

WildLife Rescue News

WILDLIFE-RESCUE.ORG / SUMMER 2023



Dear Members,

As you know, I occasionally reprint a story from WRR's past. This year has brought many hundreds of native birds to our doors, many injured, many others tiny, hungry babies who have lost their parents. For each of these we work diligently to care for them and carve a path for their story to have a happy ending. This account is about one such bird and his entire family who we were able to rescue, avert a tragedy, and

with the help of a stranger, make a happy ending for.

Birds are some of the most amazing beings in the animal realm. Their lithe bodies and thin bones can make for a frail appearance, and when you see the tiny, pink, almost transparent bodies that emerge from the smallest of eggs, you cannot help but wonder, "How do they do it?" How do they survive generation after generation? They have countless predators and

virtually no defenses save flight and their highly determined spirit, and yet they manage to persevere. They construct the most intricate of nests, without the assistance of the opposable thumb, withstand all manner of climates, and sometimes fly for thousands of miles following age-old migratory routes.

Birds also have to deal daily with myriad obstacles placed in their world by their human

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OUR MISSION

To rescue, rehabilitate, and release native wildlife, and to provide sanctuary, individualized care, and a voice for other animals in need.

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Lynn's Letter

neighbors. From towering clear glass windows that jut obtrusively into their flight path, poisons that have thinned their eggshells and polluted their bodies, and destruction of their homes, somehow they hold fast to their existence and continue to grace our skies and thrill us with their delicate, feathered splendor.

It was their incredible tenacity that was profoundly evident in a family of scissor-tailed flycatchers one hot July 4th some years ago. The day began as many summer holidays do with families and neighbors out early preparing for picnics and poolside activities. A young boy first noticed the bird family at the very top of a telephone pole in a busy apartment complex. Their nest had been there for several weeks, mother and father devotedly tending to eggs and then to each tiny hatchling. Others residents of the complex

had also been watching the birds, the scissor-tails being particularly showy with their melon-colored breast and long, graceful tail feathers.



Each morning just before sunrise the parents would usher in the day with their melodic calls. They had become a favorite of the complex. And on this special day, when historic calls for independence were widely celebrated, it seemed fitting that it was the first day the three youngsters were getting their freedom. Each in their own way, they had made several awkward, and then increasingly graceful,

attempts to take to the sky and leave their nest behind.

The first fledgling was successful in a few tries; he fluttered into a nearby tree then to the ground and the safety of the dense shrubbery that dotted the landscape. In only minutes a sibling followed, and soon afterwards they made their way to the treetops where their parents were waiting.

Now it was time for the third baby. As he shot out to make his mark in the sky, he was just as quickly jerked back to the confines of his thatched home. This act repeated itself time and time again until the little one, exhausted by his failed efforts, decided to give up.

It was mid-afternoon when the residents of the complex called Wildlife Rescue. It was difficult to picture just what the problem was. I knew I would have to see for myself so I made my way to the scene where a crowd gathered at the base of the telephone pole. As I stood amongst the worried onlookers, I could see the very top of the pole and the leafy nest that was laced with long, slender strands of dried grass. The mother and father flycatchers circled the pole calling and taking turns landing on the nest with their troubled offspring. The moment they took flight, he followed, but an ill-placed plastic band thwarted his attempts. The band had been included in the nesting material and now it had a firm hold on the young bird's leg. He spread his wings again and again, but the plastic would not give way. He was ready to make his way in the

world, but he was going to die right where his life began if we could not get to him and remove the bond that held him. His parents did their best to calm him, as one tended to the fledged siblings while the other held a vigil at the nest site.

There was only one solution to this predicament: Call the telephone company and ask them to send someone out to scale the pole and liberate the young bird. I have lost count over the years of just how many emergencies occur on a holiday. It was going to be a challenge to locate help. The first five calls were met with a solid "No, there is nothing we can do." Persistence was on my side and after repeated calls, I was put through to a supervisor. Finally; the refusals changed to a willingness to help.

In less than an hour, a large, burly fellow arrived in a huge truck outfitted with cables, chains, boots, and all manner of equipment. There was talk of bucket trucks and cherry pickers but it was decided that the simplest approach was the best. The man would don the necessary belt and cleats and climb the pole. I offered to go up behind him but it seemed that was out of the question. Instead, I handed him a small box so he could secure the bird.

