



WREN.

Summer 2010

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Newsletter

Baby Animal Encounters

One of the most valuable aspects of wildlife rehabilitation is the education provided to people who encounter baby wild animals. Every year, Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program advises people how to return hundreds of baby animals to their nesting sites. This education literally saves the lives of countless baby animals from well-intentioned, but uninformed people.

Some confusion stems from people misunderstanding the tactics wildlife utilize to protect their vulnerable babies. Some animals, such as Eastern Cottontails and White-tailed Deer, distance themselves from their babies for long periods of time as a mode of protection. These mothers only visit their young a few times throughout a 24-hour period to nurse them. This can be mistaken for abandonment. Cottontails and deer are born camouflaged, with little scent and instinctively know to wait quietly for their moms to return.

Raccoons and squirrels will prepare multiple nest sites which allow mom to move her babies when an area becomes unsafe. This also means that if a baby accidentally falls from a nest or a nest is destroyed, mom can retrieve the baby and place it in another nest site.

Turtles and snakes do not raise their young at all. The tactic they employ



ducklings



owls



rabbits

is simply to produce many babies of which only a few survive. To humans this may seem "inhumane," but it is one of many cases where death is neither sad, nor bad, but simply an integral part of nature.

Most songbirds do an amazing amount of work raising their young. After birds hatch, the parents begin almost non-stop feeding from sunrise to sunset until the birds fledge (leave the nest). Fledglings cannot fly and although this is the most dangerous time for a bird, it is also the most important time because it is when they do all of their learning.

The reality is that wild animal babies face many challenges and most do not survive to adulthood. Those that do survive have learned all that they need to be successful adults. It is important to respect them and avoid interfering whenever possible. Remember, wild babies have wild parents who faced these same obstacles and not only survived but reproduced.

If you have concerns with young wildlife, please contact us before interfering. Understanding the natural behaviors of the species will make it easier to determine if that animal truly needs assistance.

MISSION STATEMENT

The nonprofit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural universe.

Do you have a heart for wildlife?



Join Partners in Wildlife Rehabilitation

Become our partner and help us offer free wildlife education and rehabilitation to our community! Your \$500 in annual support will provide funds for medical services, food and animal care supplies.

In addition to the good feeling you gain from helping our community & wildlife, you'll receive a year's worth of recognition on a prominent lobby sign visible to the Center's 100,000+ visitors and through publications mailed to more than 1,300 readers and emailed to another 1,500.

Join us in saying thank you to our current Partner in Wildlife Rehabilitation

Cynthia Monjot

Contact Director of Wildlife, Dave Wolf, at 440-871-2900, ext. 203 or Davew@Lensc.org for more information.

2009 Rehabilitation Species List

BIRDS

Am. Bittern
Am. Coot
Am. Crow
Am. Goldfinch
Am. Kestrel
Am. Redstart
Am. Robin
Am. Tree Sparrow
Am. Woodcock
Audubon's Warbler
Baltimore Oriole
Barn Swallow
Belted Kingfisher
Black and White Warbler
Blue Jay
Bob-white Quail
Brown Creeper
Brown-headed Cowbird
Brown Thrasher
Canada Goose
Canada Warbler
Cedar Waxwing
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Chimney Swift
Chipping Sparrow
Chukar
Common Grackle
Common Loon
Common Nighthawk
Cooper's Hawk
Dark-eyed Junco
Double-crested Cormorant
Downy Woodpecker
E. Bluebird
E. Flycatcher
E. Kingbird
E. Phoebe
E. Screech Owl
E. Wood Peewee
European Starling
Field Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Golden-cheeked Warbler
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Gray Catbird
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Great Blue Heron
Great Horned Owl
Hermit Thrush
Herring Gull
Horned Grebe
House Finch
House Sparrow
Indigo Bunting
Belted Kingfisher
Least Bitten
Lincoln's Sparrow
Magnolia Warbler
Mallard
Marsh Wren
Mourning Dove
Mourning Warbler
N. Cardinal
N. Flicker
N. Mockingbird
Nashville Warbler
Ovenbird
Pied-billed Grebe
Pine Warbler
Purple Martin
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-eyed Vireo
Red-shoulder Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Rufus-sided Towhee
Saw-whet Owl
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swainson's Thrush
Swamp Sparrow
Tennessee Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Tufted Titmouse
Turkey Vulture
Virginia Rail
White-breasted Nuthatch

White-throated Sparrow
White-winged Crossbill
White-winged Scoter
Wild Turkey
Wilson's Warbler
Winter Wren
Wood Duck
Wood Thrush
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-shafted Flicker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Yellow-throated Warbler

MAMMALS

Big Brown Bat
E. Chipmunk
E. Cottontail
E. Fox Squirrel
Gray Squirrel
Red Squirrel
S. Flying Squirrel
E. Mole
E. Pipistrelle
Hoary Bat
Little Brown Bat
Mink
Muskrat
Red Bat
Red Fox
Silver-haired Bat
Virginia Opossum
Woodchuck

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Am. Toad
E. Box Turtle
E. Milk Snake
Garter Snake
Midland Painted Turtle
N. Brown Snake
N. Water Snake
Red-eared Slider
Common Snapping Turtle

SAVE THE DATE!

