

Caring for wildlife
for 31 years!

St. Francis
Wildlife
ASSOCIATION

Wildlife Matters

Quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association
Route 159 / P.O. Box 38160, Tallahassee, FL 32315 - (850) 627-4151
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 1978.

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Spring 2009

Spring is wild at St. Francis Wildlife.

By Teresa Stevenson



Above: Curious baby barred owls. Below, left and middle: A baby opossum hides in the pouch of an opossum "stuffed animal"; an orphaned bunny with an injured front leg. PHOTOS/Teresa Stevenson
Below, right: A barn owl puppet feeds two baby barn owls to ensure that they do not imprint on humans. The barn owlets were hatched from eggs in our incubator. PHOTO/Sandy Beck

It's spring, and that means wild babies are being born. Unfortunately, because of human activities, many get into trouble and need a helping hand to survive.

For me, a typical spring day at our wildlife hospital starts in the Songbird Room. Lots of hungry, noisy beaks are wide open and waiting to be fed. And they all want their food NOW. There are about 60 of them today, and this is just the beginning; we know we'll be admitting many, many more.

The tiny nestlings in the incubator – Carolina wrens, Carolina chickadees, bluebirds and house finches – need to be fed every 15 minutes. Needless to say, as soon as we're finished hand feeding all the baby birds, it's time to start all over again.

Although it seems like a never-ending task, it's a joyous one. Their mouths are so big compared to their

body size, so noisy and colorful. All of this makes them so incredibly cute that anyone's instinct is to feed them.

The Mammal Room is filled with many baby opossums, bunnies and squirrels. The opossums like to hide under the T-shirts people donate; it makes them feel like they are inside their momma's pouch.

Tiny opossums crawl inside our plush toy opossum to feel comfy.

The bunnies have little boxes to hide in; they love their privacy.

The squirrels jump in and out of their hammocks.

They all nurse on different formula recipes.

The baby raccoons are in another room, and they are as noisy as the baby birds, but at least they go to sleep for three or four hours after we feed them.

Baby barred owls and barn owls

patiently wait for their turn. Most of them are already eating on their own at night now, but we need to constantly clean their cages and make sure they are eating enough and gaining weight.

Besides caring for the babies, we check the injured adult animals, change bandages, clean wounds and give medications to patients who do not always feel like being cooperative.

It's never a dull day at St. Francis Wildlife. The hours are long and the work is messy, but I would not trade this job for any other in the world.

Our staff, volunteers and, of course, all the animals appreciate the many caring people in our community who make our work possible.

We need your help.

This spring and summer, we will rescue and raise 2,000 orphans, in addition to caring for injured adults. Please use the form on Page 6 to send your donation, or drop off items on our Wish List on Page 8.

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Tallahassee, FL 32315
850.627.4151
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Wildlife Matters

The quarterly newsletter of the St. Francis Wildlife Association is mailed to our supporters. It is also available at local businesses and online at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

To place a business ad, please see Page 6.

Please send questions, comments and letters to the editor to sandybeck@stfranciswildlife.org.

Editor and Layout
Sandy Beck

Writers, Photographers and Artists

Sandy Beck, Brian Bryson, Cindy Baisden, Leah Ennis, Lorelei Ennis, David Kampf, "Lady of the Lake," Donna Legare, Michelle Osborne, Teresa Stevenson, Heather Terhune, James Valentine

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Sincere thanks from all your wild friends



Veterinary Hospitals

- Animal Eye Clinic
- Bevis Veterinary Hospital
- Bradfordville Animal Hospital
- Lakewood Animal Hospital
- North Florida Animal Hospital
- Northhampton Animal Health
- Northwood Animal Hospital
- Quincy Animal Hospital
- Seminole Animal Health Clinic
- Shannon Lakes Paws & Claws
- **Modern Mailers** for their invaluable mailing services.
- **ElectroNet** for hosting our web site and email.
- **Durra Quick Print** for printing.
- **Bill Armstrong Tree Service** for helping us rescue wildlife in trees.

We greatly appreciate the following donations:

- John L. Barthelmess - two dog houses
- Joanna Kenyon - microwave oven
- Alpha Data Systems, Alpha Business Forms - Panhandle Pet Supply gift certificate
- Karen Olson - case of saline
- Jeanine & John Meis - washer & dryer
- Linda & Reid Vannoy for building a cage
- Mimi Douthit - animal supplies
- Laura Davis - comforter & blankets
- Taxalog for medical supplies
- Girl Scout Troop 79, Daisies and Brownies - many wish list items
- Hannah and Emma Bryson for selling pine cones for SFW.

Native Nurseries April 23rd Benefit & Drawing for St. Francis Wildlife was a wonderful evening for nature lovers and raised \$4430 for orphaned, injured and sick wildlife.

