arizona. Our Honorary Chair, **Richard Adkerson** of Freeport-McMoRan, boldly released the great horned owl and later entertained us with his remarks about the importance of the work that Liberty Wildlife provides, especially our educational efforts.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you who made this lovely event possible. Plan to attend next year's event on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at the Montelucia Resort and Spa. If you are interested in helping make next year's event another big success, don't hesitate to visit our dedicated website, www.wishesforwildlife.org.




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The Burrowing Owl

By: Greg Martin, Medical Services Volunteer



Not every owl lives in darkness and hunts from above. One North American species is brave enough to walk around in broad daylight, searching for its next meal. That by itself is a sign of something special: they're walking. This species doesn't even live in trees; it doesn't need to. It's brave enough, and bold enough, to nest in the very ground itself, living in colonies with its brethren, going where no other raptor dares go. There are many species more commonly known, but are there any more unique? After all, they surrender the sky to master the land. That's a special kind of bird: a special kind of predator. That's the burrowing owl.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Penny the Pelican



By: Kristen Nicholson, Nature News Teen Reporter

In November of 2011, a facility near Ft. Mojave found an adorable female white pelican that was blown off course and somehow ended up in Arizona. "Penny" was a typical sea bird, until she took a wrong turn and damaged her wing, making it impossible for Liberty Wildlife to set her free after they had rescued her.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Wild Monsoon



By: Gail Cochrane, Liberty Wildlife Volunteer

To human residents of the low desert, the monsoon rains offer a welcome break from the heat, a lively show of lightening, thunder and water gushing across every surface. For some animals of the desert the monsoon storms create a window of opportunity to create life, bringing on frenzies of mating.

[Click here to read more.](#)

It's a mystery to me (Part II)

By: Claudia Kirscher, Liberty Wildlife Volunteer



We continue to explore the where, how, and why of bird name origins.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Kid Stuff

By: Carol Suits, Volunteer Coordinator

Learn to draw an owl
[How to Draw Owls](#)

Here's a burrowing owl puzzle to try:
[National Geographic "The Little Owl" jigsaw puzzle](#)

And, it's that time of year 8C! Monsoon season!
[Monsoon Time - Crossword Puzzle](#)

See if you can find your way through this [Pelican Maze!](#)

Ask an adult to help you with scissors and see if you can cut and paste the labels onto the bird:
[Bird Chart - Label the Parts](#)


Liberty Wildlife
 Visit us at www.libertywildlife.org or call us at 480-998-5550
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Publications at Liberty Wildlife

In addition to our annual report, **WingBeats**, and our very informative website, www.libertywildlife.org, Liberty Wildlife provides a monthly e-newsletter, **Nature News**. This free e-newsletter is designed to educate its subscribers on current and interesting topics related to wildlife, conservation and sustainability. Our weekly blog, **This Week at Liberty and Hoots, Howls, and Hollers**, keeps its readers up to date with the weekly "happenings" at Liberty Wildlife. Our **AWE** (Assisting Wildlife Educators) series of four books informs on four specific species of our Education Ambassadors: the bald eagle, the golden eagle, the great horned owl, and the American kestrel. For more information on the AWE program please visit our website at www.libertywildlife.org (click on Education Services).


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« This Month at Liberty September 10, 2012

This Week at Liberty September 17, 2012
 Posted on September 17, 2012 by hollers

Hoots, Howls, and Hollers

I am making one last appeal to each of you to read for Liberty Wildlife for the Chase Giving campaign. We could use a big sum of money if we can bring it more value. For some of our social media challenges there is a very easy way to win. Our web site has a pop up on the home page that will be functioning for a few more days, and again, you click on the button it leads you directly to a voting opportunity. The picture will be made and then click on "Vote for this chapter." That's all there is to it.

And, I include you are ways of hearing about this opportunity...but here's why it is so important. Last week I brought attention to the fact...no more you need increased as you should have been...the opportunities are indeed important. The numbers are all the same in every category of our monsoon season...but here's a more general reason.

This past weekend some volunteers went enjoying a Saturday of outdoor enjoyment...hunting at Canyon Lake. I am not sure if I saw the taking of the male peregrine on the ridge of the elevated trees on the shore for that great attention too. I guess it wasn't there. The hunters were taken to the arena and shared some of their catch with the small male bald eagle who was "frowned" on the the evening before. He was unable to fly and had already been down for some time...and for some time he was laid back. Being proud, being the town that she was still around and perhaps even bringing food to him, at least that is the environmental story of the situation.

Surfing and a better way that had given led to our volunteers that he had been down for at least two weeks. His signs were down from being on the ground for so long, he had lost weight, but he was still standing up unable to fly to safety, to hunt, all in months with the through help.

The reason he might be able to return to his mate is this. People want. People get involved. People mentioned what they were doing to make sure the bald eagle got a second chance. The hunters shared their hunting and called the Sheriff. The Sheriff called Game and Fish and the Liberty Wildlife hotline to know all about it. The Game and Fish representatives called them. One of our eagle rescue team members, who showed up with them to get everything. A second eagle rescue team member, John, was called and he was told support when they were doing and down to the lake. A trip across the river by John led to the actual rescue of the female eagle.

Once they got back to the facility, he was assessed and his injured wing discovered. He only needed five stitches (should have been at least seven stitches)...and was very fast and well. He will have 9 days today and probably his treatment will be made by veterinarians. He is getting his blood, and we are hopeful that his wing will heal enough that once his strength is back he will be able to return to his mate. Breeding season isn't far in the future.

All of this happened because people took the time to help, to get involved to make a difference and that is why I am asking you one last time to help us, to get involved, to make a difference by voting for Liberty Wildlife in the Chase giving campaign. The great will help us continue this good work!

Regina Hardy

This Week at Liberty

The video told for the year now starts at 2012.

The video goes on as we begin to get in a parade of free year birds who are making their juvenile releases. Learning where they should be, putting where they might not, getting the idea to make it all these adventures that lead to flying the young birds being on a wing of nature each fall. Some will live, some will not, and some will enter the in-between world of "human" non-releasable. In addition, we get to witness the rescue from the Canyon Lake area where it is released. Let's see what happens...



Posted by Penny Brown



Special: burrowing owl enclosure

We are still getting in a steady number of burrowing owls, both residents and migrants. Due to their natural needs in terms of habitat, we set up a larger enclosure to provide a better environment than the birds. It gives them the opportunity to move about as much as they are able and not be restricted by either outdoor or indoor small spaces.





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Baby killdeer
photo by Barb Del've



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