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

20TH ANNUAL BENEFIT & AUCTION
Discover the Cosmos
Saturday, September 11
6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Get involved!

- * Underwrite
- * Donate an auction item
- * Attend the event (\$65/person)

For more information, to donate or to volunteer, call Julie Gordon at 440-871-2900, ext. 212

Barred Owl

The Barred Owl that we use as an educational bird came to us through our Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program in the fall of 2000. She arrived with a detached retina in her right eye and a fracture in her right wing. While the wing healed well, the eye damage was permanent.

Barred Owls are one of the three most common owls in Ohio and are one of only two Eastern U.S. owls with dark eyes (the other being the Barn-Owl). The name “barred” stems from the horizontal barring across their upper chest. This is somewhat distinctive as most birds of prey have vertical markings. Barred Owls have a distinct call often imitated as “who, who cooks for you, who cooks for you all.”

They are typically found in wooded areas where they utilize a variety

of tree cavities for nesting. They are able to stay year-round in our harsh weather conditions because of their warm downy feathers. Humans often try to duplicate this by wearing down filled jackets. Inches of snow can accumulate on their outer feathers and still their skin will remain at a toasty warm level.

Populations in the Pacific Northwest will overlap with their close relative the Spotted Owl, which is an endangered species in the U.S. The two species can interbreed which some biologists suspect is a greater threat to spotted owl populations than the forest destruction caused by the lumber industry.

Barred Owls have a diet much like most birds of prey which primarily consists of small mammals. They will also feast on amphibians, small



birds or baby birds and even fish! Barred Owls are one of few owls which actively fish. They will stand in shallow water in a stream or marsh and wait for minnows, crayfish, frogs, toads and salamanders to come by. In a blink of an eye, they will grab them with their talons for their next meal.

You can meet our Barred Owl at our free Meet An Animal Program on Saturday, June 26 at 3 p.m.

REHAB REVIEWS

American Woodcock

Every year, the Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Program sees an increase in animals during spring and fall migrations. The migration season usually begins and ends with the American Woodcock.

This year, we received 4 Woodcocks in March and April. We treated 2 of them with retinal detachment (trauma to eye). After a course of steroids, the eyes had healed well enough so that both birds could be released back into the wild. One of the other Woodcocks we received had just stunned itself after flying into a window. It needed no treatment and was released later that night. The last Woodcock had a fractured beak that could not be repaired. It is crucial that the beak is intact to aid in locating and capturing earthworms.

Woodcocks are quite interesting looking birds. When first observed, people often express amazement at this strange bird they’ve never seen before.



Woodcocks have very thin and long beaks. Their eyes are almost in the back of their head. The ears are actually in front of the eyes. This allows them to locate predators above and behind them while they are busy hunting earthworms.

They are ground dwelling and nesting birds that live in wooded areas

along marshes and swamps. They can be difficult to find because of their camouflaged bodies, but are most commonly spotted during the spring when the males are performing elaborate aerial displays to attract their mates.

In captivity, Woodcocks can be difficult to keep and treat. They tend to be finicky eaters and when they do eat, keeping up can be difficult. They can eat more than their body weight in earthworms each day! Also, when threatened, they bounce straight up in the air and, when in a cage, they hit the top so hard they can injure themselves. We actually have padded cages just for Woodcocks.

For Lake Erie Nature & Science Center’s rehab program, Woodcocks represent the arrival of spring and the busy season to come. In the fall, they herald the approaching calm of winter as the most hectic part of our year comes to a close.

Wildlife “Matters”

Q: *A duck started a nest in my yard and laid a couple of eggs, but I have not seen her sitting on the nest. What should I do?*

A: This is a fairly common question and can best be answered through understanding how mallards nest. The female mallard (hen) will spend weeks scouting out an area to build her nest. Mallards will nest almost anywhere within reasonable distance of a water source and often in what seems to be inappropriate locations such as near roads, in parking lots and in yards with big dogs. It's helpful for us humans to remember that, most of the time, a duck knows how to choose a good nest area better than we do.

