

Caring for wildlife  
for 41 years!



# Wildlife Matters

Quarterly Newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association

St. Francis Wildlife is a local, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife through the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and public education since 1978.

Vol. 20, No. 2

Spring 2019

## Daring baby owl rescue

By Sandy Beck



Two-week-old Barred Owl nestling the Van Tassells brought to Northwood Animal Hospital. Photo/Teresa Stevenson.

Dezirae and Chris Van Tassell love the wild family that shares their woodsy backyard in north-west Tallahassee.

“They can really go nuts at night,” Dezirae said, referring to their Barred Owl neighbors’ amorous mating calls; cacophony of territorial



Volunteer, Adam Starling used some scrap lumber and a power drill to shore up the owls’ tattered nest.

Photo/Teresa Stevenson.

cackles, barks, and shrieks; and their monkey-like banter.

One recent morning, on their way out, the Van Tassells were happy to see two downy Barred Owlets pop their heads out of their nest. But when they returned a while later, both babies were on the ground, and only one had survived the fall.

They took the surviving owlet, amazingly unhurt, to Northwood Animal Hospital. Volunteer, Clyde Benedix arrived shortly afterwards to pick up the tiny, two-week-old nestling and drive it to our wildlife hospital.

We always try to return a nestling to its nest. It is a myth that wild parents will reject their young if humans touch it. But, re-nesting a downy bird of prey can be tricky.

When St. Francis Wildlife director, Teresa Stevenson arrived at the Van Tassell’s home, she found the owl nest way above the reach of her ladder. And, surprise — there was a third downy baby in the nest! So she called volunteer, Adam Starling, who works for Miller’s Tree Service, and asked for his help.

“This scenario was a first for me,” Adam said, “and the ascent was at least 50 feet up the pine tree.” Suspecting ‘fowl’ play, the parents, who had been watching closely from a nearby tree, dive-bombed Adam as he climbed, swooping within two feet of him on their long, silent wings.

“Once I got up there and assessed the situation, I realized the nest was in rough shape and needed to be repaired,” said Adam.

Owls don’t build nests; they borrow other birds’ nests or use tree cavities. This second-hand nest was in shambles. No wonder two babies had fallen.

Chris Van Tassell cut some lumber in his workshop while Adam rigged up a laundry basket and pulley to haul up the lumber and a power drill



Barred Owls, like most birds of prey, mate for life. These two are strengthening their ‘pair bond’ with mutual preening.

Photo by Nancy Elwood, [www.naturesportal.net](http://www.naturesportal.net)

which he used to create a buttress around the perimeter of the nest that still held one hunkered down nestling.

Teresa placed the fallen owlet in a bag. Adam’s wife, Courtney attached the bag to his line. Then Adam carefully pulled it up, reunited the siblings, and snapped a photo (below).

“It’s always a pleasure to be of service to St. Francis Wildlife and the creatures they look out for. It keeps my heart full,” Adam, the owl hero, said that evening. ❤️





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We appreciate the generous gift from the  
**William Howard Flowers, Jr.  
Foundation**

at the request of

**Mr. & Mrs. C. Martin Wood III,**  
given in honor of

**Diane & Ken Linthacum**

and in memory of **Frolic Wood.**

We are thankful for the very thoughtful  
bequeathment from the estate of  
**Juel Elaine Kamke.**

## Thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts for these donations.

### In Memory of

#### Thomas Blumel

From  
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#### Westwood Animal Hospital in celebration of their 40th anniversary!

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#### James & Jacob Pewitt Yancey on the occasion of their wedding!

From  
Emily Perkins



## It's always in our power to be kind. ♥

In memory of **Peter Gray Munroe (Pete)**, a kind, generous, and caring man.

Pete was a member of our board of directors and a strong supporter.

As a partner with Law, Redd, Crona & Munroe, P.A., Pete donated the cost of St. Francis Wildlife's tax preparations for 40 years.

