

MISSISSIPPI WILD & FREE



Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.

Summer 2014



In the News...

April 11, 2014 - What started as a rescue mission six weeks ago ended Friday morning as Entergy employee Billy Benton and Valery Smith prepare to release a mature red-tailed hawk. The female red-tail, affectionately named, Lady Entergy, was rescued by Benton near a sub-station along Church Road in the west part of DeSoto County. Smith, founder-director of the nonprofit, all-volunteer Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation group, believes the injury to the raptor appeared to be a gunshot wound. "Entergy's senior environmental analyst, Chuck Upchurch, has taken a huge interest in following 'Lady Entergy,' even inviting me to speak at some of their local meetings, also to speak in Jackson when they have their yearly get-together in October," said Smith. (Stan Carroll/The Commercial Appeal) *BELOW*

After six weeks of rehab and some much needed medical attention, Lady Entergy sits perched back in her natural habitat. The adult raptor was released in an area near her rescue site where it's believed she has her nest and partner, and most hawks are monogamous and will mate for life. (Stan Carroll/The Commercial Appeal) *ABOVE*





We Love Happy Endings



This beautiful adult Red Shouldered Hawk was going after frogs in a swimming pool when his luck ran out. Aaron Kelley, 13 yrs old jumped in the family pool after Angelo Dorrough spotted the hawk in the water struggling. The nearly drowned hawk was kept for a few days and put on antibiotics. With much care and fingers crossed the hawk was reunited with its mate and babies. The boys had done such a great thing and this turned into a happy ending!

With the strong storms that have come through this spring, MWR received calls all over Mississippi about downed trees and displaced young. People called us and we walked them through renesting. This Red Shouldered Hawk fledgling was a concern for a lady walking through Central Park one morning. However he looks fine, no cocked wings or droops, and mom was spotted flying around. So just leave him alone and let mom and dad take care of him. It won't be long before he "gets his wings." MWR won't take a baby away from the parents. They do a lot better job than we ever could.



Kate Friedman and Valery Smith met the teachers from the DeSoto County Greenways teacher workshop on June 5th at the future home of the MWR -ARK Nature Center for an outdoor education program. They took their education birds of prey and enjoyed sharing the birds "story" and the reason they are allowed to use them as ambassadors for their species. They also told them of the plans for the future nature center and the education programs for children we hope to implement. The teachers were very interested in this education program and Kate and Val answered questions and shared ideas with the teachers. The teachers were also very excited about what a nature center like the ARK could do for their students!



MWR Education Director, Kate Friedman talking to DeSoto County teachers about Rashi, the Red Shoulder Hawk



Thank you CHRIS DORROUGH FOR

THIS DONATION OF PERCHES AND FOOD CONTAINERS FOR OUR AVIAN WILDLIFE!! FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN DONATE TO MWR PLEASE CONTACT US AT 662-429-0044 OR WLREHAB@EARTHLINK.NET. DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!



Nancy Fagans Fachman, Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation's Water Valley Manager admitted this rare Rafineque's Big-eared Bat yesterday. Unfortunately the banded bat which was found in Oxford by an Ole Miss Research student, had to be humanely euthanized because of it's injuries. Rafineque's are a "Species of Concern" in Mississippi. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson will be getting the bat for their research.



Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is almost entirely black on back and wings, lacking the Ivory-bill's large white wing patches. White chin and dark bill also distinguish Pileated Woodpeckers, along with smaller size. Compare also the wing patterns of the two species in flight. Pileated is

