WING BEATS A publication of Liberty Wildlife

Path of Plenty

In Phoenix there is renewed interest in seeing the Salt River reestablished to provide riparian and recreational benefits to the Valley. Already the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration flourishes along five miles south of downtown. More than 200 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians live near or migrate through this demonstration wetland.

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ater connects us all. The river connects us. The tribal communities see ourselves as the spiritual, cultural and historic backbone to this project moving forward. There is so much

> Stephan Roe Lewis, Gila River Indian Community

Visit us online at www.libertywildlife.org



Celebrate our natural world every day of your lives.

As I look back over 2017, I see many important accomplishments at Liberty Wildlife. When asked, "How does this continue to happen with such a small staff?" I don't hesitate in answering that question. It continues to happen because Liberty Wildlife has the hardest working staff and the most dedicated volunteers possible. Add to that mix, the donors who value what we do and continue to support it. Without this, things wouldn't be so successful. Those basic needs make for tremendous success when you add two other necessities—partnerships and innovations. We have those in abundance.

To begin with, we partner with Mother Nature as best we can in all of the workthat we do. I think we get the best end of that deal. Enough said. You will see as you read through this issue that we work in conjunction with a number of other entities in all areas of our programming. Each of these collaborations makes all partners stronger. Within these collaborations, we find room to be innovative. It is never okay to rest on one's laurels. Moving to a new facility allowed us to re-think what we do with less constraints and indeed to do things better. As Marissa Mayer said so well, "When you need to innovate, you need to collaborate." The 180 foot flight cage afforded us an opportunity to do just

that. Read about the project with SRP to address the unfortunate electric shock issues with birds of prey—solutions to a long-standing problem are at hand.

We are adding innovative educational programming that highlights STEM skills through our Liberty Wildlife Summer Camp and school field trips. This year we are adding programming that is guaranteed to trip your goose bump trigger. But, you will have to wait to see that! There are a number of ways to awaken awareness of the beauty of the southwest, and we are giving it our best through our Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest Series. Stay tuned to our web site for info on more of these fun events.

One of the biggest opportunities for us to innovate and collaborate falls in the realm of the Rio Reimagined movement that is the legacy of Senator John Mc-Cain. The importance of a river amenity in a desert can be overwhelming to evaluate, but many important players are coming together to make the river flow again. Rivers are important on their own, but a desert river is beyond the pale. The fact that Liberty Wildlife is a very lucky participant hasn't gone unnoticed. Follow the development of this reawakening of river energy...I certainly will.

Of course, sprinkled through this magazine you are able to follow tips about wildlife, ways to help with our mission, and celebrate nature in all her splendor. 2018: The Year of the Bird will hopefully focus our awareness not only on the glory of our feathered friends, but also on the importance of the healthy habitat that all wildlife...and humans too...must have.

Celebrate our natural world every day of your lives. Work together in new ways to improve it for all of us. We are all connected. Don't ever forget that. It is best said by Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Megan Mosby

Executive Director

Liberty Wildlife Public Welcome



Currently Liberty Wildlife is open to the public three days a week. On Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. The hours vary. During the hot summer months doors open at 9am and close at 11am. The rest of the year, we are open from 10am to 1pm. It is best to check our web page for hours before setting out. There are occasions

during the year that special events extend the hours, and that too is reflected on the web page. The Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest Series (pictured here) and the Baby Bird Shower are such occasions. Find out more at www.libertywildlife.org.

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WingBeats is an annual publication of Liberty Wildlife, Inc. issued to supporters of the organization.

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Photo this page: Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest event at Liberty Wildlife by Clayton Karas

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Great horned owl Education Ambassador, Igor Photo by Jonas Levine



ot every desert community has a river flowing through it as we do in Maricopa County. In fact, few do. Unfortunately, for too many years our desert jewel has been mistreated....among other things, our rarity has been used as a dumping ground, and its essence depleted as dams were constructed to support the growth in the Valley.

Historically, the river allowed native people to transport themselves, to grow and transport crops, and to live in balance with the nature provided by a flowing river. That reality ended, and something needed to change.

Fueled by the notion of a revitalized river the vision of a group of ASU students and their professor in the early 1960s sparked the first phase of the return of the Rio Salado. As with many dreams, the fulfillment of these efforts has taken longer than desired and the early efforts stopped short of its potential. As of now, Town Lake in Tempe is a reality and surpasses what many thought were its possibilities; however funding and support dwindled and for this dream of Rio Reimagined to continue a new champion was needed.

Enter Senator John McCain. According to McCain, "The Rio Salado project has

the potential to transform the Salt River bottom and realize an untapped Valley Treasure." McCain has re-engaged ASU to be the "convener" of the dream, which could also be a model for other rivers statewide. Stakeholders who will help shepherd this dream include the eight communities along the stretch of the river—Buckeye, Goodyear, Avondale, Gila River Indian Community, Phoenix, Tempe, and the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. Also lined up to continue the earlier development is Arizona Forward, formerly Valley Forward. CEO of Arizona Forward, Lori Singleton says, "Arizona Forward recently convened a forum to generate dialogue related to the environmental and healthy community aspects of the Rio Reimagined project. More than 250 community leaders attended to provide input to ensure that this project is able to navigate the political regulatory and funding efforts necessary to bring the project to fruition. Arizona Forward's history in creating the original legislation that formed the Rio Salado District and convening a working group that carried the project for many years gives the organization great insight into the challenges of seeing a project like this come to fruition. Arizona Forward's members bring expertise as it relates to water management, healthy communities, river restoration, flood control, wildlife protection, and habitat restoration, and will continue to be a valuable community partner in ensuring the success of the project."

Time will tell, but as the old Greek proverb says, "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they will never sit in."

I await the revitalization of the river that flows right out our back door. It makes me happy to imagine the Rio Salado restored with all that brings to our shared community. It always has been the right thing to do.



Beaver pond created on the Salt River

Photos by Barb Del'Ve

Partnerships Make Us Stronger

At Liberty Wildlife we have learned that partnerships with their many facets make all concerned stronger. We consciously seek to partner with a number of different entities around the State. Some of these have a rehabilitation emphasis, some have an educational emphasis and some are conservation oriented with a touch of both programs.

On the education level, we have partnered for a long time with **The Hyatt at Gainey Ranch**. First, we have a regular gig on Friday afternoons during the "season" to provide wildlife education for guests from around the globe that want a close up look at southwestern native wildlife. Our flighted program has delighted people who are so touched that they take the time to communicate with us when they go back home...the wow factor is huge and leaves a lasting memory. We also provide educational programming during the week by introducing a different raptor to guests at the facility all week long. It is a win-win for both of us.



The **Verde Canyon Railroad** in Clarkdale has become a treasured partner for us also. The memorable train ride afforded to the public winds its way through a canyon that supports among other things, nesting bald eagles. What a delight it is for the folks that ride the rails on the day that we have one of our bald eagles on board. It is always a thrill to see a bald eagle in the wild, and this often happens on the ride, but even greater is the opportunity to ride the rails with an eagle in front of you in the open cars...and that happens once a month. We also provide an educational booth for showing off other wildlife ambassadors monthly for riders getting ready to board the train.

Photos:

Joe Miller and bald eagle Education Ambassador, Sonora on the VCRR. Kyle McCarty, Arizona Game & Fish, placing a bald eagle nestling back in its nest.

Liberty Wildlife testing perching habits of Harris' hawks for SRP.

At Christmas this year we plan to partner with the **Desert Botanical Garden** again to introduce nocturnal raptors to guests who lineup for the famous Luminarias during the season. That is a big hit with guests who enjoy seeing another part of nature amidst the beauty of the garden. This year we will be joining the Verde Canyon Rail Road's Christmas Village and "fly" guests to the "North Pole" with the help of an eagle. You might not want to miss this innovative adventure at Arizona's North Pole.



In the category of partners who take advantage of our rehabilitation and educational programs you will find **SRP** and **APS**. For years our biologists have assisted these two companies with their avian and wildlife protection programs. Nest moves, prophylactic programs to save wildlife and massive efforts to educate employees about the beauty and benefits of wildlife are a major function of these partnerships.

Avangrid Renewables partners with Liberty Wildlife in a number of conservation-oriented ways, from moving a prairie dog community to potentially assist with studies designed to mitigate the issues around wind farms.

We are always happy to add to our list of partners. We are stronger together. Wildlife benefits when we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our nature neighbors.





by Gail Cochrane Liberty Wildlife Volunteer

dry valley since the Hohokam established an agricultural lifestyle here. Their villages grew at the edges of a life-giving river that snaked down from the high country, wending its way along the desert floor. The diversionary canals the ancients dug to provide irrigation for food crops are still present, and the engineering still admired. But now the formerly brawny Salt River is dammed well east of the valley to prevent flooding, and the water, harnessed to serve our thirsty ways, flows in cement lined canals.

Back in the day, trees shaded leafy riverbanks alive with wildlife, resident and migratory. Now only intermittent water pools along the former riverbed, largely from effluent and runoff. Stretches of the river have been revived through civil works projects such as the Rio Salado

Habitat Restoration and Tempe Town Lake. Largely though, the Salt River's impact on the Valley has been erased.