Thank you to:

- Donna Legare and Jody Walthall and the whole Native Nurseries staff who do so much to enrich our community.
- Brian Bryson for creating the beautiful water lily garden donated by Native Nurseries for our drawing.
- Keith Baxter and Kool Beanz Cafe who donated two gift cards for dinners for two for our drawing.
- The Nature Conservancy for donating beautiful tote bags for the drawing.
- The Wine Warehouse for two cases of fine wine.
- Sweetgrass Dairy in Thomasville for their delicious cheeses.
- The New Leaf Market for a gift certificate that filled a table with organic delights.
- Native Nurseries staff for baking all those heavenly desserts.
- Scott Campbell and Randy Barnhill for filling the air with their beautiful guitar and double bass music.
- Laura Peruzzi and Bio Plastic Supply, Inc. for biodegradable plastic plates, cups and forks.
- St. Francis Wildlife volunteers Sandy Beck, Barbara Barnett, Jan Collier, Carolyn Cooney, JoAnn Fletcher and Jim Valentine.
- The *Tallahassee Democrat* and WCTV for promoting the event.
- And all our friends who patiently waited on a line that reached out to Centerville Road for admission and drawing tickets.



Orphaned duckling snuggles with a feather duster "mother" in our wildlife hospital.

PHOTO/Michelle Osborne

Thank you from the bottom of our wild hearts for these very generous donations

Gulf Winds Track Club for donating the proceeds from their annual Prefontaine 5K Forest Run.

Tallahassee Nurseries for donating a lovely garden statue for a drawing

Teresa Colvin
Michael & Sharon Hartman
Jeff Dodson
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Linda Sturgeon
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Kathryn Newman
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John & Peggy McRae

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Loepp

From

Carole Brittain

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Mary Beth Dahlen

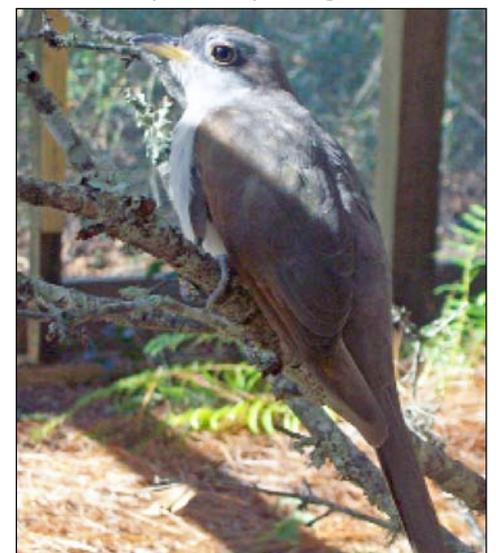
Randall & Laurie Cook

IN HONOR OF

Rick Kiser

From

Linda Bailey & Joseph Brigham



A yellow-billed cuckoo enjoys some R&R at St. Francis Wildlife's spacious songbird aviary built by veterinarian Dr. George Simmons' son Sam Simmons and his friends for Sam's Eagle Scout project.

PHOTO/Teresa Stevenson

Tallahassee is rich with wildlife and wildlife lovers!

Meet St. Francis Wildlife's new board members

Mark Ice

Mark owns Audio/Video Connections in Havana.

"My wife and I have a small farm. We rescue a lot of domestic animals and support different national organizations that help wildlife.

"I've always felt that St. Francis Wildlife is a very good cause and organization and one that our community needs."

Mark intends to work within the community to generate interest and financial support for St. Francis Wildlife. He also plans to volunteer at the wildlife rehabilitation center.

Brad Parker

Brad is a licensed real estate broker with the Tallahassee Land Company and has a bachelor of science in finance.

He is active with the Exchange Club of Tallahassee, Ducks Unlimited, Coastal Conservation Association, Georgia & Florida Field Trial Club and Tall Timbers Research Station.

"I am looking forward to a great working relationship with you guys. I am currently in the process of raising funds for the construction of 15 new animal cages."

Jamie Powers

Jamie was born in Virginia and raised in Tallahassee.

"I graduated from Flagler College with a degree in Business Administration.

"I've dealt with animals all my life in some capacity or another. I was an emergency vet tech for several years and worked at St. Francis Wildlife for a short time.

"I've taken care of everything, including squirrels, horses, sheep and birds. I've also hand-raised litters of kittens and puppies.

"I wanted to join the board to further St. Francis' mission and help as many animals as possible.

"I like to be part of an organization that not only helps the animals but also educates people."

Heather Terhune, DVM

"As a native southerner, born and raised in the mountains of north Alabama, wildlife has always been a part of my life. In fact, my husband Theron just recently received his doctorate in wildlife science from the University of Georgia. His job at Tall Timbers Research Station brought us to Tallahassee about a year ago.