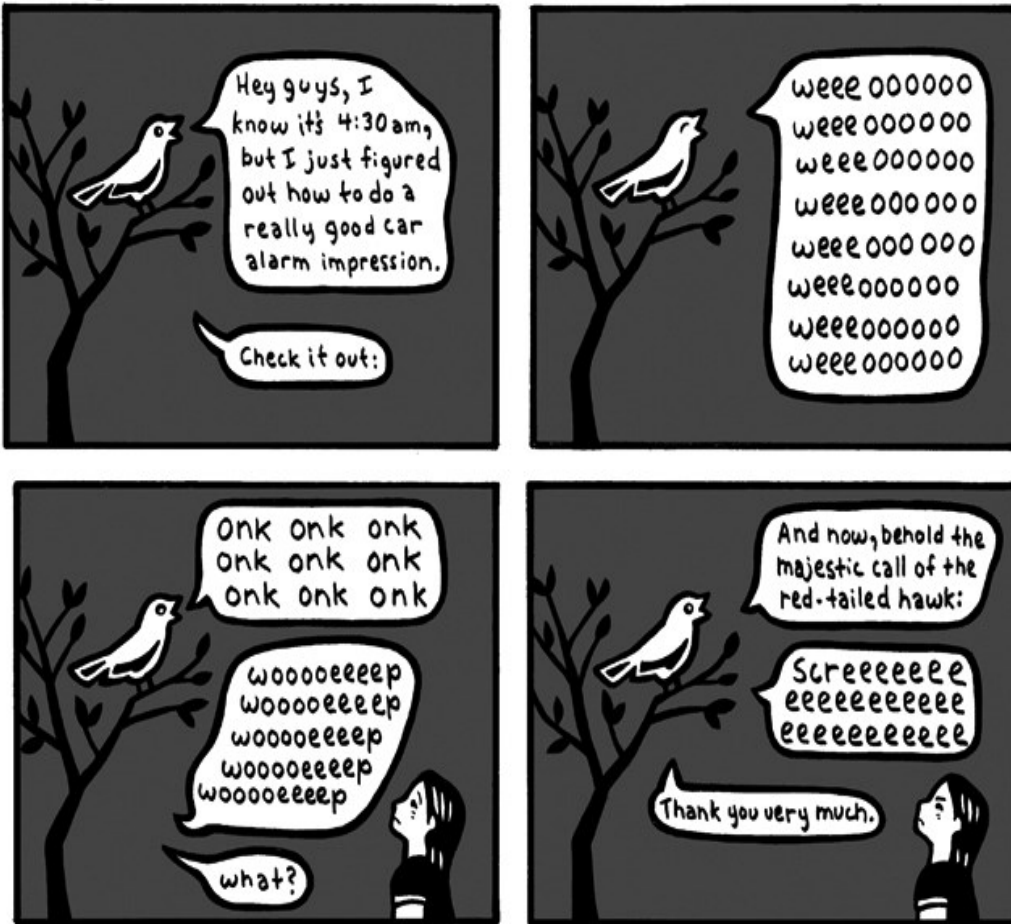
the largest woodpecker commonly seen in North America. Female's red cap is less extensive than in male. Prefers dense, mature forest, but also seems to be adapting well to human encroachment, becoming more common and more tolerant of disturbed habitats and second growth woodlands, especially in the east. Generally shy; in woodlots and parklands as well as deep woods, listen for its slow, resounding hammering; look for the long rectangular or oval holes it excavates. Carpenter ants in fallen trees and stumps are its major food. (National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America)



Nancy Fachman, MWR Water Valley Manager

"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

mockingbird problem



birdandmoon.com

They have an App for that...



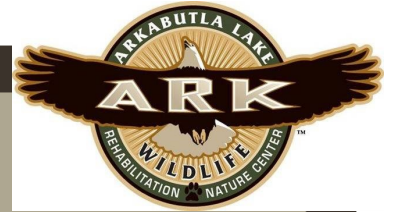
Sometimes the only thing you spot are animal

tracks, but that doesn't mean you have to go on wondering what kind of animal left a certain paw print. **MyNature Tracks** app helps you match a set of tracks to a species through seven track categories and five scat categories. Use the illustrations to figure out the species as well as even the gait the animal was using as it traveled. It even has a built-in ruler for measuring track sizes, and gives tips for tracking animals.

A sweet baby swan rests his head on a sympathetic shoulder. The baby swan has suspected Botulism: "is a paralytic condition brought on by the consumption of a naturally occurring toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. It is an intoxication rather than an infectious disease. The bacterium is widespread in soils in North America and elsewhere in the world. The toxin produced during growth of the bacterium is one of the most poisonous substances known. We recognize two forms of botulism, type C and type E, affecting wildlife."



Eagle Fest 2014



Save the Date!