Drive north on I-17 to see a tributary of the Salt River and imagine what could be. Bubbling springs give birth to the Verde River high on the Colorado Plateau. The resulting stream draws from the Big Chino aquifer and swells with perennial tributary waters from Oak Creek, Wet Beaver Creek, West Clear Creek, and the East Verde. As the Verde flows through barren landscape, from the plateau to the Sonoran Desert, it lays down a path of plenty. The moist soil extending from the riverbanks is favored by towering Fremont cottonwood, sycamore, ash, and willow trees. These trees reach massive crowns into the sky and sink a network of roots into the earth. Thus, the river banks are fortified against erosion, and the

multilayered canopy captures moisture, enabling a robust population of riparian flora and fauna.

In Cottonwood the Jail Trail descends to the riparian oasis created by the Verde River from a parking lot on Main street. When I visit on a morning in June, lush deciduous trees grow in a close community along the trail and the footing feels spongy. River dependent trees provide critical habitat and cover for local residents: white tailed deer, great horned owls, Arizona grey squirrels, coyote, foxes, beaver, and multitudes of others. Fallen branches hoard piles of dry leaves and river detritus. Grasses, reeds and shrubbery create a dense undergrowth. Cottonwood trees felled by beavers interrupt the river's flow, creating inviting pools for dragonflies and fish, and allowing precious absorption into the water table.

Lizards rustle through the leaves as I traipse around looking for a sight of the

In the desert water

is a precious and

transformative gift.

Whether or not the

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vivid green leaves.

river. A side trail leads to an area thick with reeds, and beyond the fringe of spiky cattails lies a green band of river. Yes, there is water.

In the desert, water is a precious and transformative gift. Whether or not the water itself is visible, the river shows in shafts of light sifting through vivid green leaves. It glows in the bright orange of flashing monarch butterfly wings. The river speaks in the soft rattle of the

cottonwood leaves and the high whine of hummingbirds zooming about. Water floats on the air itself, the ambient moisture easing the squint in my face and cooling my skin.

The Verde River is vital to migrating species. Riparian rest stations provide food, shelter, water, and space to reproduce. Here you will find the widest variety of plant life in the high desert. Lazuli buntings hunt insects in high treetops in spring. Ruby-crowned kinglets hang out in wintertime warmth.

Rufous hummingbirds stop over here on their epic migration from Alaska to

Central Mexico. Here the very rare common black hawks are found. Even the severely endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo breeds and nests in the shade of willow, hackberry and mesquite trees found in these riparian forests.

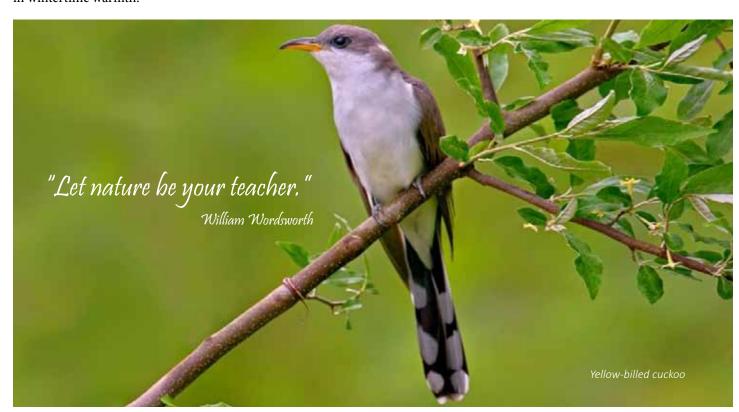
The Verde River is the largest tributary of the Salt River, merging in a turbulent roil of waters east of Mesa. The Salt's headwaters trace back to the Tonto National Forest high in the White Mountains. The Black River, the East Fork

and the White River run into the Salt River above Roosevelt Dam. The Agua Fria is also a tributary of the Salt River. And the Salt ultimately empties into the Gila River in the southwest Valley. This is a substantial watershed, yet scientists with Nature Conservancy estimate Arizona has lost around 90% of its riparian habitat in the last 100 years. Reasons include overuse of ground water, climate change and unregulated recreational use. Many formerly vibrant populations of wildlife have fallen into serious decline as a result.

Here in Phoenix there is renewed interest in seeing the Salt River reestablished to provide riparian and recreational benefits to the Valley. Already the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration flourishes along five miles south of downtown. Some 76,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in the formerly barren river corridor. More than 200 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians live near or migrate through this demonstration wetland.

The Rio Salado Restoration Area is just one component of a river restoration partnership between the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Phoenix. A sister project at Tres Rios Wetlands makes use of city waste water and storm runoff to mitigate flooding and create critical natural habitat for Arizona wildlife. At the future Rio Salado Oeste, approximately 1,500 acres of riparian habitat, encompassing eight miles of the Salt River will be returned to a more natural state. Grading, terracing and improved storm water retention will allow cottonwood/willow, mesquite, and typical wetland plants to flourish.

I think back on the verdant trail beside the Verde River and try to imagine such a ribbon of life coursing through our city, though our lives. What a gift that would be.



2018

The Year of the Bird

by Megan Mosby, Executive Director



To learn more about migration go to www.allaboutbirds.org/mesmerizing-migration-map/

have to admit that I was very excited about the potential of 2018 being the Year of the Bird. It seemed like the announcement meant that greatly deserved attention was going to hurtle head long into the path of saving more birds, species, habitat, and all of the good things that come with the new attention.

Well, I am sorry to say that I was wrong.

Let me explain. One hundred years ago, wise people passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). It has been one of the most powerful mechanisms for the protection of migratory birds ever initiated. The demise of species for absurd activities like harvesting plumage for hats was one of the many reasons that it had to be addressed. Hooray...some teeth to provide conservation measures to benefit migratory bird populations!

It allowed for some leverage to get concerned entities to the table to discuss the needs for changes in practices that were causing large scale decimation of wild birds. One of the biggest offenders has been large corporations in the oil industry. For example, by leaving large oil pits uncovered 500,000 to 1,000,000 birds were lost in a year. Huge oil spills like Exxon Valdez and Deep Water Horizon

had disastrous and potentially long-term effects on the areas their spills poisoned.

The potential for fines and mitigation used to have an impact.

Now, a recent change in policy has basically removed the teeth in this act. Previously the MBTA prohibited the unregulated killing (taking) of migratory birds. The reinterpretation of the Act allows for the killing of millions of birds if the intention wasn't to kill the bird.

This can filter all of the way down to our own back yards. For instance, a burrowing owl community has moved into an old burrowing system on an undisturbed lot. They are happily raising their babies (and by the way are removing scorpions, roaches, mice, and other pesky sorts of critters from your 'hood'). But, now the developer whose intention is to build a house on the lot behind you no longer has to get permission to remove the burrows and the owl, before starting the construction. The owls, babies and all, will just have to deal with their habitat being destroyed...oh yeah, and possibly being killed...just collateral damage.

The passage one hundred years ago of the MBTA was a tremendous boost for conservation leadership in this country. However, in April of 2018, The Year of the Bird, the enforcement of the law was redefined. I can't

help but see irony (and a big dose of sadness) in the juxtaposition of these two things. I have been an advocate for wildlife and birds in particular for the better part of my life. It is my belief that this change in interpretation doesn't really reflect the values of the majority of Americans who care deeply about wild birds, their habitat, and their overall well-being.

I remain hopeful that the American conscience will speak loudly in letting the powers-that-be know that birds, their habitat, their survival matters.



Sandhill crane migrat

Speak up! Be heard in 2018, The Year of the Bird. Try to do something positive for the birds you love and enjoy.

NEFR

Recognizing Graduates Celebrating with Tradition

by Mare Van Dyke, Liberty Wildlife volunteer

Liberty Wildlife Non-Eagle Feather Repository (NEFR) expanded its role in supporting Native American cultures by providing feathers to Native American students of the 2018 graduating class of Casa Grande Union High School. The celebration was held at their 6th Annual Graduation Pow Wow on May 19th.

Each of the 78 Native American graduates throughout the Casa Grande Union High School District received the feather of a red-tailed hawk to celebrate their accomplishments. The pow wow was held at the Jack Spilsbury Gymnasium in Casa Grande, Arizona, to recognize Native American seniors and students from over 20 tribes from throughout the United States.

Gene Manual of CGUHSD and the Amerind Club presented graduates with their feather, a highlight of the daylong event. "These students are eager to learn the cultures and traditions of the Native American tribes, and we're here to promote a better understanding among all students of our Native American heritage for a promising future. It's important to recognize these students who are all very deserving of so much," he said.

Since Liberty Wildlife established the Non-Eagle Feather Repository in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late 2010, we have distributed feathers to over 3,650 Native Americans, representing 173 different tribes, located in 47 states. Participation in this event represents our mission to increase outreach efforts to Native American cultures by providing non-eagle feathers for religious and ceremonial purposes.



Best wishes to these graduates. May they keep soaring!





Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest at Liberty Wildlife

Above: Megan Mosby, with Renetto-mario Etsitty presenting Navajo dishes Right: Robert Mesta showcasing the NEFR room Photography by Clayton Karas



Two Ducks Walk into a backyard...

by Terry Stevens, Operations Director

hen I first moved to the Valley and actually began to go on rescue calls from the various wildlife groups in the area, I learned that in the spring one of the big problems was ducks that nested around backyard pools. People would notice one or two adult mallards in their pool, but they soon disappeared, or so it seemed. Then, about four weeks later, the property owners awakened one morning to a mom and between one and fourteen ducklings swimming in the pool. My, isn't that cute? Well, maybe for a day or two...