"I graduated from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. I have been with North Florida Animal Hospital since moving here last July.

"It was at NFAH where I first learned about St. Francis Wildlife (SFW). I've helped mend many bro-

ken wings and broken shells and even pinned a baby squirrel's leg.

"I plan to be the veterinary voice for the board and offer my skills to benefit the animals any way that I can. I also hope to inform others about the great work being done at SFW and how they can help support it.

"I feel it is very important to be good stewards of creation and all of God's creatures."



Right: Dr. Terhune monitors a baby fox after surgery. **PHOTO/Bill Callis**

Above: Teresa Stevenson holds the recovering baby fox who is getting plenty of TLC and recovering nicely at St. Francis Wildlife. **PHOTO/NFAH**

Leghold traps, illegal in Florida since 1974

In 1974, Florida became the first state in the country to ban the use of steel leghold traps. Since then, seven other states, as well as approximately 90 countries around the world, have banned or severely restricted use of the notoriously inhumane traps.

Still, every few years, St. Francis Wildlife rescues an unfortunate animal caught in one of these illegal, archaic and extremely cruel devices.

Report wildlife violations

If you suspect that someone is using a leghold trap or is involved in any wildlife law violation, call the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922). Cellular phone customers can dial *FWC or #FWC depending on their service carrier. Or report violations online at myfwc.com/law/alert/.

You may remain anonymous, and if your information leads to an arrest you may be eligible for a reward.



This beautiful red fox, hunting for squirrels, often visits bird feeders during the day. **PHOTO/Sandy Beck**



Notes From a Wildlife Veterinarian

By Heather Terhune, DVM

Sometimes hunters will use steel leg-hold traps. Others may use these traps to protect livestock, but, whatever the target, it is just as likely that an innocent bystander will be trapped.

Such was the case when a curious female kit, or baby fox, about five to six weeks of age, wandered upon a trap in the woods close to Greensboro.

She was probably out "pretend" foraging or learning to hunt as young kits will do at this age, when her back right leg was caught in a steel trap.

Her leg was badly broken and mangled when she was found. Her rescuer took her to St. Francis Wildlife where she received immediate care.

Wildlife rehabilitator Teresa Stevenson cleaned and bandaged her wound, administered antibiotics and pain medications, then transported

her to North Florida Animal Hospital.

We assessed her condition and decided that the leg was beyond repair.

After discussing the options with Teresa, we decided to remove the leg because there is a good chance she can be rehabilitated and released with only three legs.

The little fox is back at SFW now, recuperating from surgery. She is playfully squabbling with another kit and learning those important survival skills wild foxes need.

When she demonstrates that she can hunt and forage on her own, she will be released and may even have little fox kits of her own one day.

Dr. Heather Terhune is a veterinarian at North Florida Animal Hospital and a St. Francis Wildlife board member.

Foxes in our neighborhoods

By Sandy Beck

We live in Midtown Tallahassee in Betton Hills. There has been a fox running around the neighborhood this month. Would St. Francis Wildlife relocate it? I have seen several foxes run over on Thomasville Road, and was hoping to prevent that outcome for this fox. Thanks for your advice.
Amy

Every spring, we receive dozens of phone calls and emails like this one from people who are concerned about seeing normally nocturnal animals out during the day.

They worry that these animals may be sick or might tangle with their pets. People also worry about them getting hit by cars. Many ask us to trap them.

People are seeing more foxes and raccoons during the day because this is "baby season," and they are working day and night to feed their babies.

Baby foxes play and chase each other, just like puppies. Unfortunately, mama doesn't teach them to look both ways before crossing the street. It is so sad to see these beautiful animals dead on the road.

Tallahassee is rich with wildlife, even downtown. Trapping and relocating one of these animals is pointless, because

another individual will soon move in to fill the empty niche. These are also wily animals ("smart as a fox"), and it is nearly impossible to lure a healthy individual into a trap.

One way to help them is to encourage neighbors to not feed wild mammals. Feeding concentrates them in unhealthy numbers and exposes them to traffic and pets; it is also illegal.

At our web site, stfranciswildlife.org, scroll down to "Help Wildlife" and download a "Drive Slowly, Baby Foxes" sign. Print on large sheets of colored card stock, laminate and post around your neighborhood.

Since I've done this in our neighborhood, we haven't found any dead foxes, and we have a very large fox population.

Make sure pets' vaccinations up to date. Keep small pets inside, and feed all pets indoors.

