

Caring for wildlife for 30 years!



Wildlife Matters

Quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association
Route 159 / P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315 - (850) 386-6296
www.stfranciswildlife.org

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 1977.

v.6, No. 1 **Spring 2008**

Hawk shot in Killearn neighborhood

By Sandy Beck

A red-shouldered hawk soaring over Velda Dairy Road is the latest victim of an illegal gunshot in Florida.

February 28th, Nancy Wilkinson saw a hawk sitting on a branch just above the ground at her home on Pasture Wood Lane. The next day, the hawk was a few feet away, hopping on the ground. That's when she called St. Francis Wildlife.

Jon Johnson drove out to rescue the red-shouldered hawk then examined the bird. Her problem was obvious. There was a small hole on the underside of the left wing and a larger hole on top of the wing. Someone had shot her, probably as she soared above searching for food.

Because of the size of the bullet hole, he believes that it was probably a small gun, like a 22.

Northwood Animal Hospital x-rayed the wing, then Jon wrapped and correctly aligned the bones.

Drs. Welch and Hagood at North Florida Animal Hospital read the radiographs and determined the bird's prognosis was good. She needed a few weeks of healing, rest and TLC.

The hawk was moved to the St. Francis Wildlife hospital.

As required by law, Jon reported the illegal gunshot to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

It is illegal to hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase or transport any migratory bird, part, nest or egg.

All birds of prey, songbirds – virtually all native, wild birds – are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. "Taking" a migratory bird is considered a second-degree misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine and 60 days in jail for each count. Additional restitution can be required for veterinary services.

An officer from the FWC drove out to the Killearn neighborhood, but was

unable to get any leads on the shooter.

Bald eagles also gunned down in Florida this year

In Florida, four bald eagles have been shot over the past few months. One female who was killed on the nest generated a lot of outrage, especially in the Sarasota area where the nest is located.

"Because this is a nest monitored by Audubon EagleWatch volunteers, the eagle was discovered quickly," reported Lynda White, coordinator of the program.

The bird was shot as she sat incubating two eggs. Because the eggs also did not survive, this shooter will be charged with the deaths of three eagles. More than \$30,000 has been raised toward a reward.

Bald eagles are no longer considered endangered; however, they are still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

The penalty for violating this Act is a fine of up to \$5,000 or one year in prison, or both.

Who would shoot a bird of prey?

Most people look at a soaring hawk or eagle with awe and admiration.

Hunters and farmers earlier in the last century held different sentiments. Many viewed birds of prey as vermin – competitors for game animals and predators of livestock. Bounty hunters, trophy and feather collectors and chemical pesticides decimated many populations of raptors.

With government protection of the birds and their habitats, elimination of harmful chemicals like DDT, reintroduction of individual birds from captive breeding programs and an effective public education campaign, raptors are once again soaring.

Most hunters today are also conservationists. In fact, it is often a hunter who will find and bring us injured wildlife.

But every year St. Francis Wildlife



This red-shouldered hawk, victim of an illegal gunshot, is resting comfortably at the St. Francis Wildlife hospital. After her wing heals, she will be transferred to an outside flight cage to exercise and recondition her muscles, then she will be evaluated for release.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck

still rescues wild birds and animals who are victims of illegal gunshots, and there are doubtlessly many more who are never found.

It is the few old-school holdovers who see raptors as competitors, the few careless or ignorant gun owners and the thoughtless youngsters with BB guns who still shoot at raptors and other non-game wildlife . . . because "it moves."

There is a reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who shot this hawk.