Extracting ducklings from a pool isn't as easy as all the YouTube videos would have you believe. Just scooping them out of the water with the leaf net and dumping them over the fence is NOT rescuing them. Yes, getting caught in the skimmer is an obvious danger, but since being waterproof is an ability they acquire through close proximity to their mother, they need to be able to get out of the pool, especially at night. People also generally think that the chemicals in

backyard pools are hazardous to ducklings. In reality, long before chlorine and acid become a factor, ducklings will starve to death. Generally pools don't have an adequate food supply unless there are fresh water clams growing on the pool walls (and if this is the case, maybe you DO want ducks there after all!) Ducklings are the "precocial" type of young and as such are not fed by their mother. All of this means that until ducklings are nearly able to fly, they either need a mother duck or a substitute (rehabilitator) to care for them – a three month process that is both time consuming and costly.

Relocating a family of ducks from a backyard environment is one of the more challenging assignments for a Rescue & Transport volunteer. When ducklings are to be removed from a pool, capturing the mother duck is of paramount importance. If she is caught, the babies are relatively easy to eventually gather up, and the entire family can then be kept intact and relocated to a lake or other appropriate body of water. If she is not

taken, then the ducklings still have to be captured and brought to a facility where they will live for the next 10 weeks or so. Due to the constraint on volunteer time and resources, Liberty Wildlife has discontinued dispatching rescue volunteers to collect ducklings from pools. The public is now being asked to help us by bringing in any ducklings that they capture, just as they would bring in any other orphan baby birds. If they are able to also catch the mother duck, then the family can be taken to the nearest body of water and released together.

Mallard ducks are considered migratory even if they have set up permanent housekeeping in Arizona, and as such are fully protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) regulations. These regulations prohibit anyone without a permit from "pursuing, hunting, capturing, killing...any migratory bird or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." It is, therefore, unlawful to bother ducks while they are nesting. However, a conversation with the Migratory Bird Office indicated that prior to laying eggs,





if the animals are somehow convinced to discontinue nesting activity in a non-lethal manner, the law has not been broken. It is suggested that noise, squirting water from a hose, clapping hands or generally harassing ducks from actually continuing to nest on private property would be an acceptable means to avoid having to obtain the required permit and subsequently remove ducklings from a backyard pool. This would also have the benefit of encouraging the parents to nest in a more appropriate setting of a natural lake or stream the next time they are in the breeding mood.

If instead of mallard ducks you have a problem with nesting Canada geese, there is some relief available. The U.S. Fish &

Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Profram has designated a specific period during which, if Canada Geese choose to breed locally, they lose some protection as migratory birds. During that time, the normal permit is not required to interfere with nesting or other breeding activities. If you're concerned with what to do about Canada geese on your property, you can contact the USFW Migratory Bird Permit Office in Albuquerque at (505) 248-7882.



Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest

the Series

t seems appropriate that we recognize the historically rich culture of the southwest since everything we do at Liberty Wildlife impacts our surroundings, culturally, naturally, and socially. Our mission to *nurture the nature of Arizona* includes wildlife, people, plants, arts and cultures of the area.

With this in mind, we started a series to celebrate the beauty and benefits of the southwest. Beginning with Native American culture that has brought us stunning art, the use of edible desert foods, music, and beverages, our Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest evening event featured all of these things.

Each of the events included our native wildlife with programming and individual presentations of our native wildlife ambassadors. The first event in the series featured Native chefs who provided food from the desert. Mixologists provided beverages infused with desert flavors and herbs, and Native dancers and performers dressed in cultural regalia (photo below) performed southwestern traditional ceremonies.

The second event in the series was a "family affair." Native food was served as well as colorful aqua frescas and infused and locally brewed beverages. The performers included a dynamic dancer who taught the bachata to the group and an axe throwing, unicycle riding juggler who wowed the audience...both experts at getting the crowd to interact! Organizer of these two events, Jeffery Lazos Ferns, gathered up interested attendees and strolled around the property pointing out /foraging for edible foods and plants on our 6 ½ acres. Participants learned something that they didn't know before and seemed to enjoy the unique experience.

The series will continue into the fall and winter with new Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest events. Stay tuned and watch the website, www.libertywildlife.org, for information about the upcoming events.





oto by Terry Stev

Accidenta Colembia Gregory Martin Liberty Wildlife Volunteer

ou are a fish. You and your fellows dwell within a pond, surrounded by likeminded creatures, happily and safely ensconced in your element. Today is like any other day, until movement catches your eye; something disturbs the water. A crimson dragonfly, its purpose unknown, obliviously skims the edge of your domain.

It stops abruptly, hovering within reach, practically begging you to eat it. Whatever mad impulse compels it to tempt fate, it presents a now-or-never opportunity. For every organism on this Earth, sustenance is life: if you don't grab it, something else will.

You aren't the only fish watching said insect. Nor is your meal-to-be the only snack being eyed. A great blue heron lurks nearby, half-concealed in the reeds, a spear-faced, stilt-legged monster eager for a hardy meal. The water protects you, but it cannot always conceal you. If you want to eat, you must risk breaching the surface. Whether you can get back down before it grabs you is another matter.

Countless lives, not just these three, bind their fates in this single moment. That dragonfly pauses where it does for a reason: the pond is its key to survival, the future home of its eggs, and the source of its nourishment. It has to take the risk of stopping. If it doesn't, it starves. If it doesn't, you starve. For the sake of its existence, that dragonfly must come to the water, just like you must try to catch it. Just like the heron must try to snag you with its beak.

If fish gave up on eating dragonflies, there would soon be so many dragonflies that they'd overrun your pond, outstrip its resources, and outcompete one another into certain starvation. The primal act of a fish's predation exerts a powerful counterforce on the dragonfly's own compulsions. Competing drives to survive blunt each other's excesses. Even if this dragonfly gets away,

not all of them will be fast enough, and you and your kin will eat just enough of them to balance out their population, which in turn provides enough food – not too much, and not too little – to balance out yours. As the fish, attempting to eat the dragonfly is not just your urge: it's your mission. Even if it means testing your reflexes against those of a feathered horror poised like a gunslinger, just waiting for you to make its day.

The heron (seen here), too, serves a larger goal. If fish could snatch up all the dragonflies they desired, without

any kind of population check, they'd succumb to starvation as too many fish battle it out for too little food. At the end of the day, for the sake of everyone's survival, the fish have to make the attempt, and some have to fail. Just as all dragonflies have to seek their fortune near the water, and some need to be eaten. That's how the system maintains itself.

Together, these species form a machine, but like interlocking gears, they only function when fitted together. Remove one cog, and the rest lose their moorings. The miracle isn't in the complexity of an ecosystem the size of a small pond; it's that billions of such systems exist. Even more incredible, these interdependent webs have a remarkable way of spontaneously adapting to new opportunities, even where none existed. The fish in this particular web live in Liberty Wildlife's own backyard, an area that was dry and barren until we decided otherwise.

Our main courtyard boasts a stocked artificial pond and tributary stream that form the cornerstone of our facility landscaping. Water attracts bugs, which provide food for the fish; fish attract water birds, which do their part to keep their numbers in check. At some point along the line, frogs decided to throw themselves into the mix, and it's all but inevitable that a quick-witted raptor will realize that a tiny wilderness has sprouted up, one in need of an apex predator. Earlier this year, a mated pair of mallard ducks recognized our miniature riparian area as a world unto itself, and settled in long enough to hatch a brood of baby ducklings.



Animals and plants have the potential to form interdependent lifecycles wherever the seeds of possibility exist. The fish alone, along with some waterloving plants, were the only deliberate addition on our part. The rest of this micro-wetland, from the dragonflies to the ducks to the herons, came afterward. An entire self-sustaining machine formed around a single fishy cog. Riparian areas – verdant wetlands that often originate as byproducts of waterway manipulation – are one of the most potent grounds for the formation of new ecosystems. Whether you drink it, live in it, or lay your eggs near it, water is life. Because watering holes of all stripes represent natural congregation points, even upstart areas quickly teem with multitudes of life.

Arizona residents living around the greater Phoenix area are no doubt familiar with Tempe Town Lake, an artificial body of water deliberately fashioned to provide a recreational oasis here in the desert. Within walking distance of Arizo-

na State University, the lake represents a refreshing escape from the heat for the many people constantly indulging in its myriad opportunities. So too does it represent something for the bald eagles, ospreys, and countless smaller birds drawn in by the stocked fish population. So too for the dragonflies and other insects attracted to the water for their own purposes. And for the birds that feed on them. Nearby, green patches of wilderness that practically sprang into existence overnight as the result of water manipulation, offer further refuge to creatures seeking a place to call their own.

We can tell the difference between a natural lake and an artificial one, but those nesting eagles can't. The mallards who graced Liberty Wildlife with their presence had no thought about whether our pond was human made or preexisting.

Animals of all kinds seeking shelter, shade, food, and drink along the riparian

corridors now lining our freeway, don't think twice about how these landscapes came to be, only that they're here.

It is reaffirming to know that not every change wrought on the world by human hands is destructive. Some can be downright helpful. If there's a lesson to be learned from these overnight Edens, whether accidental or artificial, it's that the machinery of Nature can and will repair itself, even now... but only if we give it room.



