# Welcome to Liberty Wildlife Orphan Care 2021!







#### The Purpose of this Presentation

We are asking all Orphan Care Volunteers to view this presentation and answer the questions at the end.

This will introduce New Volunteers to the procedures and practices.

For Returning Volunteers this will give a heads up to changes being made this year and act as a refresher before the season gets started.

Thanks to all of you for being part of Orphan Care this season!

You are literally saving the lives of so many baby birds!

#### When Does Orphan Care Happen?

We cannot predict when Mother Nature exactly, but we usually start the season sometime between mid-March and the beginning of April.

Once the season starts, there are three Orphan Care shifts per day:

7am-11am, 11am-3pm, and 3pm-7pm.



Seven days a week!





#### What Should I Wear and What Should I Bring?

Your Liberty name badge. This will get you into the building and sign you into your shift. Please have your name badge on you at all times while at Liberty.

Please wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting dirty. We have a few aprons in OC, but we cannot guarantee their availability.

Closed toe shoes are a must! We understand that the Arizona summer is intense, but closed toe shoes are required for safety.

No scents, please! Please refrain from wearing scented lotions, colognes, hair sprays, etc... Not only are birds more sensitive to scents, we have several volunteers with allergies. Think of Liberty like any other hospital you'd visit--be as unscented as possible!

If you'd like to bring a snack, please keep it in your bag or in the refrigerator in the break room. You may have beverages in OC, as long as they are in a covered container.

# What Should I Wear and What Should I Bring? Part II for 2021

At the creation of this presentation, the Covid vaccine is being distributed and the CDC is still recommending the wearing of face masks. As such, we require <a href="mailto:everyone">everyone</a> at Liberty to wear a face mask at all times. This is non-negotiable.

It must cover your mouth and nose, and may not be removed unless you have left OC to eat in the break room. Please practice social distancing if this is the case.

We have face masks available, but you are welcome to bring your own as well. :)

We appreciate everyone's cooperation! By working together we can all help to stay as safe as possible!

### What are Liberty Files and Med Cards and why are they so important?

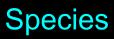
When an animal comes to the intake window, a Liberty File is created. The file contains a number, which is the identifier of that animal while at the facility. The Med Services team will fill out the Liberty File with their findings of the animal's initial exam, and may create a Med Card if needed.

Both Liberty Files and Med Cards are incredibly important to the care of the patient. Med Cards always stay with the animal. Its Liberty File will be in our filing system, but the bird must always be labeled with its Liberty number!

If a baby bird looks sick, we absolutely need its Liberty number so we may look up its medical history recorded on the Liberty File so we may give it the best care.

All Liberty Files must be turned to Fish and Game every year, so it is absolutely imperative that the *Liberty files and med cards NEVER be thrown away under any circumstances*.

#### Example of a Liberty File



☐ Hock Sitting

☐Head Tilt

Prone

□ Gasping

□Clicking/Cracking

□Open Mouth Breathing

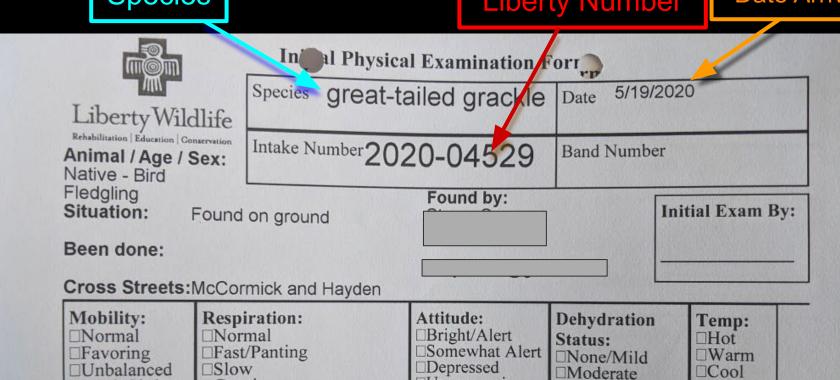
Liberty Number

□ Severe

Dolo Mouth

□Cold

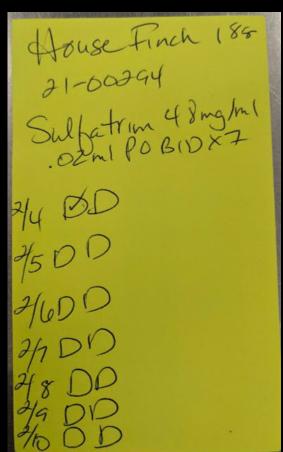
**Date Arrived** 



□Unresponsive

C-1---

### Example of a Med Card



Med Cards will be an index card in a fluorescent color (pink, green, yellow, or orange).