If you have any information about who may have shot the red-shouldered hawk, please call

FWC's toll-free **Wildlife Alert Hotline at 1-888-404-FWCC** (24-hours a day, seven days a week). You may remain anonymous. If your information results in an arrest, you will be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

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- **Mike Mapstone, Sharis Houston, Liza Lazarus and Nora Bobek** for donating cages.
- **Havana Country Club Estates residents** for donating towels, blankets, sheets, food and newspapers.
- **Richard Rhodes** for donating web cams for the hospital.
- **Main Street Buffet** for donating food.
- **Bill Armstrong Tree Service** for helping us rescue wildlife in trees!
- **Stones Home Center** in Havana for donating building supplies.
- **Leah Ennis** for her graphic design help with this newsletter.

6th Annual Wildlife Baby Shower gifts are already helping to feed hundreds of orphaned babies.

Thank you:

- The Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority, the Downtown Market Place and Allen Thompson for hosting the Baby Shower and donating our tent.
- Panhandle Pet Supply for printing and selling gift certificates for us.
- All the kind people who purchased \$385 in gift certificates, wrote checks for \$1,005, and donated items from our Wish List (Page 5).
- Volunteers Barb Barnett, Sandy Beck, Carolyn Coney and Sue DeLuca.

What is St. Francis Wildlife e-News?



We send a brief monthly email with updates on wildlife events, volunteer opportunities and wildlife news. We

don't sell or exchange names with other organizations.

To be added to our list, please e-mail sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org and write "Add to e-News" in the subject line.

Our community cares about wildlife

Scouts attend Wildlife Baby Shower and pool their money to feed orphaned wild babies.

On behalf of Den 8, Pack 114, Gilchrist Elementary, we want to thank you so much for sharing your knowledge about wildlife on a very chilly Tallahassee morning.

We enjoyed meeting the screech owl, barred owl, great-horned owl and red-tailed hawk.

I promise that an apple core or piece of chewed gum will never leave my car again.*

I am enclosing a picture - front row, left to right Austin, Henry, Emerson and Thomas. Back row, Max, the hawk and Sandy Beck. Jonathan and Timothy Rubottom,



PHOTO/David Byrne, Leader of Pack 14

Matt Brooks and Andrew Zhogby also helped but are not in this photo.

Thanks again,
Audrey Byrne

*The scouts and their families learned that food and food wrappers thrown from car windows attract animals to the road, which in turn attract hawks and owls that can be hit by cars.

All our wishes and prayers are with Betty Bender for a speedy recovery.



March 14th Wildlife Music Fest

Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the great music and raise \$2,500 for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife!

Big thank yous to AJ and the American Legion Hall; Jeff James, organizer and producer; musicians - River Breeze, Acme Rhythm & Blues and Part Time Genius; volunteers Erin Canter, Sue and Joe DeLuca and JoAnn Fletcher; and the bartenders who donated 20% of their sales!

Every penny counts

Dear St. Francis Wildlife,
Enclosed is a check for the animals. I collect pennies for St. Francis Wildlife in a jar at my office, so this check is from many, many people. I also tape one of your "wish lists" on the jar in case someone can donate any of the items. And, anything I find in my husband and son's pants when I do the laundry, also goes into the jar!

Thank you for all you do, and I will continue to try to help any way I can. My greatest dream is to win the lottery so I can take care of all the orphaned, sick and injured animals in this area. Until then, I will keep asking for pennies.

Nora Bobek

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.

Anatole France

St. Francis Wildlife is grateful for these thoughtful gifts

IN MEMORY OF

Jim O'Toole

From

Dianne & Ed Mellon

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Angela Brewer-Moran

Joan Erikson

From

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From

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Nancy Lane

From

Christine Poreba
Anonymous

IN HONOR OF

Bob and Sandy Beck

From

Leah Ennis

Wildlife Rehabilitation: the bigger picture

An interview with Deb Anderson, DVM

By Sandy Beck

Dr. Deb Anderson is President of the Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (FWRA). She also is a veterinarian at the Brevard Zoo in Melbourne, Florida. This is an excerpt from an interview that appeared in "Answering the call of the wild – Wildlife gets a second chance," in the Sept./Oct. 2007 issue of *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

Have you seen any major changes in the wildlife rehabilitation profession since you began?