Spotted skimmer dragonfly

Liberty Wildlife Partners with Colleges

through our internship program

We are proud to highlight our ongoing partnership with nearby ASU through the School of Sustainability, Barrett Honors College, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Carey Business College, and our new partnerships with Tufts Cummings, MA, Valparaiso University, IN, and Evergreen State College, WA.

ASU School of Sustainability

Brenda Davis - Integrative Health and Food Systems. Developed "Unwanted" posters of invasive plants, fish, insects, and worked on field trip curriculum for K-8th grade.

Gabrielle Pinho - Ecosystems. Focused on pollinators, designed the "Bee Bench" in our pollinator garden and produced informational cards such as "A Breakfast without Bees."

Zachary Jeffers - Conservation, Renewable Energy. Assisted in completion of the walk-through aviary, helped to mark the trail to the Rio Salado, assisted with upkeep on solar panels.

Ron Turner - Wildlife Management, Conservation. Led team to develop curriculum for summer camp; assisted in enclosure building and assised in building structures in rehabilitation enclosures for prey.

ASU Carey Business School

Kaitlin Gaio - Marketing. Created social media posts, assisted in organizing Sustainabilty Expo Fair wtht other interns.

ASU Barrett Honors College

Delaney Bucker - Liberal Arts and Sciences. Curriculum development and strategic planning, assisted in planning future speaker series, assisted in care and upkeep of educational mammals.

ASU Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sam Jones - Liberal Studies with focuses in Sustainability and Landscape Studies. Designed and built the Betty and Bert Feingold Walk-through Aviary at Liberty Wildlife. Mapped out trail from Liberty Wildlife to the Rio Salado, assisted with overseeing Greeters/Guides.

Lora Mason - Integrative Studies. Focused on rehabilitation, medical protocol and procedures.

Valparaiso University

Emily Trimpe - Biology. Developed interactive smart board game "Endangered Species."

Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Briana Stockdale - Conservation Medicine. Studied rehabilitation protocol and procedures.

Evergreen State College

Tycho Rowe - Environmental Studies and Zoology. Studied rehabilitation protocol and procedures.





















Coatis...



Like so many species of wildlife do today, coatis share the same struggle—loss of habitat.



by Megan Mosby Executive Director

rom the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail and everything in between, the coati is an interesting little creature. The coati is related to the raccoon, which seems obvious, as they both have long striped tails. Unlike the raccoon, the coati's tail is semi-prehensile allowing the tip to move slightly on its own and help with balance as it moves. At the front end is a long and flexible nose that helps it forage...sniffing and feeling for things under the leaves in the soil and under rocks. Weighing in at between 10 to 25 pounds and measuring 30 to 55 inches long, they have small ears, dark feet and a tail that could measure two feet long. Coatis have greyish brown fur, a white band near the end of the nose, a white spot above and below the eyes and on the cheek.

There are four coati species: the mountain coati, the South American coati, the Cozumel coati and the white-nosed coati found in southwestern North America. In Arizona, they can be found in oak and sycamore lined canyons or lower

riparian areas of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, from the Superstition Mountains east of Phoenix and the Huachuca Mountains southeast of Tucson. They prefer elevations of 4,500 to 7,500 feet but will travel to lower deserts in the winter. They are most active during the early morning and late afternoon and prefer to sleep in trees at night. The coati females travel in groups. The term coati mundi (lone coati) is generally used to describe the male who travels alone, except briefly during breeding season.

They are nosy, noisy, social creatures who travel in groups of females with their young foraging to satisfy an insatiable appetite. They are opportunistic feeders eating grubs, invertebrates, snakes and lizards, or tend to climb trees for nuts, berries and fruit. They have long non-retractable claws to facilitate climbing trees and a nifty adaptation of ankles that can rotate 180 degrees making it possible to descend from a tree head first, rapidly. They also walk on the toes of their front paws and the soles of

their back feet. Their noses can rotate 60 degrees, which allows for successful foraging enabling them to root through leaf litter and soil and even to turn over rocks in search of suitable food.

Not only are they endearing, but they are also important members of the ecosystem. Their foraging behavior for insects, etc. does an important job of keeping those would be "pests" in a balance, and Coatis are prey animals for larger cats and raptors. They aid in seed dispersal by ingesting seeds, which go through their digestive systems making them available throughout the coati territory.

Like so many species of wildlife do today, coatis share the same struggle—loss of habitat. They can be hunted in most of their territory except in New Mexico where they are listed as an endangered species.

We are indeed lucky to share our space with the unique little coatis. Please make room for them.

Open Hours

what to do during open hours at Liberty Wildlife

by Megan Mosby

Currently Liberty Wildlife is open to the public three days a week. On Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

The hours vary. During the hot summer months doors open at 9am and close at 11am. The rest of the year, we open from 10am to 1pm. It is best to check the web page for hours before setting out. There are occasions during the year that special events extend the hours and that too is reflected on the web page. The Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest Series and the Baby Bird Shower are such occasions.

In case you are wondering what goes on during Open Hours... i.e. "What can I do when I am visiting Liberty Wildlife on just an ordinary day?" Well, there are many things to do. Here are just a few reasons to join us during Open Hours:

- Feeding of the bald or golden eagles with up-close and personal interaction with the eagle and an experienced handler.
- Interact with members of the Hand Feed team and their educational ambassadors.
- Topic programs on Saturday—programs could be seasonally oriented, holiday themed, or sporting event driven.
- Visit the Interactive Room and learn about snakes, lizards, and creepy crawlies, with a few native mammals thrown in for good measure.
- Visit the Non-Eagle Feather Repository and learn about Native Americans and their use of feathers.

- Visit the walk-through aviary.
- View triage of arriving wildlife from the triage bench.
- View surgery through the surgery window if you are lucky enough to be here on a day one is scheduled.
- Take a stroll around the Interpretive Trail.
- Stroll around the wetlands and look for frogs, fish and dragonflies, not to mention visiting ducks, herons, and songbirds.
- Have an occasional visit from Groot, the coatimundi.
- If your timing is right, witness the duck parade.
- Take part in exhibits contributed by the teen club including everyone's favorite...pellet dissection.
- Play games on the smart board in the Interactive Room and learn about nature, endangered species, invasive species, and other current biological topics.
- Watch the foster parents interact with foster babies during Orphan season.
- Observe the reptiles in one of four reptile enclosures.
- Commune with nature in our mesquite bosque.
- Attend Wednesday Story Hour.











Previous page: The Betty and Bert Feingold Walk-through Aviary

Top (left to right):
Eagle presentation in the amphitheater

Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust touring Liberty Wildlife

Bottom (left to right): Newly completed reptile enclosure

NEFR display

Photos by Terry Stevens

Facility Rentals

at 2600 E. Elwood....Liberty Wildlife's Award Winning LEED Building

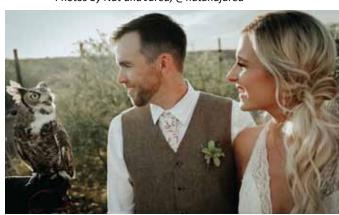
Are you planning an event and looking for a lovely venue? Talk to Liberty Wildlife to see if our new facility fits your needs. Meetings away from the office or the gathering of groups in a common location, you might find our conference room, large classroom (pictured below), or amphitheater is just what you need. Couple our outside event area with the classroom and the amphitheater and you have the perfect area for a wedding, reunion or birthday party. Add wildlife, a wetland, and native plants for a perfect southwest opportunity.

Contact Megan Mosby at megan@libertywildlife.org for details.





The Parkinson wedding held at Liberty Wildlife *Photos by Nat and Jared, @natandjared*



Liberty Wildlife Kids

Parenting/Partnering with Nature

by Carol Suits Volunteer Coordinator



We get it! Parenting today is no easy task. How do you find the time, energy, and resources to provide kids with experiences that will excite their imagination, teach life's lessons, and

engage them in the natural world we all live in? How do you find a balance with today's consumption of "screen time" to help build tomorrow's well-balanced adult?

Turns out, it doesn't have to be a big deal! Simple activities with minimal preparations and little if any financial outgo is what we offer here.

Get outside! A single encounter with wildlife and habitat can grow into a love for nature that can last a lifetime. The trick is to incorporate an activity into a routine every day, once a week, or whatever block of time works for you.

"If we want children to flourish, we need to give them time to connect with nature and love the Earth before we ask them to save it."

David Sobel

Start your own "virtual school bus" with your child and other neighborhood kids if possible. Walk part or all the way to school. Even if you have little experience with nature walks, you will be surprised how easy it is!

- Use the senses to focus on what they can hear, smell, feel. Strengthen their observational skills and have them deduct from their experiences to find solutions or solve "problems."
- Put together a list of items to hunt for on the way.
 This is an easy way to get started. List items to be found using places familiar to you such as the backyard, the park, and the schoolyard. For example: Find something smooth, a spider web, something brown, a leaf, something rough, a place where a bird could hide, a hole in a tree, a mammal. Decide what things are similar and different.
- Listen for the sounds of nature: a bird song, the breeze in the trees, a dog barking, bees buzzing. Could any of these observations in nature be used to solve problems in the world?
- http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/. This app can help you identify birds and their songs. Find other apps for insects or plants. Use a smart phone to take photos, videos of favorite finds or to explore and share later.