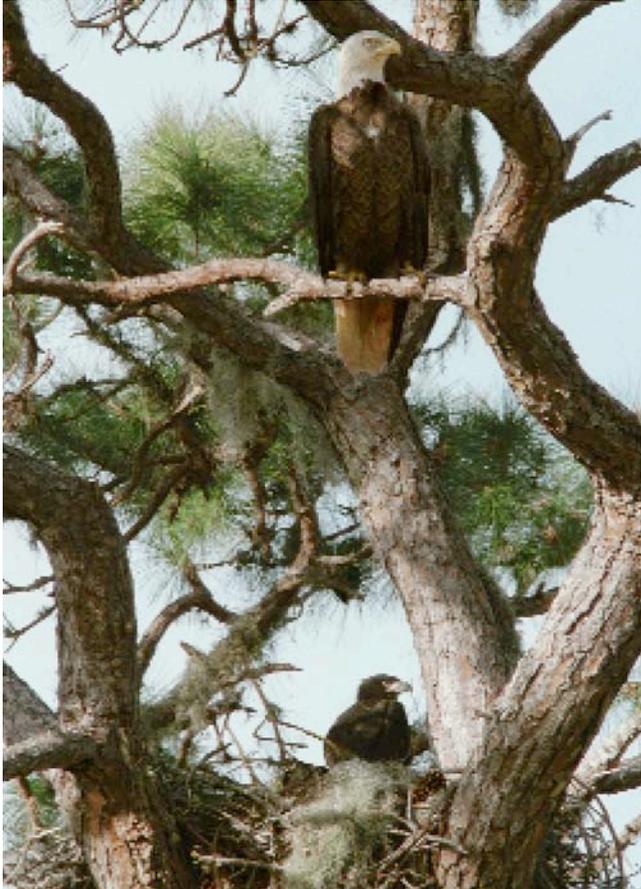
Never touch foxes or any wild mammals, even babies. If you find a sick or injured animal or an orphaned baby, call us. Florida's squirrels, opossums and rabbits are not known to carry rabies.

Feeding squirrels will also attract their predator, the fox. Install baffles on bird feeder poles and spray poles with cooking oil to thwart squirrels and raccoons.

Then just relax and enjoy the surprise of a beautiful fox, with his long bushy tail, trotting across your lawn.

Bald eagle guardian angels

By Sandy Beck



An attentive bald eagle parent guards her baby in the nest below.

PHOTO/James Valentine

One of the great joys of life for me is birding – watching and listening to birds. I'm not a great birder. I can't tell a greater yellowlegs from a lesser yellowlegs or pick out more than ten of those confusing fall warblers. But birding is so much more than naming.

We may get a surprise visit from a red fox or raccoon on a spring afternoon or catch a glimpse of an otter while canoeing, but birds are everywhere, every day. It's this accessibility that intrigues us and enables us to share their wildness.

As Roger Tory Peterson said, "Watch the birds, and you will be seduced."

I have been seduced by bluebirds "hawking" insects, like tiny patches of sky falling to earth.

I have been seduced by intense great-crowned flycatchers, gorgeous indigo buntings and striking rose-breasted grosbeaks who land in our yard after their long journeys.

Where eagles soar

But on the thrill scale, few things provide the jolt of a soaring, adult bald eagle. Every sighting is as stunning as the first. Maybe it's the striking black and white body slicing through an azure sky. Maybe it's those fiery golden eyes staring down an enormous, yellow beak. Or the confidence and "perfect posture" soaring on long, straight wings.

This year, I saw another side of the bald eagle – tenderness, patience and devotion. This year, along with a group of children, I became an EagleWatch volunteer.

EagleWatch is a citizen science program coordinated by Lynda White at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, Florida. Volunteers monitor the activity of bald eagle pairs at Florida nests throughout the nesting season, October 1 - May 15.

They record the eagles' behavior in and around their nests as well as anything in the area that may impact the birds.

After attending Lynda's presentation at last year's Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (FWRA) Symposium, I decided that monitoring an eagle nest would be a great *Wild Classroom* activity for local school children – and a blast for me.

On the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's "Eagle Locator" web page, I learned that there are 16 known eagle nests in Leon County.

My husband Bob loaded the coordinates of each nest on his GPS, and we spent a weekend in early December trying to locate some of them.

Many were on private land or difficult to see, but our perseverance finally paid off. We found one that was accessible and had an eagle-loving neighbor.

When I introduced myself, she thought I was selling magazines. But the gracious southern lady didn't immediately close her door, so I quickly told

"The truth of the matter is, the birds could very well live without us, but many – perhaps all – of us would find life incomplete, indeed almost intolerable without the birds."

Roger Tory Peterson

her about the EagleWatch program.

She led us to a wire fence and pointed to a tall pine, about 500 feet from her property line. There it was, the unmistakable, enormous bowl of branches, dripping with Spanish moss. We lifted our binoculars and saw an adult eagle sitting deep in the nest. Adrenaline rushed through my body. "Oh, my Goodness."