The rehab profession has become, well, professional. It used to be "that weird neighbor down the street" where you could drop off found animals – injured, orphaned or kidnapped. Now it has become a medical profession unto itself with specializations, unique equipment and intensive educational opportunities. With the population growth, humans becoming too distanced from the natural world and intensive sprawl killing wildlands, it's not a moment too soon.

What makes for a great day? A horrible day?

A great day occurs when a major government legislation decides saving wildlife is in the best interest of everyone. A horrible day is when I drive by a wild area I've seen on a daily basis and find it completely razed to the ground. I wonder what the wildlife living there experienced and what the migratory birds will do when they arrive after an exhaustive flight only to find that their food source has disappeared.

Do you see a long-term benefit of wildlife rehabilitation? If so, what will it be?

I think we're at the point where species are becoming so critically endangered that saving one animal is actually having a greater impact on the population.

Plus, . . . educating the general population by wildlife rehabilitators and wildlife educators [who use non-releasable wildlife] is invaluable.

As humans extend beyond the carrying capacity of our environment, many organizations are going to find that they have to team up if they want to accomplish serious goals. Wildlife rehabilitation is one such discipline, and we're seeing it happen now.

Just over the past several years more veterinarian schools are offering rehab medicine, our organization, FWRA, has more specialists speaking at conferences and rehabbers are supplying biologists with vital information.

Some examples include sending samples from sick individuals during possible disease outbreaks, banding rehabilitated birds to follow their life after release and working with disaster relief organizations like SART (State Animal Response Teams) on oil spills. I think wildlife rehabilitation is becoming more vital as time progresses.



St. Francis Wildlife staff members at work

(Left) Sean Belanger with an injured gopher tortoise

(Right) Laura Wiggins feeds an orphaned fawn in St. Francis Wildlife's spacious white-tailed deer habitat.

PHOTOS/
Sandy Beck



Our staff and volunteers make a difference

Spotlight on Elizabeth Brown

By Janice Pattillo

I first met Elizabeth when she was hired to help feed orphaned baby birds last spring.

St. Francis often hires college students on a part time basis who are interested in learning about wildlife.

Every spring and summer, we rescue hundreds of baby birds. A room full of them chirping simultaneously for food is a unique sound, which vacillates between cacophony and chorus, depending on who is calling and how hungry they are.

Elizabeth's job was to simulate a mother songbird, which means feeding and then cleaning up from each baby bird every 20 minutes. By the time she fed the last one, it was time to start all over again.

Elizabeth did this job quickly, efficiently and always with a smile. She loved all the birds, but her favorite were the yellow-shafted flickers.

"They are so beautiful and have gorgeous color patterns," she said.

As soon as soon as baby bird season was over and the last orphan was released, baby squirrel season was in full swing. Last season, it literally rained baby squirrels at St. Francis Wildlife with almost 800 orphaned or injured grey, flying and fox squirrels.

Depending on their age, baby squirrels need to be fed every two to four hours. The switch from birds to squirrels was easy for Elizabeth; she loved them too. Elizabeth also took home babies to feed at night – fifteen at a time!

How does she manage work, school



Staff member Elizabeth Brown feeds a baby squirrel.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck

AND feeding baby squirrels every four hours?

"I had to learn how to manage my time. It was hard, but you do what you have to do."

She has been "broadening her horizons" lately by learning how to feed the deer.

Elizabeth is a student at FSU, double majoring in anthropology and biology. She hopes to graduate next year and then go to medical school, possibly Dartmouth. Her plan is to become an ethnobotanist, studying the complex relationships between the uses of plants and cultures.

Elizabeth enjoys working with volunteers and staff at St. Francis.

"Working here is a big responsibility and a lot of work," she said. "Having a volunteer come and help for an hour or so makes a huge difference."

Working with Elizabeth is a joy and just one of the reasons I love to volunteer.

Volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife

If you are dependable, have your own health insurance and transportation and want to make a difference, please email volunteer coordinator Janice Pattillo at janicepattillo@stfranciswildlife.org or call 850.627.4151 to schedule a training session.

For more details, log on to www.stfranciswildlife.org.

The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: What good is it? - Aldo Leopold

Living with birds of prey

By Sandy Beck

Birds of prey or raptors – such as hawks, owls and eagles – are common in our area. They are remarkably beautiful and exciting to watch. They also help us by controlling rodents and snakes.

Raptors can occasionally cause problems when they pursue small pets, nest in an inconvenient location or defend their nests when people get too close. But there are solutions.

Recently, we received two emails, one from Killearn resident Rosie LeRoy and another from Myra Hart in the Piney-Z Plantation. Their dogs had been attacked by raptors, one nearly fatally.

Hawk vs. Chihuahuas in Killearn

Rosie wrote, "Last week, we let our Chihuahuas outside on our fenced property to do their business, like we have done for 17 years. Two returned right away. Fifteen year-old Roger and 18 month-old Max remained outside. I was in the kitchen when I heard Max barking. I went out to investigate.

"The picture of the large hawk sitting on Roger's unconscious body will be forever in my memory. The bird took off when I got there.

"Roger was bleeding from a wound on his stomach and had numerous punctures from the bird's talons.

"We rushed him to Timberlane Animal Hospital. Dr. Julia Stege and her staff were wonderful. He is home now and will recover.

"This attack was so fast and unexpected.

"Many of my neighbors have doggie doors that allow their little ones to go in and out as they like. From now on, my dogs will not go outdoors without me, and I've advised my neighbors to do the same."

Rosie sent pictures of Rodger that she took five days after his run-in with the hawk.

Owl vs. Yorkies in Piney-Z

Myra Hart wrote, "I live at the Piney-Z Plantation in Tallahassee, and I have two very



In his backyard, Roger, a Chihuahua, was attacked by a red-tailed hawk. This photo was taken five days later. Talon marks are still visible.

PHOTO/Rosie LeRoy

small Yorkies. For the past few months, when I've been outside with my Yorkies, I've been terrified of some owls that are not afraid of me or the spotlights on my house.

"Several times a week they swoop down, talons first, at my Yorkies, even before dark. I have resorted to keeping my dogs on a leash in my own backyard.

"I am a nature lover, but if it's between my beloved Yorkies and the owls, the owls have to go.

Can birds carry rabies? Can you trap the owls?

"Any advice or help St. Francis can offer would be greatly appreciated."

Both Rosie and Myra asked that we share their stories and our advice. They want other people who love their cats and small dogs to know that it is not safe to let them go outside by themselves.

In winter, more raptors means more competition for food.

During the winter, in addition to our resident raptors, Florida hosts hawks and falcons and sometimes owls that leave their northern homes to spend the winter where prey is not buried beneath snow drifts.

Cold, windy days require more food to keep their body furnaces stoked. Great horned owls and bald eagles, which nest during the winter, need more food to feed their new families.

Increased competition for prey makes it more likely that raptors will venture closer to people and pets.

In the springtime, barred owls and hawks are in the family way, along with other predators – foxes, coyotes, bobcats and raccoons.

They all need more food – sometimes hunting day and night. Cats and small dogs are easy prey.

Can birds carry rabies?

Only mammals can carry rabies. The owls at Piney-Z are not rabid; they probably have become used to the presence of people.

Can St. Francis Wildlife trap and relocate raptors?

It is a violation of both federal and state law to capture, injure or kill birds of prey (please see article on Page One).

Even if it were legal, if these birds were removed, others would quickly move into their territory (also true for raccoons, opossums and other animals). Good habitat is quite hard to come by these days.

The red-tailed hawk that attacked Rosie's Chihuahua likely shares territory with a great horned owl; one has the day shift and the other the night shift. They are both large, formidable hunters.