A patient may have one, none, or several, depending on the bird's needs due to its injury or illness. *Med Services* will administer all meds to the baby, OC volunteers do not.

These are incredibly important to the health of the bird, and must stay with it until the medication has run its course. The med service volunteer or coordinator will handle it when the med card is finished.

Under no circumstances should you ever throw a med card away or separate it from the bird.
Thanks!!

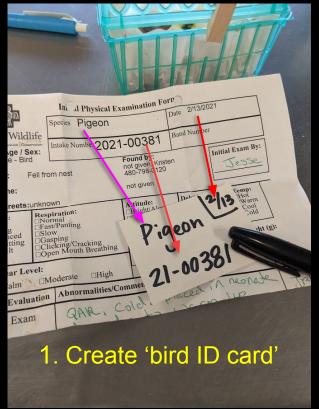
#### A baby bird has just arrived in OC. What do I do?

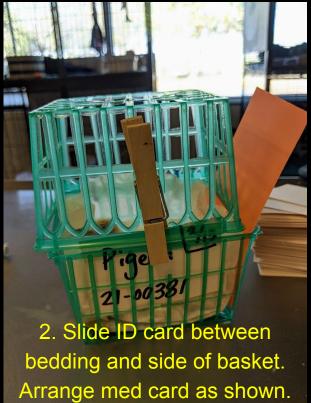
- 1. Create bird ID tag.
- 2. Set up bin or berry basket (this depends on size and age of the baby.
- 3. Put Liberty file in appropriate folder. Please see coordinator for guidance.
- 4. <u>See if the baby wants to eat---feed it if it does</u>. If it doesn't want to eat, no worries, put baby in brooder or in bin for a short time to give it a warm, dark, and quiet environment to de-stress.
- 5. Create accompanying food log if necessary.

#### Setting up a Berry Basket

When a baby arrives in OC in often comes in a berry basket with the Liberty file (and med card if needed) attached to the side. If the baby is very young and needs to be in a brooder, it will stay in its berry basket.

Here's what to do:

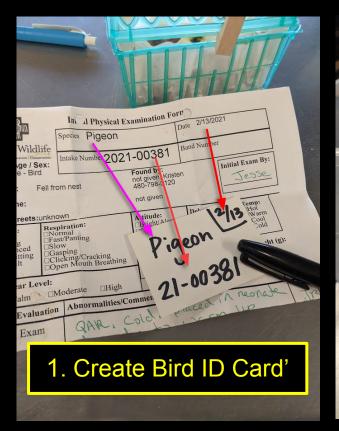


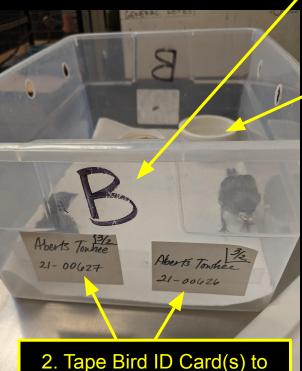


3. Put Liberty file in 'OC Active Files' folder. See Coordinator if you have any questions!

Always make sure that clothes pin is securely fastened. Please always pick up berry basket from bottom of basket -- never the top as to avoid it accidently opening and dropping the baby.

#### Setting up a Bin





front of bin.

3. Create 'floor' of folded paper towels.

4. Provide food and water toward the <u>back</u> of the bin.

Since the babies often come to the front of the bin to beg, putting the food and water towards the back helps keep babies clean and dry.

5. Add any bin extras that species may need.

Check Bin Xtra column on guide (see next two slides).

5. Create food log for that bin.

This will be explained later in the presentation.

### What should I feed the baby birds? It all depends on the species!



Our two main groups in Orphan Care are Doves (Seed Eaters) and Gapers (Insect Eaters). In general, if a bird gapes at you (opens its mouth begging) you can be fairly confident it is an insect eater (at least as a baby). Young doves and pigeons do not gape and are fed a plant-based diet from day one (doves and pigeons will need to be tube fed until they are old enough to eat on their own).