Weird but true animal facts kids will love!

Did you know butterflies can "taste" flowers?

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/videos/weird-but-true-shorts/#butterfly taste test.mp4

Did you know geckos have a built-in "windshield" wiper?

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/videos/weird-but-true-shorts/#gecko_tongue.mp4

Games to entertain and enlighten:

Family strain the brain time with amazing trivia questions about animals and more!

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/games/quizzes/amazing-quiz-whiz/

So what do we recycle?

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/games/action/recycle-roundup-new/

Crafts that are easy and completed in 10 minutes to projects that take a little longer. Something for every age and skill level.

Such as:

Window decorations that makes the glass bird-friendly http://www.birdife.org/worldwide/news/kids-birding

Make bird kebabs

https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/kids-and-schools/make-a-bird-kebab.pdf

How to make a bird bath

https://birdlifecyprus.org/news-details/all-about-birds/how-to-make-a-bird-bath

Make a recycle bird feeder

https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-recycled-bird-feeder/

How to create a compost pile

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/books/this-book-stinks/create-compast/

Тор:

Teen Club member holding a bearded dragon

Volunteers presenting Education Ambassadors during Story Time

Bottom:

Teen Club members presenting biological artifacts

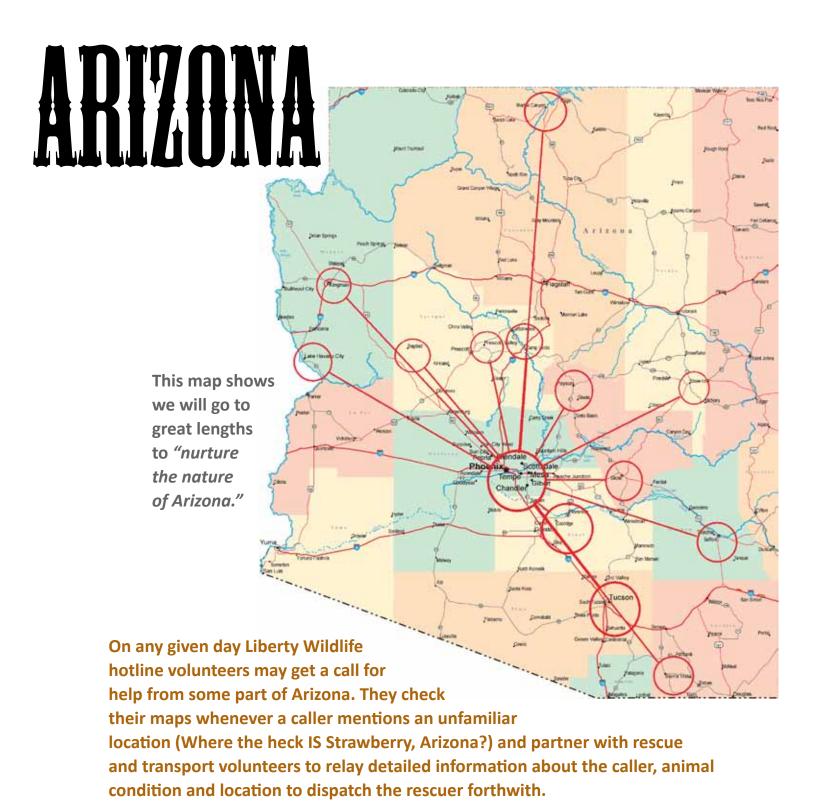
Dr. Kathy Orr treating a young skunk











While hotline volunteers reside anywhere from Alaska to Massachusetts, most rescue volunteers live in Phoenix Metro. Practically speaking, this is advantageous since it is people who step up to help wildlife and the bulk of Arizona's population resides in the valley. But given that call from a caring citizen in Kingman, we do whatever is necessary for a successful rescue.

What happens if we don't have a rescuer available to travel great distances? We cobble together a relay of willing folks to

transport the animal part of the way. Our most successful relay happens several times a year from Sierra Vista, via a relay in Marana to Phoenix.

We're looking for more partnerships throughout the state. If you would like to be a relay transport volunteer please email Carol Suits, Liberty Wildlife Volunteer Coordinator at CarolS@libertywildlife.org,

Calling all Volunteers by Carol Suits, Volunteer Coordinator

From the beginning, Liberty Wildlife volunteers have monitored the hotline, rescued and transported animals, and our daily care and orphan care teams have done the feeding and cleaning. Today all those activities still occur, but now it's a whole lot more! Feeding and cleaning has expanded from birds of all kinds to include bunnies, squirrels and when properly inoculated, other mammals as well.



We've added some new positions!

How about meeting and greeting? We have a new volunteer position called Interpretive Guide. This position is needed when Liberty Wildlife is open to the public. The job involves greeting guests, helping with the gift shop, providing information, monitoring the Children's Interpretive Center and partnering with the Education volunteers (photo top left) to provide a pleasant and informative experience for all guests.

And how about greeting and animal intake? Our intake area serves as a gathering place for incoming orphaned, ill or hurt animals. This position, Intake Volunteer, greets the public at our intake window, inputs rescue information and accepts animals for assessment in triage (photo middle left).



Or, how about joining the Liberty Wildlife Teen Club?

Newest of the new groups at Liberty Wildlife, the Teen Club is for anyone 13 to 17 years of age wishing to get involved with projects and activities designed to excite and enlighten. (Photo bottom right: Teen Club lead, Rick Parsons)

If you're intrigued, curious, and inclined to find out more, visit our website at www.libertywildlife.org. We're always looking for people to help us nurture the nature of Arizona!



Above: Summer camp volunteer helping with Camp Liberty Wildlife, providing educational activities for students.

Photo by Terry Stevens

Right: Education volunteers working at the Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest event.



Photo by Clayton Karas

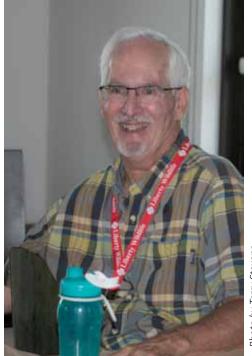


Photo by Terry Stevens

Education by Laura Hackett, Education Facilitator

Groot



Liberty Wildlife nurtures the nature of Arizona - feathered, scaled and furred. This year we are excited to welcome our first mammal to the Education Team. Groot the coati (or coatimundi) joined our team in early 2018. Coatis are in the raccoon family and range from Arizona down into South America. Someone in Indiana acquired him as a baby from a breeder. He was confiscated by local authorities since it is illegal in most states, including Indiana and Arizona, to have them as pets. The rescue group that housed him knew of Liberty Wildlife and knew that he would be better housed in weather conditions similar to that of his natural history.

Groot (pictured above) is nearly a year old now and has some naughty behaviors that our trainers have been addressing before introducing him completely to the public. But by our next education season, be prepared to see him walking the grounds of Liberty Wildlife on his new harness. We hope to continue training him using his natural behaviors of climbing, digging and sniffing!

Story hour



Our Interpretive Guides are the face of Liberty Wildlife when guests come to visit during our public hours. During the busy season they educate visitors about our history, give them the lay of the land at our facility and guide them to the various on site activities. But once the heat starts, the number of visitors drops dramatically and it can be terribly quiet for our guides. But that doesn't stop them - Teresa Landers (pictured bottom left) took initiative and, using her pre-school and librarian history, created Story Hour over the summer. Aimed at younger children, Teresa choses a theme each week and picks out books, finger games and a hands-on arts and craft project for the children to enjoy. It has been a huge success and the children love seeing live animals in front of them after they've just heard stories about those creatures. Plus, since we have our large classroom and Interactive Room, it's a great escape from the Arizona heat.

Summer Camp



Part of our grand idea of opening a facility for the public was to also create a space for children to spend their hot Arizona summers. Our newest venture was Liberty Wildlife Summer Camp. It was a week long and we had six participants – at first. It was so successful that by the end of the week, many of the campers had siblings that were dying to join in on the fun. We had three new campers added by the end of that week. (Intern Ron Turner, with volunteers and campers pictured here.)

A true testament to camp was on the second day when all the campers asked if we were having another week. We told them this was a trial to see if we should extend it next year and there was an enthusiastic "YES!".

The campers were hands on all over Liberty Wildlife. From feeding baby birds to creating behavioral enrichment for our coati, up close visits with eagles, hawks, owls and falcons, learning about the habitat and environment around them and making new friends at the same time. Not only did they take home many memories, lots of new knowledge and experiences, but also a homemade journal made with recycled material that highlighted each day's activities. We're excited to grow this program for next summer.

Open hours



For over 35 years, valley residents trustfully brought wildlife to our window in North Scottsdale. They knew that we would take the best care of these animals, but sometimes it was hard to not be able to see what went on once the animals were taken from their hands. With our new Rob and Melani Walton Campus of Liberty Wildlife, these nature lovers are finally able to get an insight into what happens behind our hospital doors.

Our public hours, currently three days a week, allow visitors to look through the windows of our triage room and surgery suite (pictured above). One particular day, a group was able to watch one of our fabulous volunteer veterinarians perform surgery on a great horned owl with bullet fragments in it's broken wing. While they were watching through the window, our education volunteer Sandi Novak displayed one of our non-releasable birds that is used for educational programs and was able to explain what was going on behind the glass.