The juvenile eagle with one of her parents in the nest.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck



When students at the Imagine Charter School at Evening Rose became Audubon EagleWatch volunteers, Paige, a permanently disabled bald eagle, visited them.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck

"The eagles have been nesting here for at least seven years."

She gave me permission to return once a week with a group of children to monitor the nest. Eureka.

To preserve her privacy, I am not including the location of this particular nest or the property owner's name, but as we canoed around her lake last week, she playfully suggested I call her "Lady of the Lake."

Audubon EagleWatch program

Birding is a great way to introduce children to the wonders of nature. Ideally, when children learn to identify birds, they are transformed – some in small ways, some viscerally – by the birds' beauty and wild ways.

Mostly, I love sharing my passion with kids because they get as excited as I do.

When Resee Collins, former director of the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, began EagleWatch in 1992, 22 volunteers monitored 19 nests in three Central Florida counties. Today, Lynda White oversees 306 volunteers in this unique citizen science program that monitors 284 nests in 43 Florida counties.

Please see EAGLES, Page 5



Jackson Stump, a second-grader at the Imagine School at Evening Rose, observes the eagle nest with a spotting scope generously donated by our local Wild Birds Unlimited store.

PHOTO/Sandy Beck



When the eagle was old enough to be left alone in the nest, the parents sometimes sat together in their look-out snag.

PHOTO/"Lady of the Lake"

June 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the Federal Endangered Species List and from the FWC imperiled species list in April 2008. But if their numbers begin to slip, they can be relisted.

Both humans and bald eagles want water-front property. If bald eagles can claim this coveted real estate first, the latest Florida Bald Eagle Management Plan prohibits development within a 660-foot buffer around their nest tree.

EagleWatch volunteers report any activity within this buffer zone and beyond that could disturb the birds.

Data submitted by EagleWatch volunteers also enhance the FWC's annual Bald Eagle Nesting Survey, www.myfwc.com/eagle/eaglenests/Default.asp, and assist their conservation and law enforcement efforts.

Volunteer citizen scientists

Lynda White was kind enough to visit the Imagine School. She taught students about bald eagle natural history and nesting biology, nest threats and legal protections.

Nothing, but nothing, compares to a close-up confrontation with one of nature's raptors, so Lynda also brought Paige, a disabled bald eagle.

Our local Wild Birds Unlimited store generously donated a spotting scope and tripod.

Every Saturday, I set up the spotting scope in the Lady of the Lake's backyard and focused it on the nest.

Students from the Imagine School at Evening Rose and Astoria Park Elementary lined up to closely observe the eagle family.

They watched in awe as the tiny, downy eaglet (there are usually two eaglets, but this year there was only one) grew into a large, chocolate brown bird in just a few months. We took notes, made sketches in our journals and emailed observations to Lynda White at Audubon.

We saw the father fly in with a fish, a bird or a rodent, and then fly off to a nearby snag to stand guard as the mother ripped off small bits that she gently tucked into the baby's beak.

We watched nervously as the branches of the nest tree swayed in the strong winds of an approaching storm.

We saw the baby snuggle beneath the mother's breast feathers one chilly February afternoon.

We cheered as the eaglet (then a "brancher") flapped her wings, exercising her flight muscles, and landed on a nearby branch. Two weeks later we saw her glide on seven-foot long wings to her parents' lookout snag.

By the first week in May, the juvenile eagle had fledged, and all three were gone.

And the cycle continues

In May, Florida's eagle parents take a deep breath and either remain in the nesting territory or congregate at rich food sources. The juveniles go on spring break. Most head for the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal plain of North Carolina. Some travel as far as Canada.

In the fall, everyone returns to Florida. Established pairs reconnect. Young, chocolate-brown birds, who will not molt in their impressive white head and tail feathers until their fifth year, try to stake out their own piece of water-front property.

We'll be back in the fall too, when the Lady of the Lake tells us the parents have returned.

With passionate EagleWatch volunteers, Florida's bald eagle success story may well have a happy ending. So that in five hundred years a Tallahassee child can still be thrilled by the sight of a soaring, adult bald eagle, its long black wings slicing through an azure sky.

**"You know he'd be a poorer man
if he never saw an eagle fly."**

**John Denver, 1943 - 1997
singer-songwriter**

Cool facts about bald eagles

The bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* or "white-headed sea eagle," is found only in North America.

Bald Eagles can live 30 - 40 years in the wild and more than 50 years in captivity.

Bald eagles build the largest nest of any North American bird. One Florida nest measured nine feet across and weighed two tons.

Eagles mate for life and usually return to the same nest tree each year.

Both birds gather branches for the nest, but the female is the architect and interior decorator. She weaves the branches together then lines the nestcup, a depression in the middle of the nest where the eggs are laid, with Spanish moss or other soft material.