After choosing a location and constructing the nest, the hen will lay one egg a day but then leave and join the male (drake) at a nearby water source. Once the whole clutch (usually 8-10 eggs) has been laid, she begins incubation which lasts about 28 days. Not sitting on the eggs until the last egg is laid is what allows all the ducklings to hatch at the same time. Shortly after the female has begun incubation, the male will leave and provides no care for the eggs, hen or ducklings.

Mallard ducklings are precocial which means that they are mobile and able to eat on their own almost immediately after they hatch. Within hours after hatch, the hen leads the ducklings to her chosen water source where they will remain. A duck nest is only for the eggs and not for the ducklings.

The trip to water can be quite dangerous; however, it is important that we allow the ducklings to remain with the hen so she can teach them everything they need to know to survive in the wild. Most often, human attempts at helping them during this stage results in increased accidents and abandonment as mother and the ducklings react frantically to human intervention.

Often, we humans think the hen doesn't know what she's doing when she nests in our yards, parking lots and other “human” places. The fact is she knows exactly what she is doing. While not every nesting attempt by any bird can always be successful, the vast majority of these suburban duck nests produce healthy wild ducklings. Additionally, when a duck nest fails, the hen usually starts the process all over, replacing the lost eggs often in a new location.



Welcome Tim!



Welcome our new Seasonal Wildlife Specialist Tim Jasinski as he gives us an extra pair of hands during our busiest time of year in rehab. Tim brings experience as a rehab volunteer and pet store manager to his new post.

Your will can make a difference

While Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's nonprofit wildlife programs very much need your support today, why not consider including the Center in your will?

Through your will and other means of planned giving, you can extend your support beyond your lifetime. You can help us work to ensure that every child in Northeast Ohio - for generations to come - has the opportunity to make a lasting connection to wildlife and the natural world. You can create a lasting legacy.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to provide for the Center's nonprofit mission in your will, please contact Executive Director Catherine Timko at 440-871-2900, ext. 201 or email catherinet@lensc.org. Visit www.lensc.org (Support Us/Planned Giving) for more information.

Adopt-an-Animal

THANK YOU TO ALL THESE ANIMAL ADOPTERS FROM
OCTOBER 1, 2009 TO APRIL 15, 2010

SPONSOR	ANIMAL ADOPTED
Avon Lake Cub Scout Pack 334 Bridget and Maggie Bartlett Regina and Bob Biggam	Milk Snake Deer Barred Owl Eastern Screech Owl Bald Eagle
Trish Binder	
Seamus Bradnan Judy Brody Brownie Troop 300 Dianne Carlin The Caskey Family	Green Iguana Barred Owl Striped Skunk Turkey Vultures Leopard Gecko
Mary Ann Coblentz Michael Cohen Emmy Convery Owen Curry Edward Damm	Mink Eastern Screech Owl Domestic Rabbit Tortoise/Box Turtle Barred Owl
Stephen and Barbara Darlington Sarah Dever Alison Laing Driver Melodie Earls Janine Elash	Eastern Screech Owl Eastern Screech Owl Eastern Screech Owl Red-shouldered Hawk Leopard Gecko
Jack Fink Tyler and Logan Fortune Peter Garver and Laura Walter Gavin and Friends Richard Geduldig	Tortoise/Box Turtle Domestic Rabbit Waterfowl Domestic Rabbit Rat Snakes
Girl Scout Troop 1494 Glenview 4th & 5th Grade, Rm. 105 Michael Glinatsis GSNEO Junior Troop 71555	Flying Squirrel Domestic Rabbit Barred Owl Flying Squirrel
Grandma & Grandpa Hanley Sandy Hartsel Jeanne Hausrod Cameron Hilbert The Holley Family	Tortoise/Box Turtle Domestic Rabbit Woodchuck Raccoon Flying Squirrel
Huntington Family Huntington Kids Lou and Patty Jarratt The Jeske Family Jackson and Benjamin Joseph	Woodchuck Sudan Plated Lizards Cooper's Hawk Eastern Screech Owl Red Fox
Nanette Kearney Terrence J. Kenneally Jack Koliha Anthony Kukich	Eastern Screech Owl Ohio Venomous Snakes Leopard Gecko Domestic Rabbit