## For their generous continued support, St. Francis Wildlife is grateful to

- Michael H. Sheridan & Judy Wilson
- Valerie's Animal & Nature Foundation
  - The Phipps family
  - Charles & Sallie Barnes
  - The Apple Lane Foundation
  - Lewis Family Foundation

## Sincere thanks to our community for caring about wildlife

- **Target Print & Mail** for donating their mailing services.
- **Robbie Estevez** and the **IMARCSGROUP.COM (IMG)** for hosting our web site.
- **COSTCO** for donating produce for our animals!
- **Panhandle Pet Supply** for donating squirrel food, deep discounts on other supplies, and a \$200 gift card!
- **Walmart in Quincy** for donating dog food and birdseed!
- **Tony Kelly Heating & Air** for installing a ductless air conditioner free of charge.
- **Mark and Laurie Forare**, our great neighbors who help maintain our property with their tractor.
- **The Tallahassee Democrat, WCTV & WFSU** for helping us teach people how to live in harmony with wildlife.
- **TJ McGowen** from **Network for Good** for his spectacular guidance in helping us attract donations.
- **Chris Nicholls** for a 2004 GMC Yukon XL Denali Truck.
- **McFarland Builders & Greg Construction Company** for building our new large mammal enclosure & **Duke Energy** for funding it.
- **Matt & Wendy Mathews** for donating their Golf Cart.
- **Albritten Electric & Greybar Electrical Supply** for installing an additional breaker box for the generators.
- **Donald Boyette of C&W Construction** for laying asphalt on our hospital road and reshaping the road for drainage. Thanks also to **Peavy & Sons** who will continue to surface the road.
- **Home Depot on NW Capital Circle** for new doors for our laundry room. Special thanks to Jennifer, Brian, Oz, Ryan, David and John who worked with SFW volunteer, Nancy Thomas to make it happen
- **The Red Elephant** on Kerry Forest for raising funds for us with a Share Day.
- **Buddy & Sterling Harrison**, our hay guys who gave us free hay for many years. We wish them all the best in retirement!
- **Ralph Esposito** for donating and helping to produce PSAs for us with Sinclair Broadcasting Corp.
- **David & Regina Cochran, Jack McDermott and Adam Starling** for donating items from the "Big Wishes" section of our wish list (page 8).
- **The Red Hills Pagan Council** for donating the proceeds of their annual Witches Ball to St. Francis Wildlife.
- **Pat Simmons** for her generous contribution towards the cost of Network For Good.
- **Pat Dudley-Gregory, of Bodywork & Bach Flower Essences** in Havana, for raising \$814.00 with their Chair Massage & Reflexology Fundraiser for St. Francis Wildlife.
- **Glen Carmichael** from Havana for donating our hay.
- **FSU Chuck it for Charity** initiative for donations of students' items.

## St. Francis Wildlife cared for 2,725 wild birds, mammals, and reptiles January 1 - December 30, 2018, including . . .



### 185 Eastern Cottontails

A homeowner found these bunnies (above right) in tall grass near a backyard fence. If you find bunnies, don't mow, don't weed whack, don't move them. Mama rabbit puts them there to be safe. Mama rabbits and deer return to nurse only twice during the day. They stay away so as not to attract predators to their scentless babies. Unless there is obvious danger, please let them be.

Adult Photo/Sandy Beck Photo of bunnies/Pat Simmons



### 209 Virginia Opossums

If you find a dead opossum on the road, check to see if it is a female with a pouch. During the spring and summer, a pouch may contain up to 13 babies. You can save the babies by keeping them warm and taking them to us.

Photo/Teresa Stevenson



### 62 Hawks

39 Red-shouldered Hawks, 13 Red-tailed Hawks, 5 Cooper's Hawks, and 5 Broad-winged Hawks. Photo: Red-shouldered Hawk/Teresa Stevenson.



### 14 Vultures

5 Black Vultures and 9 Turkey Vultures. These orphaned Black Vultures are being cared for at our hospital now. Photo/Teresa Stevenson



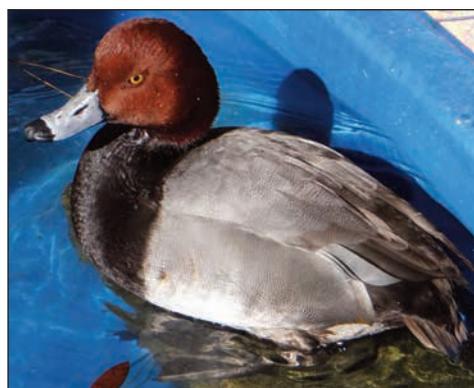
### 7 Foxes

3 Red Foxes and 5 Gray Foxes, This orphaned red fox is currently at our wildlife hospital.

The Gray Fox can scramble up a tree quickly and is one of the only members of the dog family in North America capable of climbing. The Red Fox does not climb trees.

