

# Wildside Rehabilitation

Rescue ♥ Rehabilitate ♥ Release ♥ Respect

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## In this Issue

Crucial information about  
wild mammal & bird  
behavior in the spring

What you need to  
do to protect wildlife  
**RIGHT NOW**

**Wildlife contact  
numbers**



## NEWSLETTER *Special* SPRING ISSUE

*March 2017*  
Issue number six  
Chapter One

Wildside Rehabilitation is a non-profit organization dedicated to provide rehabilitation for wildlife in need of healing and advocacy in Central Oregon. Wildside caregivers strive to heal, nurture and prepare wildlife for a return to their native environment.

[www.wildsiderehab.com](http://www.wildsiderehab.com)

**Think**  
before you  
cut down or  
limb a tree.



**Keep** your  
cats in the  
house



**Look**  
before you  
prune a  
bush.



**Before you  
disturb,  
check:**  
gutters  
planters  
burn piles  
machinery  
engines  
wood piles  
deep grass  
hay stacks  
junk piles  
out buildings  
rocks  
logs  
flower pots



# Special SPRING ISSUE

Chapter one of this issue of the Wildside Newsletter is dedicated to the wild animals for whom the spring is time to raise their young. It is our hope that an informed population will approach this season with caution and respect for the wild animals.

*Please take the time to read  
and share this information.*

Chapter one is sent separate from the rest of the newsletter because it is so very timely.

Chapters to follow will report Wildside's busy 2016 with stories and pictures of rescues and releases.



**Watch**  
your step,  
there are  
babies on  
the  
ground.



**Don't** let  
your dogs  
and cats  
or kids  
disturb a  
nest.



**Teach** your  
children to  
watch for  
nests and  
to respect  
wildlife



**Everything**  
not used  
over  
winter  
is a  
potential  
nest



Central Oregon has suffered a very harsh winter and for humans it may still feel very much like winter. But RIGHT NOW, regardless of the weather, for the wild animals, it is spring. This is because their behavior is based on the amount of daylight their eyes are exposed to. RIGHT NOW, wild animals are either giving birth or hatching their babies or preparing to do so soon.

**EVERYTHING you do outside your home can potentially destroy nests, kill or injure baby birds and mammals and/or their parents. The chart below tells you what the wild animals are doing, when and where. These animals are at our mercy. Their habitat is shrinking...much of their habitat is now our streets and our backyards. We must respect their right to survive.**

Critter	Number of Litter/clutches	Number of babies per clutch/litter	When babies are born/hatched	Nest/den location
Raccoon	1	3-5	May	Hole in tree or rock outcropping or cave or under a deck or in a basement
Deer	1	1-3	June	Almost anywhere
Squirrel	2	3-6	March-July	Nest in tree
Chipmunk	2	3-6	March-July	Burrow in ground or brush pile or rock outcropping
Bat	1	1	April-September	Cave or barn or attic or in dense tree
Skunk	1	1-15	May-June	Burrow in ground or brush pile or rock outcropping
Rabbit	4-5	1-7	March-September	Shallow burrow under ground or under a brush pile
Songbird	Varys per species	Varys per species	March-July	Nest in tree
Owl & Raptor	1	1-3	February-March	Nest in tree or rock outcropping
Quail	1 unless they replace an unsuccessful nest	Average 10-18 or as many as 25	April-July	Shallow indentation on ground under tall grass or under brush pile

# What you can do **RIGHT NOW** to avoid separating wild babies from their parents:

*Respect their privacy* Between now and September 1st, the forests and the deserts are a nursery. If you visit the desert or forest, stay on the designated trails and within the designated camp grounds. Do not allow your kids off the trail. Keep your dogs on a leash. Motorized vehicles should not be in a nursery! Don't turn over rocks or logs. Do not mess with a hole in the ground. Don't climb trees or cut fire wood. And take your trash home with you. Wild animals would rather avoid you...if you approach a wild family they will do one of two things: Scatter in fear and possibly never reunite or the parents will stand and defend their young at which point you, your kids and your dog may suffer their wrath.