SPONSOR	ANIMAL ADOPTED
Lang Family Mrs. Lanzen The Lee Family Quinn & Coleman Lieb, Sophie & Caitie Petersen, McKenzie, Michael & Madison Rose	Tortoise/Box Turtle Eastern Screech Owl Rat Snake Domestic Rabbit
Kevin and Liz Maher The McAfee Family Donna McCafferty Owen and Finn Meadows Cyndy Monjot	Eastern Screech Owl Red-tailed Hawk American Kestrel Snapping Turtle Barred Owl Flying Squirrel
Julie Nash Mr. and Mrs. Kevin O'Donnell Old Trail School, 3rd Grade	Bald Eagle Raccoon Flying Squirrel Leopard Gecko Eastern Screech Owl
Olee Family	
Peter & Marianna Orro Kelsey Paras Sheridan Paul Kathy Puzitiello Elizabeth Rater	Waterfowl Leopard Gecko Tortoise/Box Turtle Snapping Turtle Green Iguana
Redwood Elementary Turtle Group Daina Renerts Eddie Schartman scienceTASTIC	Tortoise/Box Turtle Mink Leopard Gecko Red Fox
Bethany Sims Briar Sims Roger and Marilyn Spence St. Peter School, Grade 3	Red-shouldered Hawk Cooper's Hawk Domestic Rabbit Domestic Rabbit Eastern Screech Owl Flying Squirrel
Audrey Stratton Evelyn and Heidi Tucker Lauren Tuori and Sara Moses Gary Valich Lindsey Valich	Tortoise/Box Turtle Bald Eagle Hissing Cockroaches Eastern Screech Owl Striped Skunk
Matthew Valich Timothy Valich Wendy Valich Caroline Statz Lauren Statz	Leopard Gecko Flying Squirrel Green Iguana Domestic Rabbit Domestic Rabbit
Jo Ann Van Scyoc In memory of Duncan Warrender	Barred Owl Deer & Wild Turkey Barred Owl Striped Skunk American Kestrel
Charlotte Rose Weiss Sarah and Doug Welty	
Dale Williams Mrs. Wise Joe and Kate Young	Bald Eagle Tidepool Exhibit Eastern Screech Owl Barred Owl Tortoise/Box Turtle



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center
Live Wildlife Exhibits and Rehabilitation

28728 Wolf Road
Bay Village, OH 44140
www.lensc.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 700

Donated items we can really use!

Each year, the Center serves more than 82,000 children and adults through our public and private programs, plus cares for more than 100 permanent animals and more than 1,000 rehab animals. To provide the best possible service with the least expense, we ask for your help! The following is a list of items used on a daily basis to help fulfill our mission. Being a private, nonprofit organization, we receive no tax support and rely on your generosity. All donations, both monetary and goods, are not only appreciated but crucial to our continued success. Thank you!

HOUSING SUPPLIES:

- Pine shavings
- Clay cat litter
- Pine bark mulch
- Cypress mulch
- Straw (dry!)
- Corn cob bedding
- Ceramic pet bowls
- Plastic terrariums
- Ceramic heat bulbs
- Plastic grass doormats
- Reptarium

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bleach
- Hand sanitizer
- Laundry detergent
- Dawn dish soap
- Paper towels
- Light bulbs
- 55 gal. garbage bags
- Zip lock bags (all sizes)
- Batteries (all sizes esp. AAA)
- Masking tape & duct tape
- Scrub brushes
- Sponges with scrubber side
- Storage bins
- DustBuster

ANIMAL FIRST AID:

- Latex Gloves
- Vetwrap
- Non-stick bandages
- Penlights
- Eye Saline
- 1cc Syringes
- Bag balm
- KY Jelly

FOOD/NUTRITIONAL SUPPLIES:

- Baby Food (mixed veggie in jars)
- Frozen or fresh vegetables
- Frozen or fresh fruit
- Frozen ground turkey
- Unsalted nuts
- Acorns
- Pedialyte
- Earthworms
- Mealworms
- Waxworms
- Reptomim
- Fresh fish
- Live feeder fish
- Live crickets
- Timothy hay
- Bird seed
- Guinea pig pellets
- Rabbit pellets

- Dry dog & cat food
- Lab mice/rats
- Avian hand-rearing formula
- Nutri-cal
- Laxatone
- Reptile vitamins
- Peanut butter natural

GIFT CERTIFICATES

- True Value Hardware
- Heinen's
- Pet's General Store (Lakewood)
- Landmark
- Giant Eagle
- Pat Catan's
- Michael's Arts and Crafts
- Sam's Club
- Target
- Wal-mart

THINKING BIG!

- PC Computer
(less than 3 yrs. old)
- LCD monitor
- Infant incubator
- Binocular microscope
- Digital Camera
- Baby Scale
- Portable gas powered generator