Some of our animals are not able to return to the wild due to various injuries or circumstances. In those instances, Liberty Wildlife can obtain a permit to keep them as educational animals. They are then kept on our Interpretive Trail where guests can stroll at their own pace. There they'll come face to beak with bald and golden eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and even songbirds in our walk-thru aviary.

And, it's all orchestrated by our wonderful Interpretive Guides and Education Team members – all volunteers who share the passion of Liberty Wildlife's mission with our guests. We have

a five-star rating on Facebook, Google and Yelp and get myriads of comments saying how much they enjoyed their trip to our facility.

Speaker series



No visit to Liberty Wildlife is ever the same. Different animals are in our triage each time. Education volunteers have a large selection of birds to present on their gloves to our guests. And, this year, we introduced a new series where visitors can sit for an educational lesson on a variety of themes.

We invited guest speakers with a wide range of specialties to come talk to our guests in the Sunday Speaker Series. Included in the series was Kurt Licence (pictured here), a wildlife biologist with Arizona Game & Fish Department who talked about the eagle programs throughout Arizona. Hearing about the studies and research being done about these birds from the actual man who climbs and helicopters into the nests themselves was like no other experience. Lisa Langell is a well known wildlife photographer who truly lives the mission of Liberty Wildlife. She gave a presentation on the basics of wildlife photography – which focused not merely on how to aim and focus, but how to not be invasive and intrusive to the very habitat that you are trying to photograph.

From talks about solitary bees necessary for pollination, hunting strategies of birds of prey and the intricacies of wildlife veterinary practices, guests were delighted to take home stories about the wildlife world around them.

The more our world functions like the natural world, the more likely we are to endure on this home that is ours, but not ours alone.

Medical Services





Innovations

Story page 28



- 1. Preparing a bald eagle for x-rays
- 2. State-of-the-art surgical equipment
- 3. The repair (pin) is visible in the x-ray
- 4. Studying an x-ray
- 5. Golden eagle wing repair (pins)
- 6. New digital x-ray equipment









180 foot flight enclosure

This large enclosure (pictured above) is meant to house raptors like eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, condors, and turkey vultures. Also, large water fowl like herons and geese can utilize it for conditioning, proof of ability to get food from the built-in "pond" and to assess readiness for release back into the wild. Along with offering the opportunity to build up flight muscles and condition the lungs for extended flight, the enclosure offers the opportunity for the birds to bank in flight, a critical part of the flight process.

The cage is also currently designed as a research enclosure. In a partnership with Arizona State University School of Engi-

neering, Salt River Project (a local power company) and Liberty Wildlife, a prototype power pole has been installed along with other common power equipment to ascertain exactly what is happening that causes so many electrocution and electric shock injuries to raptors. Cameras are installed to capture the details of the experience of landing, roosting, feeding, and nesting of these large birds. Based on the result of this research, scientists, biologists and engineers will make assumptions leading to development of a final prototype pole.

When the details are learned the power company will be able to determine what changes can be and should be made to



7. The gallery watches (in background) as surgery is being performed on an eagle.

the poles to eliminate the mortality to these protected wild birds.

The Doctors Are In...Our On-Site Veterinarians



Kathy Orr DVM

Dr. Orr is a graduate of UC Davis, California and has over 40 years experience working with animals. She was one of very few veterinarians specializing in exotic animals, particularly birds. Seeing the need for wildlife rehabilitation in Arizona, Dr. Orr founded Liberty Wildlife, using her vast knowledge of many species to incorporate innovative protocols still in use today. Her extensive knowledge is one of the reasons that Liberty Wildlife is one of the only facilities that care for injured California condors.

Stephanie Lamb DVM

Dr. Lamb is one of two board certified avian specialists in Arizona. After graduating from UNLV with a B.S. in biology, she attended veterinary school at the University of Minnesota where she discovered a fondness for wildlife. After finishing veterinary school, she performed a one-year internship in avian and exotic medicine followed by a two-year residency in avian medicine and surgery. She began volunteering with Liberty Wildlife in 2016 and helps with various surgeries, exams, and the care of animals at our facility.





Mike Sorum DVM

Dr. Sorum earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University. He is a board certified equine specialist and focused on treating equine lameness and performance issues in thoroughbred racers. He also advocates for wildlife by participating in organizations whose mission is to make the world better for this valuable and deserving resource. At Liberty Wildlife, he started out on our hotline as a volunteer before making his way to becoming one of our volunteer veterinarians.

Tanya Wyman DVM

Dr. Wyman graduated from Washington State University in 1996. She possesses an exceptional interest in avian medicine and sees quite a variety of birds. Dr. Wyman began volunteering at Liberty Wildlife in 1998 when she had expressed an interest in helping wildlife. She has been volunteering for us almost weekly since then assessing new patients, old patients, conducting surgeries, and assisting during emergencies.



Innovations by Jan Miller, Animal Care Coordinator — continued from page 26

A tremendous addition to our medical team's bag of tricks is our digital x-ray machine (photo #6). Looking back it is hard to believe what we had to do when an x-ray was needed:

- An appointment was made at a veterinary clinic that volunteers time and resources to get the x-ray completed.
 It was hoped that the appointment would be in the near future so that the injured area did not suffer from waiting too long.
- At that point, the animal was re-boxed, loaded in a car, driven to a clinic where it waited for a veterinarian to look at it. In time, the x-ray was taken and assessments were made. While waiting or perhaps in the middle of performing the x-ray a paying client with any type of emergency or need took precedent over the animal waiting to be x-rayed.
- The animal was then boxed again and driven across town back to the old facility to be treated with the determined protocol.
- Then it often went back the same route to check for success in treatments.
- This still happens for most of other rehabilitation centers.

But, not anymore at Liberty Wildlife! Today, because we have the digital x-ray machine in our hospital, diagnosis, repair, and treatment are immediate:

- If a bone needs pinning...done.
- If lead is found and needs to be removed...done.
- If a hook needs to be removed...done.

Our procedures are so flexible now...no waiting...no boxing... no driving, etc. Time is saved, and there is faster, better treatment for the animals.

Furthermore, if there is a question regarding the repair, diagnosis, or treatment requiring further professional input, the digital image can be emailed to appropriate specialists in the wink of an eye...experts there at your fingertips. The picture itself can be manipulated, enlarged, and investigated in a number of ways that provide the best information possible.

We so appreciate the innovations our hospital affords to the rehabilitation of the animals put in our care.

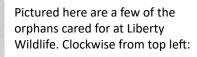
Orphan Care

Every year Liberty Wildlife cares for over 3,400 orphaned animals. Volunteers spend many hours feeding the young and preparing them to return to the wild. These little ones are high on the cuteness scale, garnering aww's and ooh's from everyone!









- 1.mockingbird
- 2. bobcat
- 3. Gila woodpecker
- 4. American kestrels
- 5. Black-necked stilt







by Alex Stofko, Daily Care Coordinator

Imagine a kitchen that must meet the needs of over 200 different species. Obviously nutritional needs aren't the same for all creatures. If it was just a matter of throwing a frozen hunk of meat into an enclosure the job would be easy. That is far from the case at Liberty Wildlife. Science is involved. There must be furred and feathered prey items. There must be fish and sometimes shelled food items. There must be insects and there must be seeds and crumbles...just to name a few of the ingredients required to complete the daily menus served up in our own "kitchen confidential."

It became blatantly clear that we needed to think outside the box in setting up our on-site critter restaurant.

To meet these needs, we looked at new or advanced systems and equipment to facilitate our "kitchen" needs. And, in the case of our kitchen, we did a complete 180 degree turn since leaving our home in Scottsdale and moving into our new state-of-the-art facility in south Phoenix.

Now for those of you that weren't fortunate enough to visit us at our Scottsdale location, let me paint you a picture. Our hospital, offices and orphan care room were set up in the workshop on Dr. Orr's property, totaling about 500 square feet. We had around 70 enclosures built on less than an acre of land behind the workshop. All enclosures and shade structures were built with all types of wood; donated, bought and scrap. We had two separate food prep areas, one for education and one for rehab to avoid

cross contamination. These areas were located outside with only fans to help cool the volunteers during the warm summer months. Each prep area was about 30 square feet, with little room for storage or stretching. There was a room within the workshop that housed our stand-alone freezers and refrigerators. We could fit up to seven freezers and two refrigerators in this tiny room. We made do with the space we had and sometimes it was a struggle, but we always moved forward with the animals' welfare in mind.

Then came the move. In our new space, the modular is a detached unit with air-conditioning, two kitchens, multiple storage rooms, two bathrooms, a shower, a 'man cave' tool room, and our very own walk-in freezer. It may not look like a picture out of HGTV magazine, but to us it is a complete renovation. As you walk into the modular, there is a laundry room and a small kitchen for the education side of the facility; around the corner is a larger kitchen for the hospital side of the facility. In between the kitch-

ens is a large walk-in freezer and three stand-alone refrigerators. The inner modular also houses a large dry food storage room (previously we kept everything outside), and a large mouse-house room for raising our own mice and bugs. From the outside of the modular, you can access two more storage rooms, the 'man cave,' a shower, and a washroom for washing large

grates and bins. Did I mention there is A/C throughout the entire modular! That means our volunteers are no longer standing out in the heat preparing food during the warm summer months.