Some Red Foxes have patches of gray fur, and gray foxes have patches of red fur. But Gray Foxes have black-tipped tails, while Red Fox tails have white-tipped tails. Although they look similar, the Gray Fox and the Red Fox are distant cousins, belonging to different genera.

Photo/Teresa Stevenson



### 47 Ducks

19 Wood Ducks, 7 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, 1 Bufflehead, 1 Ring-neck Duck, 14 Muscovy Ducks, and 5 Pekin Ducks.

Photo of Redhead Duck/Teresa Stevenson



### 71 Owls

14 Great Horned Owls, 50 Barred Owls, 6 Screech Owls, and 1 Barn Owl.

Above, 2 orphaned Great Horned Owls in our hospital now. Photo/Kayla Gainer-Edwards



### 59 Turtles & Tortoises

36 Box Turtles, 5 Common Snapping Turtles, 1 Eastern Mud Turtle, 4 Softshell Turtles, 7 Florida Cooters, and 9 Gopher Tortoises.

Photo of Box Turtle hit by a car/Sandy Beck

**What we understand, appreciate  
and love we will protect.**

### **The Wild Classroom**

is St. Francis Wildlife's unique outreach education program with native wildlife for your classroom, club meeting, or special event.

[stfranciswildlife.org/Education.html](http://stfranciswildlife.org/Education.html)  
(850) 528-0823

# Wildlife myths

By Sandy Beck



**Myth #1: If you touch a baby bird, the parents will reject it because of your scent.**

Birds, with a few exceptions (most notably, Turkey Vultures, some seabirds, and New Zealand's Kiwis) have little or no sense of smell.

What all animals, including birds, do have is a powerful instinct to reproduce and then to ensure their offspring's survival. You can bet that a wild mama will not let a little 'eau de human' separate her from her baby.

### So if you find a baby bird . . .

If it's a featherless or mostly downy **nestling** (photo above), put it back in its nest. If you can't find the nest, construct a new nest with a plastic mesh berry basket lined with pine straw and attach it to the shady side of the closest tree. If the nest is on the ground, put it back in the tree.

If the baby bird is a fully feathered **fledgling** (photo below), and not injured or in danger from pets or traffic, don't return it to the nest. Its parents protect and feed it on the ground until it can fly.



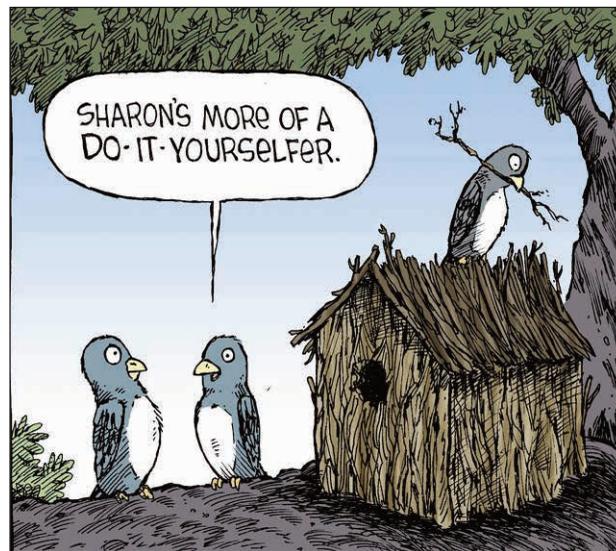
**Myth #2: Add red coloring to hummingbird food to attract more hummingbirds to your feeder.**

Hummingbirds are not attracted to the color of the nectar; they are attracted to the color of the feeding port — the part that looks like a flower.

Red Dye #40 has been proven carcinogenic for rats and mice that ingested it. It is banned in many countries in Europe, but not in the U.S.

The concentration of Red Dye #40 in a popular dry nectar mix is 12 times higher than in the brew that produced tumors in rodents.