Eggs (usually two) are laid several days apart. Both parents develop brood patches and share incubation duties for 33 - 35 days, then feed their rapidly growing eaglets for the next three months until they're ready to fledge (fly off the nest) and polish their survival skills.

The bald eagle is the fastest-growing bird in North America. It weighs four ounces at birth and can gain six ounces each day. At three months of age, the juvenile can be larger than its parents and weigh 12 pounds.

**Learn more
about the Audubon EagleWatch
program: [audubonofflorida.org/
/who_centers_CBOP_eaglewatch.html](http://audubonofflorida.org/who_centers_CBOP_eaglewatch.html)**



The Carolina wren, a tiny, brown bird with a huge personality and voice to match, is one of the first birds to greet the dawn.

PHOTO/R. Hays Cummins

Dawn Chorus

By Donna Legare

Early one March morning our daughter woke us saying that a bird outside her window had woken her calling, "Feodore, feodore, wick, wick, wick feodore". Feodore, as she took to calling this bird, was a cardinal calling from the bushes outside her window announcing his breeding territory or trying to attract a mate. He and other cardinals begin an early morning chorus while it is still dark, with other species joining in towards the approaching light of dawn. In my yard the brown thrasher joins in shortly after the cardinal.

This early morning singing by birds is hardly unique to our area. It even has an official name - the "dawn chorus," which occurs when songbirds sing at the start of a new day leading up to breeding. Checking the internet, I found that there is an International Dawn Chorus Day, especially active in England, this year to be held on May 3. This is a little late for us, spring having arrived in mid-March.

It is amazing to imagine this chorus of song that, in North America, begins at the shores of the Atlantic Ocean and sweeps across the continent as a wave of bird songs as dawn progresses. One of the best ways to enjoy the dawn chorus is to go for a walk half an hour before dawn. If you go by yourself, you will be more observant of the sounds around you. I walk regularly at this time of day.

One morning in early April, I jotted down the times of the chorus:

6:45 a.m. - first Carolina wren and tufted titmouse;
6:55 a.m. - rufous-sided towhee, then Carolina chickadee;
7:00 a.m. - dawn chorus peaked to a crescendo;
8 a.m. - down to individual voices here and there.

Each day dawn gets earlier and earlier so you will need to adjust the time you walk to correspond with dawn.

On my walks I try to identify the voices of individual birds. I usually can distinguish Carolina chickadee, Carolina wren, tufted titmouse, perhaps a mockingbird, along with the cardinals and brown thrashers already mentioned as the leading singers. This morning I heard a rufous-sided towhee. Blue jays usually chime in late (I guess they like to sleep in). I am sure there are many other species singing - I just can't distinguish their calls in the chorus. The cardinal can confuse you; besides his "feodore" call, he has several other interesting calls.

The quality of the dawn song is related to the quality of habitat that we create in our yards and parks in a neighborhood. Birds, like all wildlife, must have trees and shrubs that provide food and cover, places to make nests and raise their young, thickets for protection from predators and sources of water. What you plant in your yard will ultimately affect the dawn chorus of Tallahassee. I encourage all of you to experience this early spring dawn chorus by going out for an early morning walk by yourself or with a friend and listen as you walk!

Donna Legare is co-owner of Native Nurseries and a St. Francis Wildlife Community Conservation Business Partner.



What is it like to volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife?

by Cindy Baisden

This spring, after attending a volunteer training session, I began volunteering once a week for four hours. I feed all kinds of baby birds, clean cages and wash dishes and laundry.

It is a wonderful group of people to work with and learn from. There is much to learn about the wildlife in our area, and the staff is so willing to let you watch them and ask as many questions as you want.

I am primarily learning how to feed and care for all kinds of birds, but have also been able to learn about squirrels, opossums, owls, foxes and rabbits.

The time I am at the wildlife hospital passes so quickly, and I find myself smiling at and talking to my baby birds the entire time. It is a great opportunity to learn and give back to our wildlife community at the same time.



Left: Kelly Pollock feeds a baby grey squirrel. PHOTO/Sandy Beck
Above: Cottontail bunnies nibble on fresh veggies. "Hide boxes" enable them to relax and feel secure. PHOTO/Teresa Stevenson

**The animals need you! We need you!
Volunteer at St. Francis Wildlife.**

- "Baby Season" begins in March and continues to November. We need patient volunteers to **feed hundreds of orphaned baby birds, bunnies, opossums and squirrels** in our hospital. Baby birds are fed every 20 minutes.
- **Foster orphaned baby squirrels** in your own home or care for them in our hospital. We receive at least 700 orphans each year when they are blown from their leafy nests during storms or caught by cats.
- Help **build and repair outside cages** at our facility.
- **Animal Rescue** – Transport wildlife to veterinarians or to our Rehabilitation Center.
- **Events and Fundraising** – Sell T-shirts, raise funds, teach people how to help wildlife.
- **Deliver newsletters** around town.
- Tell us about your special skills and talents!