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Dub Patton Area at Arkabutla Lake

Arkabutla Lake Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Center Benefit

Featuring:

Live Animals

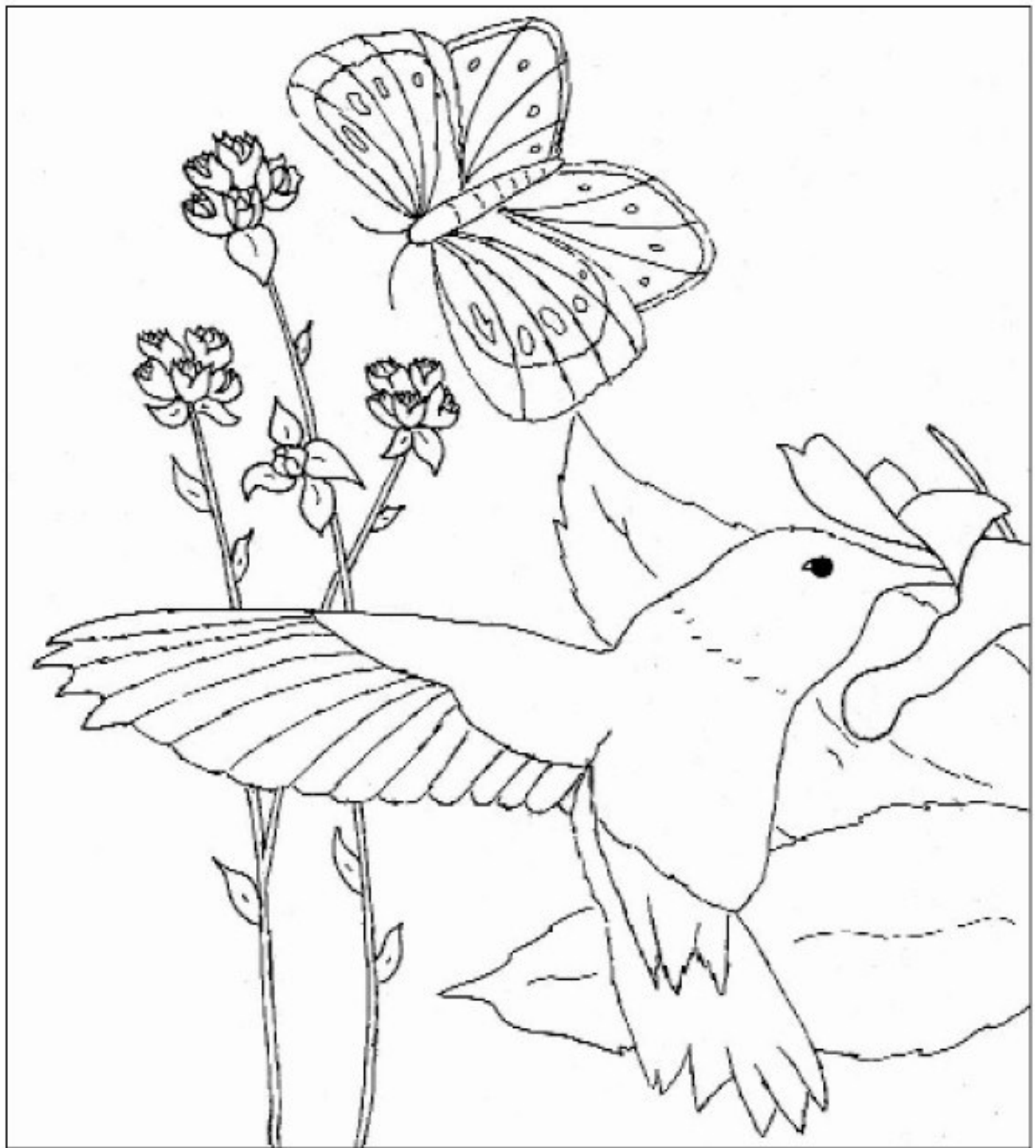
Wildlife Exhibits

Family Oriented Activities



For additional information -- <http://desotoeaglefest.com/>





Hummingbirds sip nectar from hundreds of flowers each day. To meet the huge energy demands of their tiny, active bodies, they also eat insects. At night, hummingbirds conserve energy by dropping their heart rates and body temperatures and entering a hibernation-like state called "torpor." Hummingbirds are the smallest birds found in North America. Hummingbirds can flap their wings up to 50 times per second, fast enough to produce the humming sound for which they are named. They can even fly backwards and upside down! There are 338 different species of hummingbirds worldwide, 16 of which live in the United States.



www.defenders.org
www.kidsplanet.org

Education Outreach to Future Rehabbers

During the "off season" or right before we begin getting really ,really busy with wild babies, educators try to take our wildlife programs to area schools. It just so happens that my grandson volunteered me to do a program in his Kindergarten class. That's a yearly thing my grandchildren do!