So, play it safe, and save money too, by sticking to the old homemade formula of one part white table sugar (not honey or brown sugar) to four parts filtered water. Heat and stir until the sugar dissolves. Then let the red feeder ports attract those beautiful hummingbirds.

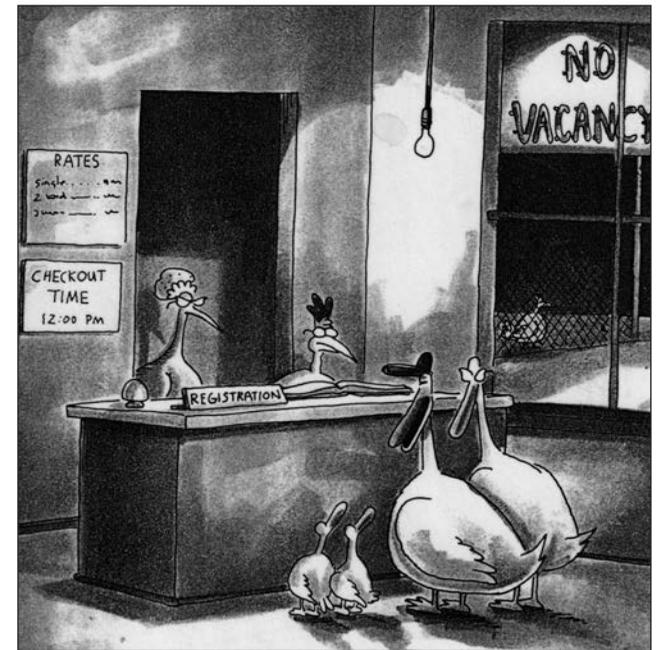


**Myth #3: We can help birds in the spring by providing them with cozy nest materials.**

Some stores market little baskets for bird lovers that are packed with yarn, string, and other 'nest making materials.' Making the baskets is also a favorite pre-school and camp activity.

But every year St. Francis Wildlife receives birds with these materials wrapped around their feet. A bird can lose its foot or entire leg from a string slowly tightening and cutting off circulation.

Natural is best. Birds have plenty of natural materials for nest building: twigs, dried leaves, grass and flower stems, pine straw, shed snake skins, Spanish moss, and lichen. The birds know where to find everything they need. They've been doing it for millions of years.



But, Dad, we're tired and we haven't had a decent bug in days. Sorry, kids — this inn is full.

Thanks to Gary Lawson.

**Myth #4: Wildlife can easily move or be relocated, as long as their new habitat is similar to their original home.**

Have you ever moved to a new city? It takes a while to find your way around, to find an apartment, to find restaurants you like. And you miss your family and friends.

Imagine now that you are a wild animal that suddenly finds itself in a strange place. You don't know where to look for water, food, and hiding places that will keep you safe from predators.

When natural or semi-natural areas are cleared, wildlife that survive may land in another habitat that has already reached its carrying capacity for wildlife. Tree cavities are occupied. Brush piles are taken. Burrows are full.

This is also why it is inadvisable, usually illegal, and often cruel to trap and relocate 'nuisance wildlife' rather than make the effort to remove your attractant, close up entryways, or simply learn how to coexist.

Some animals, including turtles and tortoises, always try to find their way home. When St. Francis Wildlife releases a rehabilitated animal, whenever possible, we return it to its original home.

What can you do?

Encourage builders in our community to develop with wildlife in mind. Plans can include green spaces with wildlife corridors, or ecopassages, linking the green spaces.

Preserving wildlife and their habitats also increases the value of our own living spaces. And that is not a myth.

## It's baby bird season!

At St. Francis Wildlife, spring and summer mean orphaned baby birds and injured migratory adults. The first week of May, we already had more than 100! Here are some of the precious birds we are caring for in our Baby Bird Room right now. Photos by Sandy Beck.



Adult Bluebird , hit by car, has an injured wing.



Summer Tanager flew into a window and fractured his wing.



Orphaned Bluebird fledglings.



Orphaned Carolina Wren nestlings, just three of dozens!

### If you find a baby bird

We do a pretty good job of raising baby birds, but natural parents are the experts. If it is not injured, before you assume that it is orphaned, please try reuniting a wild baby with its parents.

To learn how, read 'Myth #1' on the previous page. More information is at: [stfranciswildlife.org/foundbabybird.gif](http://stfranciswildlife.org/foundbabybird.gif).