Great horned owls can weigh from two to five pounds and can kill and fly off with an animal that weighs twice as much as they do. House cats and small dogs are definitely on the menu.

These raptors are not "bad,"

they're just trying to make a living. Without them, our homes and gardens would be overrun by rodents and snakes.

We are fortunate to live in a place where we can still awaken to a symphony of birdsong and fall asleep with owl song. Where we can lie in a hammock and watch hawks and eagles making lazy circles in the sky.

Here are some suggestions to help you and your beloved pets live safely with birds of prey.

Great horned owls can weigh from two to five pounds and can kill and fly off with an animal that weighs twice as much as they do.



PHOTO/
Sandy
Beck

Solutions to problems

● Birds of prey attacking small pets and other domestic animals

- When outdoors, keep them in an enclosure with a roof, or stay outside with your pets.
- Walk dogs on a leash. If raptors are present, carry an open umbrella to shield small pets.
- Outdoor cats – which kill millions of songbirds and small, native mammals each year – will live longer, healthier lives as indoor pets.

● Diving at people or pets

Birds sometimes defend their nest or nestlings by swooping very close to a person or pet.

A dive-bombing raptor with inch-long talons is intimidating, but it's usually just a bluff to scare off intruders.

Accommodations that work

- Avoid the area until the young can fly away. In busy areas, put up temporary barricades or signs to warn residents.
- Carry an umbrella or wear a hat.
- Wear eyes on the back of your head. Really. Birds are discouraged from striking when they are being watched, so they will usually swoop from behind you. Print the large pair of eyes at www.wildclassroom.net/wildideas/swooping.eyes.pdf and tape it to the back of your hat.

What does not work (and is illegal)

- Do not harass or throw objects at birds. This can make them more aggressive.
- Do not move or destroy nests. The birds may re-nest and breed again.

● A bird on the ground

Young raptors (and songbirds) may spend several days on or near the ground while learning to fly. The young birds may seem abandoned, but the parents are usually watching.

- Keep pets and children away.
- Leave the bird alone; the parents will feed it on the ground until it is able to fly.
- If the bird is sick or injured (fluffed up, shaking or unable to walk), very young (with downy feathers) or in immediate danger from traffic or pets, do not give it anything to eat or drink. Call St. Francis Wildlife immediately.

Sixth Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival

Friday, April 11 – Sunday, April 13

Pebble Hill Plantation

10 miles north of FL/GA line on U.S. 319

Bring the entire family. Enjoy the historic plantation and gardens, endangered birds of the Pinewoods, unique tours and workshops. Something for every bird lover, beginner to advanced.

Friday Events

Old-growth Forest Tours • Bat Cave Visit

Saturday Events

Band Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrows and Bobwhite Quail Family Birding Class • Burn Demo • Search for Herps • Old-growth Forest Tours • Pinewoods Wildflowers • Birding by Ear • Birdhouse Workshop • Binocular Workshop • Digiscoping/Photography • Butterfly Gardening • Band Hummingbirds • Red-cockaded Woodpecker Cavity Excavation • Pebble Hill Main House Tours • Noon-time St. Francis Wildlife Live Animal Show

All Day: Children's Activities Center Filled with Hands-on Games and Activities Plant Sale • Conservation Organization Displays • Food Vendors

Evening Reception: Artwork by Audubon and Sutton

Sunday Events

Red Hills Bike/Bird Tour • River Kayak/Bird Tour • Old-growth Forest Tours • Band Red-cockaded Woodpeckers • Birdsong Nature Center Tour

Registration Forms, Schedule and More Information at

www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com

Contact: Mrs. Lisa Baggett at Tall Timbers, 850.893.4153, ext. 241

2008 Festival Partners



The Wild Classroom

Unique programs feature non-releasable wildlife from St. Francis Wildlife.