If you are at least 18, reliable, have your own health insurance and transportation, and want to make a difference, please call us at 850.627.4151 to sign up for the next volunteer training session. **Learn more at www.stfranciswildlife.org.**

Panhandle Pet Supply

The Experts Who Love Animals



PHOTO/David Kampf

Three Convenient Locations

- 3661 N. Monroe**
Next to the Post Office
- 400 Capital Circle SE**
Harvey's shopping center
- 1700 N. Monroe**
Publix/Lake Ella Shopping Center

Help St. Francis Wildlife feed the animals!

St. Francis Wildlife buys their baby formula and other supplies from us. Purchase a gift certificate for them at our store at 3661 N. Monroe, or call us at 850.562.4100.

Would you like to see your business 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, please contact:

Barbara Barnett
barbbarnett@stfranciswildlife.org
850.562.4379
www.stfranciswildlife.org/ccp.html

We need your help to care for the wildlife our community treasures.

Please renew your annual support for St. Francis Wildlife today by writing a check or by making a secure online donation with PayPal at www.stfranciswildlife.org.

Your annual donation to St. Francis Wildlife ensures that we'll be there to help when you need us – and when wildlife needs us.

For your tax-deductible donation, you will receive:

The *Wildlife Matters* quarterly newsletter.

Satisfaction of helping wild animals unable to care for themselves.

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

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

(Spring 2009)

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date _____

E-mail Address _____

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.

St. Francis Wildlife patients, January - March 2009

The winter months are traditionally "quiet" at wildlife rehabilitation centers. January through March, we rescued more than 400 birds, mammals and reptiles.

These are just some of the orphaned, injured and sick animals that St. Francis Wildlife cared for in the first quarter of 2009.

Songbirds – 5 American robins, 6 cedar waxwings, 6 house finches, 5 mockingbirds, 9 mourning doves, 13 northern cardinals, 3 ruby-throated hummingbirds, 1 ruby-crowned kinglet, 8 yellow-rumped warblers

Shorebirds – 3 Canada geese, 1 great blue heron, 6 wood ducks, 1 anhinga

Reptiles – 1 kingsnake, 1 grey rat snake, 3 gopher tortoises, 6 yellow-bellied sliders

Raptors – 3 barred owls, 2 great horned owls, 1 eastern screech owl, 1 black vulture, 2 red-shouldered hawks, 5 red-tailed hawks, 1 osprey, 2 American kestrels

Mammals – 22 opossums, 1 red fox, 1 grey fox, 6 white-tailed deer, 22 cottontail rabbits, 11 flying squirrels, 140 grey squirrels, 6 bats

What kinds of problems did these wild patients face?

Tree cut down: 25
Attacked by cats: 40
Attacked by dogs: 10
Hit by car: 43
Orphaned: 64
Flew into window: 8
Entangled in fishing line or hook: 1 (great blue heron)
Nest fell or disturbed: 53

Strange rescues

- Grey squirrel caught in a car engine.
- Ruby-throated hummingbird got beak stuck in screen.
- Baby grey squirrels stuck in dryer vent.
- Cottontail rabbit nest flooded in storm.
- Wood duck trapped in chimney.
- Raccoon's hand stuck in a bottle.
- Barred owl trapped in downtown parking garage.



Left to right: Sandy Beck, Donna Legare and Susan Cerulean accept their awards at TCC's Women's History Month ceremony.

PHOTO/Lorelei Ennis

Saturday,
June 13
7 p.m.

TALLAHASSEE
FILM SOCIETY

\$7 general admission
\$5 TFS members
\$5 w/ Student ID
Limited Seating

Tallahassee Film Society in partnership with St. Francis Wildlife
presents at the All Saints Cinema

On the Wing

"On the Wing" tells the story of a remarkable flock of birds that became the heart of an American city. The stars of "On the Wing" are tiny birds called Vaux swifts that, since the early 1980s, have taken up residence in the chimney of a Portland, Oregon Elementary School during the month of September.

Each night during the swifts' residency, thousands of them fill the sky above Chapman Elementary School. Just before sunset, the birds form a dramatic vortex and dive into the chimney in an amazing aerial display. At nearly 40,000 birds, the flock has been estimated to be the largest collection of roosting swifts in North America. Since the 1990s, the event has become a cult phenomenon in Portland, drawing hundreds of people nightly.

The film documents the birds' 2007 residency. Amazing footage of the birds is woven with interviews with Audubon Society of Portland staff and a cast of local characters to explain how the phenomenon evolved – and how the town learned to coexist with nature instead of smoking it out. (2008. Color. Unrated. 61 minutes.)