Or call us for advice, 24/7 at (850) 627-4151.



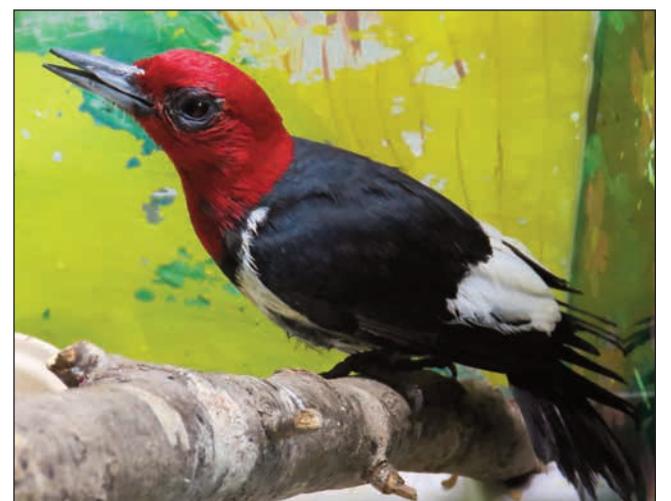
Northern Parula with an injured wing.



Orphaned Tufted Titmouse fledgling.



Orphaned Barred Owl nestling stretches her tiny wings.



Red-headed Woodpecker with eye trauma.

## These special women take wildlife under their wings.

By Sandy Beck



Left to right: Kayla Gainer-Edwards and Nicole Rivera bathe four orphaned foxes. Photo by Teresa Stevenson.

At our wildlife rehabilitation center, ‘baby season’ usually revs up in May. But this year orphaned and injured wild babies began arriving in February. The first week of May, I counted more than 300.

It takes a special kind of person to spend up to 14 hours a day feeding and cleaning these 100 baby birds — including 90 songbirds that must be fed every 20 minutes, 140 orphaned opossums, 30 baby raccoons, 13 baby raptors, 40 squirrels, 20 bunnies, five foxes, and turtles and tortoises, from dawn to dusk.

It takes a special kind of person to scrub dirty cages, drive miles to rescue a fox hit by a car, answer a dozen phone calls from people who have found wildlife that they believe may need our help, and then push her own tender emotions down to euthanize a terminally sick raccoon.



Nicole Rivera wears a camouflage mask to feed two orphaned Banded Owl nestlings. This is necessary to prevent them from imprinting on humans. Photo by Sandy Beck.

These women could have used their university science degrees to enter less stressful, highly paid fields. But they have chosen to dedicate their lives to providing quality care for injured, orphaned and sick wild animals.

How they do it, day in and day out — remaining enthusiastic, smiling and upbeat and showing equal compassion to an orphaned squirrel or an injured Bald Eagle, blows me away.

**Teresa Stevenson** has been St. Francis Wildlife’s director and licensed wildlife rehabilitator since 2008 (we call her Mother Teresa). With her home just 200 feet from our hospital building, she often spends nights feeding the nocturnal orphans and checking on critical patients in the ICU.



Kayla Gainer-Edwards rescues a Great Blue Heron hit by a car. Photo by Bobby Edwards.

**Kayla Gainer-Edwards** joined our staff in September 2017 as a wildlife technician. She moved here from the Keys where she worked for five years at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center in Tavernier as their Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager.

**Nicole Rivera**, who joined our staff as a wildlife technician in January, came to us from the Wildcare Foundation in Noble, Oklahoma, where she served as their Mammal Team Leader.

Teresa, Kayla and Nicole network with local veterinarians and other wildlife rehabilitators and constantly update their skills through our memberships in state, national, and international wildlife rehabilitation organizations.

They’re grateful for the seasonal part-time help, college interns, and volunteers who come — some every week — to help feed babies, clean habitats, prepare diets, transport animals from vet offices in Tallahassee, fix cages, do laundry, and



Teresa Stevenson with Twiggy, our non-releaseable Barn Owl ambassador. Photo by Bob Beck.

help with a myriad of tasks that enable them to focus on animal care.

What makes their job most rewarding? Kayla says, “Checking on animals first thing in the morning and seeing that they’re doing well.”