Because we are not allowed to take wildlife in rehab to the schools or do programs with rehab animals, I took our permitted, non-releasable Eastern Screech owl and a little brown domestic bunny I was raising. The little bunny still had its eyes closed and was tiny. I wanted the children to see how fragile the little ones are and was able to educate them on not picking up wild animals they might find out in the wild. With the little screech, "Klippie", they learned that birds lay eggs and mammals have their babies live. They learned how animals are camouflaged and blend in with their environment. They learned how beneficial birds of prey like the little screech are to us. They eat tons of insects and small rodents that would otherwise damage our food supply.

Pictured is my grandson Tristen, who was holding fake owl eyes (two nerf balls) to show the kids that an owl's eyes actually take up most of the room in their heads!

Love love love teaching these kids and we are so looking forward to getting our nature center built so we can teach even more!! - Val Smith



Did You Know?

A mole can dig a tunnel 300 feet long in just one night.



The mischievous raccoon, famous for its nighttime raids on trash cans, can find a home most anywhere, from woodlands to suburbs. Its



secret to success lies in its intelligence, agile hands, and ability to eat a variety of foods. Raccoons can be vicious predators on small animals and birds, from chickens to kittens. I know for a fact they will attack

sleeping birds of prey. Overpopulation in any species may create health issues; canine distemper outbreaks are not uncommon. Raccoons are also vector species and in many areas of the U.S. rabies. Baylissascaris in raccoons affects many species of mammals and birds that feed in areas where raccoons make their latrines. There are many reasons to leave these cute, interesting critters in the wild. Laws governing wildlife are in most states. The laws are made not only to protect the animals from people who may exploit them but also to protect people.

WHAT IS AN OWL WORTH?

The Value of an Owl.....

A barn owl on average weighs between 400 and 500 grams, just about 1 pound. To meet his total daily energy (calorie) needs, an average barn owl needs to eat 4.7 mice a day. That means this owl eats 1715 mice each year! Each of those mice eats, on average, 5 grams of grain per day - or around 4 POUNDS of grain consumed PER MOUSE per year. So one barn owl eating those 1715 mice can save a farmer 3.4 TONS of grain per year. If this barn owl takes a mate and they raise 3 babies in a year, enough mice will be consumed to save the farmer 9.3 tons of grain each year. With annual rye grass seed at \$280.00/ton, that is \$2,600.00 saved per year by an environmentally safe family of barn owls - at no cost to the farmer!



Education Barn Owl "Moon Shadow" better known as Zelda. Above. Photo by John McClane

Rehabbed Barn Owls/Top & Bottom photo





Postage

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Insert Address Here

We're on the web! Visit us at
www.mswildliferehab.org
Like us on Facebook!

"Dedicated to the successful rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned wildlife back to their natural habitat"

Help us save on postage and printing. Receiving this newsletter by email allows us to feed one small owl for three days or one raccoon for one day. Please send us your email address at subscribe@mswildliferehab.org to save these costs and feed an animal instead!

Tear Here

Mississippi's Wildlife Needs Your Support!

Become a member and help save an animal at Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc!

- Individual \$15/yr
- Friend \$50/yr
- School \$250/yr
- Benefactor \$1000/yr
- Family \$25/yr
- Patron \$100/yr
- Corporate \$500/yr
- Gold \$5000/yr

Donation \$ _____ In Memory / Honor of _____

Please make check payable to Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. MWR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is the only state-licensed rehabilitation facility in North MS. Your 100% tax-deductible donation goes directly to the rehabilitation of Mississippi wildlife and / or development of the Arkabutla Lake Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Center.

I would like to volunteer! You can use my talents in the following area(s):

- | <u>Building Trades</u> | <u>Public Awareness</u> | <u>Animal Care/Rehab</u> | <u>Support</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Songbirds | <input type="checkbox"/> Database Mgt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary Service | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | | |



An American kestrel fledgling that was rehabilitated and released in 2006

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____