Contact us to schedule a Wild Classroom program for your Classroom, Assembly, Camp, Meeting or Special Event.



Sandy Beck, Education Director

sbeck@wildclassroom.net
850.528.0823

www.wildclassroom.net

Wildlife Wish List

- Gift certificate to Panhandle Pet Supply
- Carpenters to repair cages
- Heating pads, NOT auto shut-off
- Plastic kennels
- Large parrot cages
- Humane, live traps
- Esbilac puppy milk replacer
- KMR kitten milk replacer
- Paper towels
- Unsalted peanuts in the shell
- Sunflower seed
- Wild bird seed
- Cracked corn
- Laundry detergent
- Bleach, unscented
- Liquid anti-bacterial hand soap
- Medical Supplies, such as**
- sterile gauze pads
- gloves
- syringes
- Lactated Ringers
- Big Items**
- Vinyl Floor for Hospital
- Incubator
- Brooder
- Golf Cart
- ATV
- Utility Trailer



A remarkable recovery: Gray fox gets a second chance on life at St. Francis Wildlife

February 3rd, a fox was brought to us at Northwood Animal Hospital. He'd been hit by a car on Mahan Drive and was close to death with a severe concussion and an injured leg.

Dr. Cavell treated the fox for shock and administered fluids, then we transported him to the St. Francis Wildlife hospital. For four days, he received fluids and medication. He surprised everyone when he began to eat on his own. Caregivers knew he was going to recover when he began to show his feisty, wild spirit by growling at them.

When the weather warms up, he will be transferred into an outdoor enclosure where he will be able to exercise and get back in shape. We expect him to recover completely and be released.

PHOTO/ Jon Johnson

Foxes in Florida

Because the gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) frequently has quite a bit of red fur, it may be confused with the red fox. The gray fox has red fur on his back and ears, around the neck and on the sides of his belly, but otherwise he is mostly gray. The adult gray fox may weigh from seven to 13 pounds and measure up to 40 inches including a 12-inch tail. The female is slightly smaller than the male.

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) measures up to two feet long with another foot for a bushy tail which is tipped with white.

The gray fox is normally a nocturnal animal and has a distinctive yapping bark. The gray fox, sometimes referred to as the "tree fox," can scramble-up a tree quickly and is the only member of the dog family capable of climbing. The red fox cannot climb.

While found throughout Florida, the gray fox is more abundant in the northern sections, usually found in wooded areas.

The red fox is not native to Florida. In the mid-18th century, red foxes were imported from England by hunting clubs. They are now found in many areas of the state, usually in uplands mixed with fields and weedy pastures. Unlike the gray fox, it usually avoids heavily wooded areas.

The red fox's hearing differs from that of most mammals in that it is most sensitive to low-frequency sounds. She listens for the underground digging, gnawing and rustling of small mammals. And when she hears these sounds, frantically digs into the soil to capture the animal.



Red fox

PHOTO/Ronald Laubenstein, USF&W

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Community Conservation Partner in the Spotlight: Wild Birds Unlimited

1505-2 Governor's Square Blvd., Tallahassee 850-576-0002

By Sandy Beck

If the secret of a happy life is working at a job you enjoy, Mary Huggins and Susan Teisciero have it made.

"We love being able to share our favorite hobby – birding – with our customers every day. It also offers us opportunities to give back to the community. We truly appreciate what St. Francis has done for wildlife, and we like being able to support that.

After retiring from rich and interesting careers – Susan was an elementary teacher and an Air Force Officer; Mary was also an Air Force officer, working on the Presidential aircraft as well as teaching aircraft maintenance – the two opened Wild Birds Unlimited in 2005, culminating two years of planning and preparation.

"We both have loved birds and nature since our youth. We love backyard birding and birding in the field . . . there is always something new to learn.

"We also love that birding is a sustainable hobby, that the next person can enjoy the same bird over and over."