And, of course, the releases — taking rehabilitated animals back home and setting them free to live the lives nature intended, the lives that these quiet superstars make possible.

Do you love wildlife?  
Are you between 18 and 88?  
Please consider becoming a  
**St. Francis Wildlife volunteer.**

Learn more at  
[stfranciswildlife.org/GetInvolved.html](http://stfranciswildlife.org/GetInvolved.html)  
or call us at (850) 627-4151.





Gabby Alberico, a student in the pre-veterinary biology program at FSU, was a spring semester intern. She loved caring for the baby opossums.  
Photo by Sandy Beck.

## Interested in an internship at St. Francis Wildlife?

Now is your chance. This internship, which is offered for college credit, is a great opportunity for local students to immerse themselves in the world of wildlife rehabilitation.

Requirements: You must be at least 18, have your own health insurance and transportation, and be reliable and responsible.

If you would like an application for the fall internship program, send an email to us at: [volunteer@stfranciswildlife.org](mailto:volunteer@stfranciswildlife.org). Completed applications are due by August 15th.



Rushi Babariya, a biology major at FSU, is a spring and summer intern. Rushi, who wants to be a veterinarian, found a special place in his heart for this injured Blue Jay.  
Photo by Sandy Beck.

Saturday, May 18th

7a.m. to 3 p.m.

Let's all meet at the  
**Uptown Café**

1325 Miccosukee Rd., Tallahassee

A portion of ALL sales will be donated to St. Francis Wildlife! And one of their amazing smoked salmons will be raffled off to one lucky patron!  
Thank you, Tedio family!

## Life insurance for wildlife

Because shrinking natural habitat pushes wildlife ever closer to us, our vehicles, and our pets, it's easy to see why the number of our wild patients increases each year, along with the cost of their care.

Please consider creating a 'life insurance policy' for injured, orphaned, and sick wildlife in our community by including St. Francis Wildlife in your will. Your foresight and generosity will ensure that our community can continue to rely on the critical services St. Francis Wildlife provides.

To make an official bequest, please speak with your estate planner who will want the following information:

St. Francis Of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc.  
5580 Salem Rd. Quincy, FL 32352-0711  
Charitable Tax ID#: 59-1888022.



## Newborn river otter

This tiny, newborn river otter (left), was found in Quincy, Florida. We tried but were unable to reunite her with her mother.

In order for her to behave normally when she is grown, this river otter, like most wild mammals, needs to be raised with others of her own kind.

So while she received our careful nurturing, we searched for another wildlife rehabilitator who had an orphaned river otter the same age as ours. We were happy to find one near Tampa and transported her there.  
Photo by Kayla Gainer-Edwards.



## Loggerhead Shrike

This interesting songbird, that actually behaves more like a raptor, hunts insects, lizards, and small mammals. Because it lacks a raptor's talons, it impales its prey on thorns and barbed wire fences. Like a falcon, it has a sharp notch, called a 'tomial tooth,' on the side of its hooked beak that it uses to kill its prey by puncturing its neck.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Loggerhead Shrikes have been observed stashing noxious prey such as monarch butterflies — then waiting up to three days to eat them, during which time the poison becomes inactive.

While the adult is a striking grey, white and black bird, the young have mottled brown plumage. But like the adult, the nestling in this photo, also has the distinctive wide, black eye line.

Sadly, numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes have dropped sharply in the last 50 years. We rarely receive one at St. Francis Wildlife. This photo of an orphaned nestling at our wildlife hospital this spring was taken by Shelby Boykin.

## Donation Form: Please renew your annual support.

Mail your check to: St. Francis Wildlife Assoc., P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315. Or donate online with PayPal at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*?  Mail a printed copy to my home.  I prefer to read it on-line.

To make this donation in honor of someone (for a special occasion, memorial, etc.) please include a note with the honored person's name and the name and address of the person to receive acknowledgement of the gift. Your gift will also be noted in our next "Wildlife Matters" newsletter.

Please check the appropriate box and return this form with your tax-deductible donation.

**Donor Levels:**  Angel \$35  Hero \$50  Friend \$100  Sponsor \$250  Guardian \$500  Steward \$1,000  Patron \$2,000  Saint \$5,000  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact me about:**  Volunteering  Your "Wild Classroom" outreach wildlife education programs.