Starting at 6am the modular lights are turned on and the day's work begins. With numerous entrances and exits we avoid any bumps or bruises that might occur with a collision between volunteers. Cabinets are organized and labeled with all supplies easily accessible. Once food prep has been completed, the modular is swept, mopped and cleaned. The stainless steel tables and the clean white floor remind me of restaurant kitchens. Work in the modular flows with purpose, dedication and teamwork from 6am to 6pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. At the end of the day after everything is cleaned up, the lights are turned off. All that remains is the smell of the cherry enzyme used to clean the floor as the modular waits for its next bustling shift.



Show your Support for Liberty Wildlife

Over 75% of our annual budget depends upon individual contributors

by Chris Sar

Add Liberty Wildlife to Your "Life List"

Many Liberty Wildlife supporters are birders who keep life lists of all their sitings. Some are just a bit more eccentric than others, like Vivian Forde. Vivian passed away this spring, but I want to share some things that make her special to us

You see, Vivian was a renaissance woman who loved astronomy, the cinema, music, literature, sports, her beloved San Francisco Giants – and Elvis, whom she was convinced still lives. Each Halloween, she would dress as a cow, complete with ears and udders, and head into her office in the Bay area, and then carry on like it was any other business day. Vivian was one of a kind. But in some ways, she was also just like you, and me. She loved wildlife and animal rescue groups.

And Vivian did what many Liberty Wildlife supporters do, she made a commitment to Liberty Wildlife in her will, a commitment that will help ensure wildlife is protected for years to come. It is one way that Vivian's legacy will continue to soar, like the wings of an eagle.

You can make a commitment like Vivian's, too. It's easy to do, and any gift through your will or estate plan qualifies you as a *Wings of an Eagle* Legacy member.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Liberty Wildlife receives its most important support from individuals. And the *Wings of an Eagle* fund is an easy way to support native wildlife, while costing you nothing today! Simply add Liberty Wildlife (Tax ID 94-2738161) as a beneficiary of either a dollar or percentage amount in your will, trust, insurance plan, or other account. In many cases

this can be done in an online form, or with a single sentence added to your will or account.

Donors who add Liberty Wildlife to their "life list" are recognized as *Wings of an Eagle* members in our donor honor roll, in annual publications and on our donor board. They receive special invitations to events at Liberty Wildlife, an invitation to an annual reception at the Rob & Melani Walton Campus of Liberty Wildlife, and get the good feeling of knowing they've done all they can for the wildlife of Arizona and the Southwest.

And we will also remember their unique quirks, like dressing as a cow on Halloween. Rest in peace, Vivian. And thank you!

Become a Sponsor of Liberty Wildlife

Annual sponsorship at Liberty Wildlife not only gains you admission throughout the year, it also sustains the vital rehabilitation, education, and conservation work that Liberty Wildlife conducts every day.

The dozens of animal ambassadors that you are able to visit at Liberty Wildlife are representatives of the great care that thousands more birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians receive when they are brought to our doors sick or injured. On average Liberty Wildlife takes in over 21 animals each day. And during the busy spring and summer months it is often more than triple that number!

Your support cares for these animals as they receive emergency care, surgeries, and intensive long-term rehabilitation care. This is only possible with your support. An easy way to show that support is through your annual sponsorship. Starting at just \$25 per person, each level of sponsorship has its privileges:

- Admission during open hours throughout the year
- Invitations to special events at Liberty Wildlife
- Previews of new exhibits and programs
- Discounts on education work shops
- And more...

For information on becoming a sponsor, contact Liberty Wildlife today, at 480-998-5247 or http://libertywildlife.org/how-to-help/donate/.

Help Liberty Wildlife Stretch Our Wings

For over 37 years Liberty Wildlife has been a leader in rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife. Every day we leverage a vast team of dedicated volunteers to share this important message with our community. Now, in our new state-of-the-art facility we are poised to take this message beyond the boundaries of our facility. We are ready to share our hopeful message with the world.

There are many opportunities to expand our educational messages of environmental awareness and sustainability, and to add some additional enclosures and flight cages for the incredible volumes of animals brought to us for rehabilitation. This growth costs money – for supplies, for staff and for care of the animals we treat and rehabilitate.

Contact Liberty Wildlife if you would like more information on how you can help expand our campus and our educational offerings. Pretty much everything about this year's annual fundraiser is new and different. It is our 25th annual event, and it seems like the perfect time for a change. Meet Wishes for Wildlife Redux, the sequel.



The first big change is the time of year. We have previously grabbed the first weekend in May for our ballroom-type seated dinner and auction. This year will show off our new facility as we host the event here at the Rob and Melani Walton Campus of Liberty Wildlife, 2600 E. Elwood St., Phoenix. We are very excited to strut our stuff on October 20, 2018 under the stars and the eyes of the owls.

There will still be some auction action...our famous baskets in particular will be a repeat. Our Garden and Patio items will be straight for sale...no bidding necessary. There will be interactive activities that will allow you to lay your hands on some great trips, activities, and dining, but you will have to wait to see how fun that will be!

Cocktails will find you milling about with raptors such as eagles, owls, hawks, falcons, and ravens. The dining will be

different, with food stations plus passed plates of delectables and desserts to dream of. Don't fret about waiting in line... you won't. Shake it up, move around, but use your table as a springboard for interacting, mixing, and seeing friends. Thank M Catering for the innovative and delicious dining.

Of course, there will be animals and some fun new creatures to meet that will be introduced to you that night. You will want to be among the first to see them. Speaking rock star, Chris Parish from the Peregrine Fund, will grab your interest for a short program, an auction, and release of a rehabilitated raptor will seal the deal.

Seating will be limited so don't delay in getting your table or ticket right away. For more information go to www.libertywildlife.org.

Wish List:

Shade sails for Interpretive Trail
Laptop computers
Microscopes for Children's Interactive Room
Telemetry system for flighted birds
Hardware cloth
Lumber/enclosure building materials
Small freezer
Indoor/outdoor swamp coolers
Storage units
Sound system for Interactive Room
Recording system for Interactive Room
Cushions for Amphitheater







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Delivering water and power™

As part of our ongoing commitment to the community, SRP is proud to provide the printing for Liberty Wildlife's WingBeats magazine.



Join or renew!

It is with your help that Liberty Wildlife has furthered wildlife conservation through quality rehabilitation, education, and consultation services. Because of your support and your interest in aiding wildlife, we hope that we can count on you to help us continue these programs.

Maybe it's a good time to add a gift membership for a friend – or maybe raise your own membership level.

All members will receive the *Wing-Beats* newsletter electronically.

Mail the completed form and your donation to: Liberty Wildlife, Inc. 2600 E. Elwood Street Phoenix, AZ 85040

You can also join or renew online at www.libertywildlife.org

Annual Support Levels

- \$25 Fledgling Supports the Orphan Care program
- \$50 Explorer
 Provides funding for a youth in a school education program
- \$100 Guardian
 Provides funding to support
 conservation programs
- \$250 Naturalist
 Provides funding for medical
 supplies for wildlife in our care
- \$500 Conservationist
 Provides funding for major
 equipment, such as brooders
- \$1,000 Steward
 Provides funding for
 technology to aid Medical
 Services and Education
 programming

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Total enclosed _____

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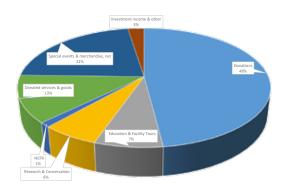
Annual Report 2017



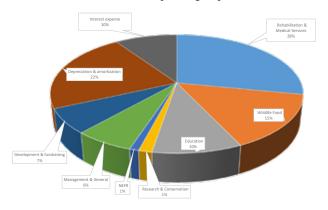
Liberty Wildlife Statement of Activity

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

2017 Operating Income



2017 Operating Expenses



Operating Income:

Donations	\$ 404,654
Program services:	
Education & Facility Tours	62,063
Research & Conservation	52,054
NEFR	10,000
Donated services and goods	107,415
Special events	
and merchandise (net)	186,298
Investment income & other	20,859

Total Operating Income: \$843,373

Operating Expenses:

Program services:	
Rehabilitation	
and Medical Services	\$ 282,647
Research and Conservation	14,366
Community education	96,798
NEFR	10,088
Management and General	64,729
Development and Fundraising	67,000

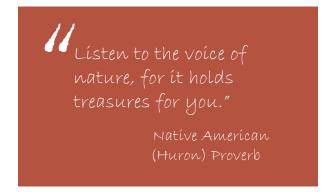
\$ 684,941

Operating Expenses before depreciation and interest expense:

·		
Operating income before depreciation and interest expense:	٠ خ	158,432
interest expense:	Ş.	130,432
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 2	24,678
Interest expense	\$	95,239
Net operating loss	\$(1	61,486)
Capital Campaign Donations:	\$	2,500
Change in net assets	\$(1	.58,986)

Liberty Wildlife Goes Grocery Shopping for Animal Food

Crumble	1,880 lbs
Scratch	1,000 lbs
Seed	1,755 lbs
Worms	159,350
Crickets	115,000
Mice	169,775
Rats	10,561
Rabbits	110
Quail	5,280
Chickens	2,898
Carnivore diet	91 lbs
Trout/Capelin	1,376 lbs
Minnows	24,000
Fruits and vegetables	1,359 lbs
Eggs	2,478
Exact tube formula	111 lbs
Heads of lettuce	779
Cat and dog Food	348 lbs





As part of our ongoing commitment to the community, SRP is proud to provide the printing for Liberty Wildlife's Annual Report.