Photo: At Wild Birds Unlimited two-year anniversary celebration, left to right, St. Francis Wildlife volunteers Barb Barnett, Erin Canter and Sandy Beck; WBU owners Mary Huggins and Susan Teisciero and employee, nature photographer, birder extraordinaire and new daddy, Andy Wraithmell.

PHOTO/ Bob Beck

The secretive bobcat

- The bobcat's stubby, six inch tail, has a "bobbed" appearance and gives the species its name.
- At 15 - 35 pounds, it is twice the size of a domestic cat.
- Each bobcat may have several dens in its territory, one main (natal) den and several auxiliary (shelter) dens. The main den is usually a rock shelter, hollow log or fallen tree. Auxiliary dens can be brush piles or stumps.
- The bobcat's calls are similar to the domestic cat, although its scream is piercing. When threatened, the animal utters a short, sudden and resonant "cough-bark."
- Because of their elusive nature and caution around humans, they are rarely seen.



Bobcat raised at St. Francis Wildlife PHOTO/Jon Johnson

Would you like to see your ad in Wildlife Matters? Become a Community Conservation Partner.

For a tax-deductible donation, business partners receive ads in our newsletter *Wildlife Matters* and a link on our web site.

For details contact:

Barbara Barnett

barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org

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www.stfranciswildlife.org/ccp.html

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A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800.435.7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc. Registration #: CH4537.

Donation Form

(Spring 2008)

PLEASE PRINT

Mail To: St. Francis Wildlife Association
P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL, 32315

Name _____ Date _____

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Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

How would you prefer to receive our quarterly newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*? Please check one.

___ I prefer to have a printed copy of *Wildlife Matters* mailed to my home.

___ I prefer to read it on-line. (It is a large PDF file, 3 MB, which would require a high-speed connection.)

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

Donor Levels: Chickadee, \$25 Cardinal, \$35 Barred Owl, \$50 Great Blue Heron, \$75

Great Horned Owl, \$100 Peregrine Falcon, \$150 Bald Eagle, \$200 Wildlife Angel, \$300

Please contact me about: Volunteering. Community Conservation Business Partnership. Education Programs.

Adopt-an-Animal for Mom or Dad

Do your parents have an empty nest? For Mother's Day or Father's Day, let them take one of our wild things under their wings. Adopt a non-releasable bird of prey in your mom or dad's name.

Their adoption helps finance the care, feeding and medical treatment for a disabled member of *The Wild Classroom* outreach education program. It also helps St. Francis Wildlife provide humane care for the 3,500 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals we care for each year.

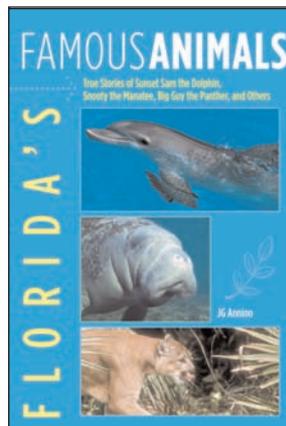
Your parent will receive an official adoption package that includes a color photo of your chosen bird, an adoption certificate, his or her personal history and general information about the species. They will also receive our newsletter, *Wildlife Matters*, for one year and be acknowledged in the next issue.



Adoption application and details on our web site at www.stfranciswildlife.org/adoption.html

St. Francis Wildlife thanks our newest adoptive parents

- Louise Barker
- Signature Art Gallery
- Dr. Palmer's Homeroom, Raa Middle School
- Velvet Diva
- Robert & Nancy Sofge
- Justin Lee
- Steve Peffer
- Jayson & Evan Taylor
- Fred Henriksen (in his memory)
- Jim and Jaimi Wacksman
- Sam and Michelle Brown
- Mike and Kristi Williams
- Dannica Boggs
- The Mark Walker Family
- Clarence and Mary Elebash
- The Mac McNeill Family
- The James Heidenreich Family
- Isabelle Blakey
- Rob and JoAnne Yates
- The Nat Toulon Family
- Chase and Carrie McNeill
- The Keither Walker Family
- Sue Henrikson
- The Michael Huling Family



Local author Jan Godown's new book introduces 14 animals that have made news around the state. Chapter One is about our **WILD CLASSROOM'S** own mystery owl Maya.