As we made all the necessary plans, The scissor-tail family made their own plans, one parent would stay with the stranded fledgling. The family would continue their vigil in the nearby trees.

The closer the rescuer drew to the fledgling, the more nervous the parents became. There were chatters, clicks, and calls of

every variety. But none of these deterred the man on a mission. In several minutes he was at the top, his large hands gently cupped the frightened bird as he snipped the plastic band, secured the now freed scissor-tail in the small box, affixed the box to his belt, and to the joyous shouts of the crowd, slowly made his way down.

Finally, the bird was safe. The plastic band had worked its way into the flesh of his thin, spindly leg, but there were no broken bones. The young scissor-tail was healthy and had no desire or need to be handled by me. His parents and siblings were calling and he wanted only to answer.



Finally, his moment had come. I opened my hands and with wings strong and resolute, the fledgling followed his family as they made their way into the open sky. At last, they were together again. As they made their way into the world of flight and freedom they would have no need to look back, but for at least one brief afternoon a small group of humans took the time to look upward, see a bird in need of help, respond, and change the fate of a fledgling scissor-tail flycatcher.

Lynn

Nature Finds a Way

After years of repeatedly sending forth the message that, unless they are in dire need, fawns should be left alone, it is so good to hear that some have taken our advice to heart. Tiny fawns are intentionally left, for many hours, by their mothers in a spot the mother chooses. When found by a curious or caring member of the public, the alarm call often goes out... "I found an abandoned fawn; can I bring her to you?" It is then that WRR explains what is actually taking place and asks the caller to let the fawn be.

A call came into WRR's hotline on a particularly hot summer day recently: a newborn fawn was found in a front yard panting. The concerned homeowner moved the fawn



to a shaded area behind some bushes. Here the baby relaxed and in only an hour or so the fawn's mother returned to care for her infant. The well-intentioned woman then made the mistake of taking the fawn out to the mother, who understandably ran away. After that the caring resident

understood that the doe would continue to care for her baby and she returned to her house and allowed mother and fawn to reunite, the fawn to be fed, and for the two to go on about their life as they wished. Just the sort of happy ending we always want for these deer families.



The Ducks' Reunion

A duck family lived in an apartment complex pond for years. After the drone was struck by a car and killed, the mother duck took her family of ducklings and left for another pond within the complex, but one little duckling was not with the flock.

The apartment's residents worked for two days to get the lone duckling out of the pond, but to no avail. On the

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third day, one of the tenants, using a kayak, was successful in capturing the baby. The duckling was immediately taken to the other pond and there waiting for him was his mother. In only a moment mother duck, quacking all the while, waddled to her lost duckling's side, nuzzled his soft down, and led him to her other babies. In no time, the family was fully reunited and the mother duck's backward glance at her rescuers told them just how happy she was for the return of the lost duckling.

The residents of this complex are now petitioning the apartment manager to install speed limit and "watch for ducks" signs in all of the parking areas.

Help Us Conserve!

Save paper and trees!

Sign up for Wildlife Rescue's online-only newsletter.

Please email: development@wildlife-rescue.org.

Welcome to Our New Director of Development



Dear Friends of WRR,

It is my immense pleasure to connect with you all as the recently appointed Director of Development at Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR). Now that I've hit the ground running in this new role, I would love to give you a brief glimpse into my life story that has fueled my dedication to this remarkable organization.

The seed of my deep-seated love for nature and its myriad creatures was sown during my formative years as a Boy Scout. This period was more than just earning badges and camping in the wilderness; it was an enlightening journey that taught me valuable life lessons and broadened my horizons about the intriguing world of wildlife. Those experiences have helped shape my character and values.

Now, in the present, my Boy Scout passion for making a difference has only grown stronger. Today, my toolkit has been updated from a Swiss Army knife to strategic plans, donor relationships, and fundraising campaigns, all targeted towards helping countless animals through the fantastic work we do at WRR.



While my tools may have changed, my sense of adventure and humor remains intact. I still cherish my boy scout sash (even though it no longer fits), and I'm always ready to share a friendly joke or two amidst our bustling office environment. So, if you ever need a chuckle or a tale from my scouting adventures, feel free to reach out.