Statistics for 2017

Number of animals assisted	7,960
Number of species	208
Highest intake month – May	1,827
Education programs	987
Private Tours	32
School field trips	17
Facility rentals	17
Media events	19

	Number of Volunteers
Rehabilitation Services	
Cooperating veterinarians	8
Certified veterinarian technicians	6
Medical	34
Daily Care	113
Orphan Care	92
Intake Window	22
Education Services	
Education	53
Hand feed	24
Interpretive Guides	12
Support Services	
Hotline	40
Rescue & Transport	123
Non-Eagle Feather Repository	1
Publications	7
Wildlife Guardians	20
Board of Directors	15
Advisory Board of Directors	17
Scientific Advisory Board	3
Events	
Wishes for Wildlife	56
Baby Bird Shower	3
Picnic	6
Sippin' the Spirit of the Southwest	6
Wedding	6
Veterinarian meeting	4
Garden Club	6
Vet Tech School field trip	8
School field trips	12
Total Jobs	655
Total Support hours	6,795
* Badge in hours	61, 250
Total hours	68,045
Total hours x \$24.69 per hour	\$1,680,031

Conservatively, the value of volunteer time donated: \$1,680,031* (68,045 hours of volunteer time x \$24.69 per hour)



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^{*}Based on documented volunteer hours and figures from Independant Sector research.

2017 Intake Species List:

202 SPECIES WERE TREATED AT LIBERTY WILDLIFE

Abert's towhee African grey parrot African sulcata tortoise American bittern American coot American crow American kestrel American robin American widgeon Anna's hummingbird ash-throated flycatcher bald eagle barn owl bearded dragon Bewick's wren big brown bat black-crowned night heron black-necked stilt black phoebe black vulture bobcat bobwhite quail Brewer's sparrow bronzed cowbird brown pelican brown-headed cowbird bufflehead duck Bullock's oriole burrowing owl cactus mouse cactus wren California condor Canada goose canary canvasback cattle egret Cayuga duck chicken Chinese goose cliff chipmunk

collared lizard common king snake common loon common nighthawk common poorwill common raven Cooper's hawk Costa's hummingbird cottontail rabbit crissal thrasher curve-billed thrasher dark-eyed junco desert tortoise domestic duck domestic quail domestic goose domestic rabbit domestic rat double-crested cormorant eared grebe earlesss lizard elf owl Embden goose fancy pigeon flammulated owl freetail bat Gambel's quail Gila monster Gila woodpecker gilded flicker golden eagle gopher gopher snake gray fox gray hawk great blue heron great egret great horned owl greater roadrunner great-tailed grackle green heron



guinea fowl Gunnison's prairie dog Harris' hawk hermit thrush hoary bat house finch house gecko house mouse house sparrow house wren ibis Inca dove Indian runner duck jackrabbit javalina killdeer lady gouldian finch lark sparrow least bittern leopard gecko lesser goldfinch little brown bat loggerhead shrike long-nosed snake lovebird MacGillivray's warbler mallard duck Mediterranean gecko merlin Mexican freetail bat monk parakeet mountain blue bird mourning dove muscovy duck mutt mallard neotropic cormorant night hawk North American porcupine northern cardinal northern flicker northern mockingbird northern pygmy owl northern saw-whet owl northern flicker orange-crowned warbler ornate box turtle osprey Pacific loon packrat parakeet peach-faced lovebird pekin duck Peregrine falcon phainopepla pied-bill grebe prairie falcon racoon

red-eared slider red-legged partridge red-naped sapsucker red-shafted northern flicker red-tailed hawk red racer snake red-winged blackbird Reeves's pheasant rock dove (pigeon) rock squirrel rock wren roof rat round-tailed ground squirrel ruddy duck rufous humming bird Say's phoebe scrub jay sharp-shinned hawk smooth softshell turtle snowy egret Sonoran desert toad sora rail spade foot toad spiney lizard spotted skunk spotted bat starling striped skunk sulcata tortoise Swainson's hawk Swainson's thrush Townsend's warbler turkey turkey vulture verdin violet-green swallow vireo Virginia opossum Virginia rail western blue jay western grebe western kingbird western pipistrelle bat western screech owl western tanager white dove white pelican white-cheecked turaco white-crowned sparrow white-throated swift white-winged dove widgeon Wilson's warbler wood duck yellow bat yellow-breasted chat yellow-rumped warbler yellow-throated warbler zebra finch

zone-tailed hawk

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Virtanen, Marko & Kelly Visser, Dawn Visser, Tammy

Vlassis, Nancy Voight, Helen Voorhees, Dave Vroom, Patricia Vry, Ann Vuach, Erica Vulovich, Lou

Wade, Alisah Wade, Elisha Wade, Linda Wade, Mary Ann Wadsworth, Bob Wadsworth, Sharon Wagstaffe, Alan Walby, Jessica Waldinger, Beth Waldorf, Alex

Wall, Lisa
Walmsley, Harry
Walrebenstein, Eric
Walsh, Catherine
Walsh, Hannah
Walston, Regi
Walters, Elizabeth

Walker, JoAnne M.

Walton Foundation, The Rob & Melani Waltz, Kurt Wangler, Rosalyn Wann, John W

Warburton, Lindsay Warchime, Gabriele Ward, Donald

Wann-Angeles, John

Warfield, Larry Warner, Liz

Wathen, Emily Watson, Jack Watts, Christin

Watts, Cynthia & Michael

Watts, Lori

Watts, Steven & Gloria Weaver, Elizabeth Weaver, Mike

Weddle, Phil & Shelor, Michele

Weeks, Keith Doran

Weese, Bill & Wetherbee, Lynn

Weese, Florence K. Weese Foundation Weese, William Wegner, Tina Weil, Chip & Daryl Weiland, Linda Weinberger, Melissa

Weiner, Lyn
Weisz, Terri
Welch, Aimee
Welch, Marianne
Welch, Tami
Well, Susan
Welling, Emily
Wells, Andrews
Wells, Debra
Wells, Michele
Wernecke, R.J.
Werner, Tim
Wesley, Susie
West, Bonnie
West, Jamie

Westerhausen, Mr. & Mrs. Westerhausen Revocable Trust Westerhausen, J. Walden Westerhausen, Joan B. Westerhausen, Tracey Westlake, Debbie Wever, D. Whalen, Jennifer Wheat, Janet Wheellock, Kyle Whitaker, Nathaniel White, Alina White, Brian White, Elizabeth White, Jamie White, Margaret

White, Melinda
Whitehead, Solange
Whitfield, Burke & Mary Jo
Whiting, Steven
Whitt, Teresa
Whittle, Joe
Wiedman, Tyson
Wiencek, Terri
Wigley, Jayson
Wijatyk, Peter
Wilcox, Judy
Wildeman, Stephanie

Wilcox, Judy Wildeman, Stephanie Wilder, Lindsey Wiles, Russel Wiley, Julia Wiliamson, Sandra

Wilkening, Lee & Phillips, Jody

Wilkey, Nina Will, Kristine

William C. Weese Trust



Painted bunting - photo by Peter Hogan

William, Paul Williams, Candyce Williams, Julie Williams, Meg Williamson, Stewart Wilson, Daniel Wilson, Diane Wilson, Douglas Wilson, James Wilson, Rosemary Wiltshire, Sarah Windham, Donald Wine, Leslie Wingo, Beth Winters, Jim Winters, Robin Wisdom, Lila Witek, Patricia Withrow, Robert

Wisdom, Lila
Witek, Patricia
Withrow, Robert
Wittenberg, Betty Ann
Wofford, Karen
Wolensensky, Robert
Wolf, Christopher
Wolfe, John
Wollenberg, Brent
Womack, Phil
Wood, Barbara
Wood, Deborah J.
Wood, Gary
Wood, Hillary
Wood, Sharon
Woodland, John
Woodward, Bob

Woodward, Christina
Workman, Caitlyn
Wortendyke, Stephanie
Worthen, Peggy
Wozniak, Molly
Wright, Heather
Wright, Sean
Wright, Suzanne
Wyckmans, Maria
Wykoff, Carla
Wylie, Scott
Wyman, Dr. Tanya
Wynia, Valerie
Wyrick, Jason
Xeller, Chris & Lori

Yagi, Greg

Yang, Krystal Yano, Misako Yellowhair, Shantel York, Michael Yost, Holly Young, Kay Young, Margaret YourCause Zamora, Greg Zappala, Ottavia Zappin, Tammy Zarandi, Mark Zasreow, C.

Zastrow, Chris James Zavala, Veronia Zeller, Tina Zetah, Janet Zimmerman, Nathan

Zimmerman, Nama Zinger, Kayla

We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name.
Please let us know.
Thank You!





Left to right:
Black-headed grosbeak
Lesser long-nosed bats
Northern harrier
Photos by Christie Van Cleve





www.libertywildlife.org

Liberty Wildlife 2600 E. Elwood Street Phoenix, AZ 85040

Wildlife Hotline: (480) 998-5550