Jan will be us April 12th at the **Pinewoods Bird Festival** (Pg.5) and May 10th at **Wild Art in the Park** (Pg.8) to sign books. For ages 9 -12.

How to help wild babies

Knowing a few basic things about the wildlife can save your animal neighbors and help others who need advice. Here's your chance to be the local wildlife expert and help animals in need.

Animals in these situations need help:

A wild animal brought in by a cat or dog (it is probably injured, although it may not appear to be, and needs medical attention), bleeding, a broken limb, a featherless or nearly featherless bird (nestling) on the ground, shivering, a dead parent nearby.

Many animals who appear to be orphaned are not. Unless one or more of the signs mentioned above is present, do not attempt to rescue animals in any of these situations:

- **A fawn** (baby deer) who is curled up in the grass and appears approachable. His mother is most likely out of sight, but nearby and watching you.
- **A bird who is fully feathered** on his body with short tail feathers, hopping on the ground, but unable to fly. This is a fledgling (adolescent bird), and his parents are probably nearby. Exception: If he is in immediate danger from traffic or pets.
- **A rabbit** who is four inches long with open eyes and erect ears. She is independent from her mother and able to fend for herself.
- **An opossum** who is at least nine to ten inches long, not including the tail. He is independent.
- **A squirrel** who is nearly full-



sized, has a full and fluffy tail and is able to run and jump.

If it is truly orphaned, sick or injured

Baby Birds

Replace a fallen, featherless or downy, baby to its nest. If you can't locate the nest, cut drainage holes in a small plastic container, add grass or pine straw and use wire to attach to the shady side of the closest tree. Place it in the new nest and observe from a distance to make sure the parents return.

If parents do not return in an hour or if the baby is injured, place it in a small, covered box with air holes punched in the lid. Keep it warm and quiet and **do NOT give it food or water**. Birds breathe through a hole in their tongues. Take it to St. Francis Wildlife.

Orphaned Mammals

- **Raccoons, foxes, bats, otters, bobcats** or any mammals (even babies) that may carry rabies: **NEVER HANDLE THEM**. If one scratches or nips you, it will need to be killed to be tested for rabies. **CALL ST. FRANCIS WILDLIFE**.
- **Squirrels, rabbits and opossums** in Florida do not carry rabies. **WARM** chilled young. **DO NOT FEED OR GIVE LIQUIDS**. Take it to St. Francis Wildlife as soon as possible.
- If an **opossum** has been hit by a car, check its pouch (only females have pouches). If babies are alive, remove them, keep them warm and take them to St. Francis Wildlife.

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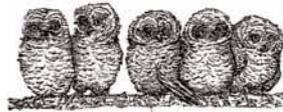


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Wild Art in the Park

Saturday, May 10

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Downtown Marketplace,
Ponce de Leon Park. Park Ave. & N. Monroe

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If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

• Call us at 850.386.6296,
or take it (day or night) to the
Northwood Animal Hospital,
1881 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.,
Tallahassee (just north of the Post Office)

• **Transport wildlife** in a warm, dark
box with holes punched in the lid. Keep it
quiet, and handle it as little as possible.

• **Do NOT** give it food or water.

• **NEVER handle raccoons**, foxes,
bats or any mammals (even babies) that
could carry rabies. Call us.

Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits
are not known to carry rabies.

• **When calling to report an
animal injured on a road**, note
exactly where it is ("1.4 miles west of exit
27 on the north side of I-10") and, if possi-
ble, leave a marker, like a towel tied to a
tree limb.

**For more information
on wildlife rescue:**

www.stfranciswildlife.org