St. Francis Wildlife education director Sandy Beck will also present a short program about chimney swifts and Mississippi kites – two other amazing neotropical, insect-eating birds that call north Florida home during their breeding season. Meet "Havana," a live Mississippi kite, and learn what you can do to help Nature's bug zappers.

A portion of ticket sales will benefit the St. Francis Wildlife rehabilitation center.

All Saints Cinema, 918 1/2 Railroad Avenue

For more information
386-4404 • filmnews@tallahasseefilms.com • www.tallahasseefilms.com



Cars for Critters!

We will turn your tax-deductible gift of an unneeded car, truck, trailer, boat or canoe into funds that help with the care and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wild birds and animals. For more information, please call us at 627-4151.

TCC honors 10 women for protecting the earth

In keeping with the 2009 Women's History Month theme, "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet," on March 18th, Tallahassee Community College recognized 10 women in our community who have dedicated their time to safeguarding the environment and protecting its inhabitants.

Former State Rep. Loranne Ausley was the keynote speaker. Among the 10 honorees are three longtime St. Francis Wildlife supporters.

Sandy Beck, who was recognized for her 20 years of service as St. Francis Wildlife's education director, presents more than 60 *Wild Classroom* education programs each year. She also produces the *Wildlife Matters* newsletter, maintains the web site and organizes many fundraising events.

Donna Legare, co-owner and manager of Native Nurseries for the last 29 years, works tirelessly to educate and inspire the community to manage their property to benefit wildlife. She has also hosted many fundraisers for St. Francis Wildlife and volunteers at the wildlife rehabilitation center, planting native trees and plants for recovering wildlife.

Susan Cerulean, a biologist and celebrated nature writer, is a founding member of Heart of the Earth and director of the Red Hills Writers Project. She has written for *Wildlife Matters* and written and co-edited several books that encourage people to consider their place within the Earth's web of life.

Other honorees were Electra Bustle, Janet Ferris, Georgean Machulis, Dr. Charlotte Maguire, Nancy Marcus, Pam McVety and Mary Jean Yon.

The Wild Classroom

Unique programs feature
disabled wildlife from
St. Francis Wildlife.

Schedule a program for your school,
club meeting or special event.



Mike Ewen, Tallahassee Democrat

sbeck@wildclassroom.net
850.528.0823
www.wildclassroom.net

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Print this great fact sheet and post in your office, school and kitchen:

How to Help Orphaned Babies and Other Wildlife

www.stfranciswildlife.org/HowToHelpWildBabies.pdf



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Wildlife Wish List

You can drop off these items (and wildlife) at our wildlife rehabilitation center near Havana (directions at www.stfranciswildlife.org) or at Northwood Animal Hospital, 1881 N. MLK Blvd., Tallahassee. Please include a note with your name so we can thank you!

Animal Housing and Transport

- carpenters to build and repair cages
- lumber and other building materials
- 1/4" hardware cloth
- heating pads, not auto shut-off
- aquarium tanks with tops
- pet carriers
- humane, live traps

- bleach, unscented
- unfrayed baby blankets, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, pillowcases & top sheets
- jar lids, plastic, all sizes

Medical Supplies, such as

- sterile gauze
- gloves
- syringes
- Lactated Ringers

Animal Food and Care

- Panhandle Pet Supply Gift Certificate
- Esbilac puppy milk replacer, powder
- raw, hard-shelled nuts, like walnuts, pecans
- unsalted peanuts in shell
- sunflower seed
- wild bird seed
- cracked corn
- fresh fruits and vegetables
- heavy bowls
- paper towels
- laundry detergent

Big Items

- computer, less than 3 years old & flat monitor
- refrigerator
- microwave
- washing machine
- weed whacker
- incubator
- golf cart
- riding mower
- chain saw
- table saw
- generator
- laminator
- good digital camera
- 8 foot-long folding tables
- sturdy shelf units

St. Francis Wildlife asks . . .
please be a responsible pet owner.
Keep your cat indoors.



PHOTO: Leah Ennis

Each year, thousands of outdoor cats are killed by cars or die from disease. Last year, St. Francis Wildlife rescued 373 wild animals in Tallahassee attacked by pets, mostly cats.

Indoor cats live happier, healthier, longer lives.

www.stfranciswildlife.org



CATS INDOORS!
www.abcbirds.org



If you find sick, injured or orphaned wildlife

- Call us at 850.627.4151; take it to our wildlife rehabilitation hospital near Havana – directions at www.stfranciswildlife.org;

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 possible, leave a marker, like a towel tied to a tree limb.

For more information on wildlife rescue:

www.stfranciswildlife.org