*Think ahead* If you do not want to share your attic, basement, deck or outbuilding with a family of wild animals (**and trust me-you don't!**) you need to carefully inspect these areas **RIGHT NOW**. This time of year the wild ones are looking for a safe, sheltered warm place to give birth to their babies. Until the 1st to the middle of April, chances are good that while they are busy setting up housekeeping, they probably have not given birth yet. Rather than deal with getting them out—don't let them in. Be sure you don't already have guests and then seal up even the smallest possible entry point. Most animals that are interested in living inside can get through unbelievably small places or they will make a hole that is too small, bigger. If you do find yourself the unwilling host, please do not do anything to separate parents from babies. If you kill mom or seal up the nursery while she is out foraging for food, the babies will die and you still have the problem of body removal. Also, you don't want to know the extent mom will go to in order get back in with her babies! Depending upon the species, it is best to wait until the babies grow up and leave on their own and then deal with mom if she insists upon staying to raise another family. Here is a website that will further inform you about this problem:

<http://www.wildlife-removal.com/animal-entry.html>



# What you can do **RIGHT NOW** to avoid injury or death of wildlife:



*Window Strikes* kill thousands of birds. The biggest reason they fly into a window is because they see the reflection of sky and trees in the window and assume they are flying into safety. There are several precautions you can take to save them from window collision. Please go to web site: <http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/featured-stories/15-products-that-prevent-windows-strikes/> to read about things you should and should not do and for product suggestions.



*Insecticides and poisons* kill thousands of unintended birds and mammals. This may look like a dead mouse to you but it looks like food to many birds and mammals. When you poison rodents and insects and do not remove the dead bodies, you are poisoning the food chain. The gopher you killed might be found by a wild parent and taken to their babies thereby killing a whole generation....and worse yet...those dead babies might be picked up by another predator and fed to another family thereby killing them too. Or mom might eat your dead mouse and leave her babies orphaned. And what if poisoned rodents are eaten by your dog, cat or chickens? Please go to web site: <http://www.urbancarnivores.com/alternatives-to-poisons/> for alternative rodent control.



*Dirty feeders, bird baths and bird houses* will make birds sick. If your bird feeders have been sitting out over winter, take them down and clean them with a 10 parts water to 1 part bleach solution. Clean the birdbath with the same solution. Use the same solution to clean bird houses...**BUT HURRY!**....it is nesting time!



*Lead poisoning* Most hunters would agree that a good hunt is one that takes only one pull of the trigger and drops the animal with a quick, humane kill. The idea of accidentally poisoning other non-target wildlife isn't anyone's intention. But many birds and mammals feed on the gutpiles and carcasses that they find during and after hunting season. In many cases, these animals unknowingly eat lead when the carcasses have been shot with lead ammo. And what if your dog eats a rodent you shot with lead? Please go to this website for alternatives to using lead to fish and hunt: <http://www.huntingwithnonlead.org/whyUseNonlead2015.html>



Since burn season closed last summer, your burn pile has been shelter and protection for many species of wildlife. They have enjoyed this pile all winter and now they might just be setting up their nursery there. The birds will lay eggs under that pile soon. The mammals will hollow out shallow nests and give birth to their babies in or under your burn pile.

Quail  
Song Birds  
Squirrels  
Geese  
Chipmunks  
Weasels



Sage Hens  
Rabbits  
Raccoons  
Ducks  
Rodents  
Skunks

In order to evict the critters before there are babies involved, you need to burn that pile before April 1st or as soon after as possible. Sooner the better because they need to get a new home/nest/den in time to start their families. Before you light that fire do everything possible to scare all living bodies out of the pile. If you can, turn the pile over with a pitchfork or push the whole pile with a tractor or use a drag to pull it a few feet.

## BE A HERO! BUILD A BRUSH PILE JUST FOR THE CRITTERS!

Before you pile those leaves, tree limbs, and garden debris by the curb, consider the year-round needs of your wild neighbors. You can help restore and preserve wildlife habitat in your community by creating a simple brush pile shelter for wild animals. Though the year, wild animals need dense cover in which to hide from predators, rest, nest, and seek shelter from severe weather. When trees and shrubs lose their foliage in autumn, permanent sources of cover become even more important. Creating a brush pile is a cheap and easy way to provide critical shelter and cover for ground-nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians, chipmunks, rabbits, and other small mammals. For ways to build

ENJOY YOUR BIRD FEEDERS?  
ADD A BRUSH PILE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!



*Control your pets* Suburban cats are domestic pets that belong in your house. Not only does your cats kill and harass wildlife but there are many health reasons to keep them in your house. Between cars and predators, your outdoor cat is highly likely to be short lived. Barn cats are best closed up in the barn as much as possible. The rabbit in this dog's mouth probably leaves 4-5 orphaned bunnies to die because irresponsible dog owner allows this well fed dog to make a toy out of this rabbit. The bird in this cats mouth leaves a nest full of orphaned chicks in order to entertain this well fed house cat.