## Wildlife Wish List

Wish List also online at: [www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org/Donate.html). Please take items to **St. Francis Wildlife, Northwood Animal Hospital, or Allied Emergency Veterinary Clinic**. Call us about large items.

### Gift Certificates

- Native Nurseries
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Panhandle Pet Supply
- COSTCO, Stone's, Home Depot, Walmart
- squirrelsandmore.com
- foxvalleynutrition.com
- armstrongcrickets.com
- rodentsontheroad.com
- amazon.com

### Food/Feeding

- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans, acorns
- Black oil sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Keet seed
- Baby food: only fruit, vegetables, and chicken (no noodles, beef, gravy, etc)
- Eggs
- EXACT powder (baby bird formula)
- Plain and fruit yogurt
- Live or dried worms and crickets
- Waterfowl maintenance pellets
- Waterfowl starter mash
- Jar lids, plastic

- Plant pot saucers, plastic
- Heavy stoneware food bowls

### Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry detergent — high efficiency, unscented
- Bleach, unscented
- Heavy-duty 39 & 55 gallon trash bags
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Odoban
- Scotch-brite heavy duty scrub sponges
- Hand sanitizer
- Rakes
- Heavy duty hoses

### Animal Housing

- Baby blankets
- T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillow cases, top sheets, towels, baby blankets.
- Soft toilet paper or soft tissue

### Office

- Sticky notes
- White, letter-size printer paper

### Big Wishes

- Roofer to repair our hospital roof, damaged by the hurricane.

## Wildlife Matters

### Editor and Layout

Sandy Beck

### Writers and Photographers and Artists

Sandy Beck, Teresa Stevenson, Kayla Gainer-Edwards, Bob Beck, Shelby Boykin, Pat Simmons, Bobby Edwards, Nancy Elwood, Dave Coverly

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Target Print & Mail, Tallahassee, FL

This newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association is mailed to our supporters and is also available at local businesses and online at [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org). To send letters to the editor, email: [stfranciswildlife@comcast.net](mailto:stfranciswildlife@comcast.net)



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With gratitude to St. Francis Wildlife for 40 years of caring for animals in need and making our world a better place.

### Help wildlife when you shop at Amazon

Begin your shopping at our **Amazon Smile** page, [smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1888022](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1888022).

## Sincere thanks to these veterinary hospitals and caring doctors who donate their services for our wild patients.

**MITCH POTTER, DVM, MS, DACVECC**  
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Dr. Steve Stevenson, Bradfordville, Animal Hospital, with a Mississippi Kite.



Dr. George Simmons, North Florida Animal Hospital, with a Bald Eagle.



Dr. Cindy West, Alternative Veterinary Medicine, with a Red-shouldered Hawk.



Dr. Kathleen Cavell, Northwood Animal Hospital, with a Bobcat.



**BRADFORDVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
Alex "Steve" Stevenson, Jr., DVM  
(850) 893-3047

**BAH**

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**St. Francis Wildlife Association**  
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### If you find injured, orphaned, or sick wildlife



- Call us at (850) 627 4151 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- After 5 p.m., call our After-hours Rescue Hotline, (850) 933-2735.
- Take it to our wildlife hospital, 5580 Salem Rd. Quincy, FL (4 miles NW of Havana), 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Directions at: [www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org).
- 24/7, take it to Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tallahassee or Allied Emergency Veterinary Hospital, 2324 Centerville Rd., Tallahassee. Or, during their regular business hours, take it to North Florida Animal Hospital at 2701 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee.

### Important Information

- Use a box with air holes punched in the lid. Place a t-shirt or blanket in the box (not a towel). Put the animal in the box and tape securely. Keep babies warm with a heated plastic water bottle wrapped in a t-shirt. Keep it quiet, and handle as little as possible.
- Never give it food or water.
- Never handle rabies vectors such as raccoons, foxes, or bats (even babies). Call us. Birds and reptiles do not carry rabies. Squirrels, opossums and rabbits are rarely rabies vectors, but it is still wise to use gloves.
- When calling to report an animal hit by a car, note exactly where it is, and, if possible, please remain with the animal until we arrive.

For more information about wildlife rescue:  
[www.stfranciswildlife.org](http://www.stfranciswildlife.org)