Now firmly at the helm of our fundraising efforts, I want to express my profound gratitude to our entire supportive community. Your unwavering generosity and commitment to our cause are genuinely transformative, and I am eager to collaborate with you all in our ongoing mission to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of the animals in our care.

Let's embark together on this exciting journey ahead. Here's to our shared mission and future success!

James Martinez, Director of Development
JMartinez@wildlife-rescue.org / (210) 538-9763 (direct)

WRR Updates

WRR Donor Satisfaction Survey Results

In the ever-changing world that we and the animals we strive to protect inhabit, your voices and perspectives are invaluable. Recently, you took the time to participate in our donor satisfaction survey, providing us with insights that will shape the future of Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation. For this, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your involvement not only reaffirms the importance of our mission but also empowers us to be more effective in our efforts.

Your feedback has shown us that the stories we share, particularly those of our Founder, Lynn Cuny, resonate deeply with you. This personal, story-driven content seems to strike a chord, and your positive response to our transparency and relevance in communication only strengthens our commitment to this approach. We've also taken note of your valuable suggestions, such as offering more personalized communications, sharing more updates on individual animals, and providing additional opportunities for hands-on involvement.

Yet, as we all know, the journey towards improvement is a continuous one. Our survey results have highlighted areas that need our attention, such as the personalization



of communications and expanding engagement opportunities. Please rest assured, we are dedicated to enhancing these aspects based on your feedback. We are excited about the upcoming changes, which are designed to better align with your preferences and to create a more impactful and fulfilling donor experience.

So, as we continue to navigate this journey together, stay tuned for more updates. And once again, thank you for being such an integral part of our WRR community. Your support and involvement are the lifeblood of our mission, and together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of countless animals.

WRR Poised to Launch Inaugural Community Partnership Campaign



Every day, countless animals face the harsh realities of a world that is increasingly hostile to their survival. They are in desperate need of our help, and it is our mission at Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (WRR) to provide them with the care and protection they so desperately need.

In our ongoing effort to rescue, rehabilitate, and advocate for wildlife, we are pleased to announce the launch of our inaugural Community Partnership Campaign. This initiative is not just about raising funds; it's about fostering a connection between businesses and the community, uniting our efforts to save the lives of animals who are dying every day.

This campaign signifies a pivotal moment in our journey, securing the essential funding required to offer medical aid, rehabilitation, and sanctuary to animals in dire need. By establishing robust partnerships with businesses that resonate with our fervor for wildlife and our dedication to their welfare. This allows us to persist in

delivering the utmost level of care for the thousands of animals that lean on us for survival each year. It's not just about raising funds; it's about building a community of partners who are invested in our mission and eager to make a difference.

As we embark on this exciting new venture, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to you, our members. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in bringing us to this point. We look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of our Community Partnership Campaign and sharing the many success stories that we know will come from it. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of countless animals and further our mission of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

For more information about our Community Partnership Campaign, please contact our development team at development@wildlife-rescue.org. We would be delighted to answer any questions you may have and discuss how you can get involved.

Leave a Legacy to WRR

Leaving a legacy is like tossing a rock into a pond. There's an initial splash followed by a ripple effect that continues once the rock has vanished beneath the surface. You might have a small rock or a large boulder, but each one of us can leave something behind to change the world for the better.

By including Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation in your estate plans, you help ensure that we continue to care for hundreds of thousands of wild lives over the years to come. In doing this, you know that your last contributions support everything your earlier contributions helped build. We invite you to join in this way of expressing your commitment to WRR's work of protecting wild animals, the environment, and the world we share.

To learn more about wills and planned giving, please contact:

James Martinez,
Director of Development
(210) 538-9763 or
jmartinez@wildlife-rescue.org

Your commitment will ensure that WRR is always here, always accepting native and non-native wildlife in need, and always doing everything we can to return them to health and their natural habitats.





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MARK YOUR 2023

Calendar!

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WRR Food Drive (Online)
Monday, August 21 to
Monday, August 28

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Big Give (Online)
Wednesday, September 20 to
Thursday, September 21

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Giving Tuesday (Online)
Tuesday, November 28

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WRR Artistic Animals (In-Person Event)
December TBD