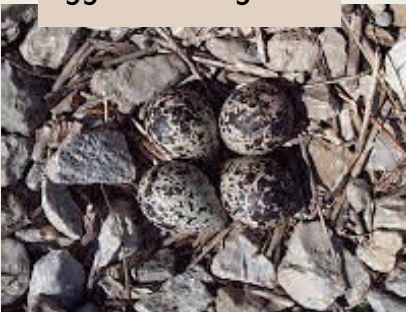


*Think before you fire up those garden tools* Remember tall grass is a favorite nursery for many wild critters. Carefully look before you garden. If you find a duck or goose setting, can you clean up around mom until her babies hatch? Is there a bush you have seen quail run under when they are frightened? Avoid wacking grass around that bush. Don't burn that ditch until you look for water fowl nesting there. Survey the area you intend to till up for a garden. Many animals raise their babies on the ground or in a shallow den. If you find them, save lots of space around them and make other gardening plans.



**Killdeer**

Killdeers lay their eggs on bare ground



**Goose nest**



**Nesting duck**



**Chipmunk Den**



**Rabbit nest**



Doe leaves her fawn in tall grass while she forages for food.



***Reduce the obstacles*** Wild animals traveled Central Oregon, following their migrating instincts relatively unrestricted until we all moved in and built buildings, roads and fences. Every year the numbers of animals killed and injured in their effort to transgress our fences is more devastating than the last! Is there anything you can do to your property to make their movement less deadly? Clean up any containers that an animal can cram it's head into. Look around...how can you reduce the human impact on wild animals? Bob wire is the worst! Get rid of all the bob wire you have control of! **To have bob wire removed from your property FREE, Call Kellie Landers: 541-213-4411 or 541-408-0863**



***Be a rubberneck driver*** More than half of the orphaned fawns in a rehabber's care where found near their dead mama after she has been killed by a car. Many of them (pictured here) are born to their dead mom at the scene of the car accident. Always assume that if you see one deer on or near the road, there are more near by. Drive slower on out of town roads. Have your kids be "wildlife spotters" while you drive. The more sets of eyes, the better.






COMING SOON

# Wildside Newsletter

## Chapter 2

Pictures and stories about 2016 Rehab Season



If you see a wild animal in a situation that seems distressed or out of place, the best thing to do is get advice from an expert before you intervene. The information on the following page should guide you to the appropriate help.

Please print a couple of copies of that guide: put one in your car glove box, one in your backpack if you are going camping or hiking and keep one at home. Give some to your friends and neighbors.

[www.wildsiderehab.com](http://www.wildsiderehab.com)

# Wildlife Assistance Sources

## Wildlife Rehabilitators

For assistance and guidance regarding:

orphaned wildlife ~ sick or injured wildlife ~ wildlife in distress

A licensed wildlife rehabilitator is limited by law to hold and treat **only** animals under 50 pounds and less than one year old.

### THINK WILD CENTRAL OREGON

**Birds & Mammals**

HOT LINE 541-241-8060

### WILDSIDE REHABILITATION, INC

Judy Niedzwiecke **Mammals**

541-389-6012

Sandy Thompson **Mammals**

541-610-9962

Tracy Leonhardy **Mammals**

541-280-7317 or 541-388-0383

Kim Farasyn

**Birds & Mammals**

Crooked River 541-420-7245

Cheryl J. Rorabeck

**Birds & Mammals**

Cell 541-993-2249 Work 541-382-9262

Robin Gold

**Birds & Mammals**

INFORMATION 541-719-8222

Gary Landers

**Raptors**

541-213-4411 or 541-408-0863

Elise Wolf

**Birds**

Sisters 541-728-8208

### SUN RIVER NATURE CENTER

**Birds & Mammals**

Manager Jennifer Curtis

1-541-593-4394

Naturalist Kody Osborne

541-593-4394

## Agencies

**For assistance with:**

vehicle/animal collision

sick or injured large animals

### Bend Police Department

541-388-0170

### Deschutes County Sheriff

541-693-6911

### LaPine Police Department

541-536-1753

### Deschutes County

**Animal Control**

541-388-6655

### Oregon State Police

541-386-4466

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

ODFW Office 541-388-6363

Cory Heath 541-388-6017

Randy Lewis 541-388-6012