Certain species are self feeding from birth. These include quail, stilts, and killdeer, among others. *Never attempt to hand feed or force feed these birds*.

As every species is different and therefore may have different nutritional needs, a bird species Food Chart is posted in OC. This will tell you what to feed to whom. See next slide for example.

What to hand feed bird when an infant Species

What to hand feed young bird

What foods to provide Other bin needs in bin set-up

Bird Type	Neonate	HF (Hand Feed)	In Bin for SF (Self-Feeding)	Bin Extra
Abert's Towhee	CF	CF MW	MW CF CRM	
Cactus Wren	CF	CF MW	Live MW CF CRM CRK	Kleenex Box
Cowbird	CF	CF MW FR	MW CF SD CRM FR	
Doves (Inca, Collared)	TF Exact	TF Exact	SD (small-large)	
Ducks Never HF/FF!!	No HF! CRM DMW	No HF! CRM DMW GR	CRM DMW SC GR	
Flycatcher	CF	CF MW	MW CF CRK FR CRM	Cage, not bin
Finch, House	CF	CF MW	SD Thistle CF	Kleenex Box
Great Tailed Grackle	CF	CF MW FR	MW CF FR CRM CRK	
Glla Woodpecker	CF	CF MW	MW CF FR CRM CRK	Kleenex Box, Towel
Gilded Fli Goldfinch, The comp	olete list is posted i	n OC on the upper c	abinet to the left of t	he sink.
	05	N4	North No. 1100 and deal	0

#### **Food Abbreviations**

**CF** = CAT FOOD **GR** = GREENS

**CRK** = CRICKETS **MW** = MEALWORMS

**CRM** = CRUMBLE **SD** = SEED

**FR** = FRUIT

MEALWORMS WF = WINGLESS FLIES

**WW** = WAXWORMS

This list is also posted in OC! :)

#### Other Abbreviations used most often:

HF= Hand Feed
usually means feeding gaper with
tweezers

TF= Tube Feed refers to tube feeding doves and pigeons

SIC= Seed in Crop for doves/pigeons--we feel crop of bird to determine if bird is starting to self feed

SF= Self Feeding
the baby was observed eating on its own

#### **Less Common Abbreviations:**

FF= Force Feed done only in certain cases--will explain later in presentation

DNE= Did Not Eat
usually denotes self feeding birds in
bins who did not eat any of provided
food

ST= Seed Tube not used as often--coordinator will explain as needed

This list is also posted in OC! :)

# How Do I Feed the Baby Birds? We will give you hands on training once the season starts!

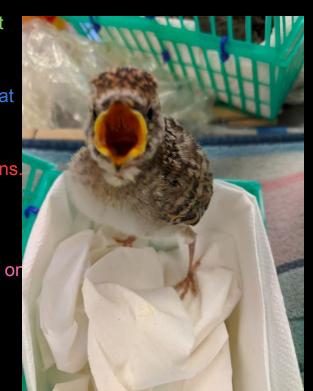
In general, Gapers will be fed using tweezers to put food in baby's throat (this is especially important for neonates).

Doves and Pigeons will be tube fed (i.e. putting a tube down baby's throat into crop and filling it with Exact formula).

Hummers and lovebirds are fed differently than gapers and doves/pigeons.

You will be trained during your first few OC shifts on how to do this properly. It all may seem daunting at first, but we will walk you through it and make sure you feel confident in your abilities before sending you off or your own!

Prepping the food will also be covered in your training!



#### Feeding Schedules: A basic guide to times

Every 20 minutes: All hummingbirds that are not yet self feeding. This includes those in brooder as well as in hummingbird cage.

Every 30-45 minutes: Neonates and 'at risk' birds. We try to keep these birds in specific brooders to help expedite the process.

Every 30-60 minutes: Brooder babies (gapers).

Every 1-2 hours: Neonate doves/pigeons and bin gapers.

Every 2-3 hours: Dove/Pigeon brooder babies and outdoor hand feed birds.

Every 3-4 hours: Older dove/pigeons that still need tube feeding.

Please note that these times are goals, and it's understood that during high season keeping up may be difficult/near impossible! :)

#### Food Logs

To keep track of when and what is being fed to the babies, we keep detailed food logs.

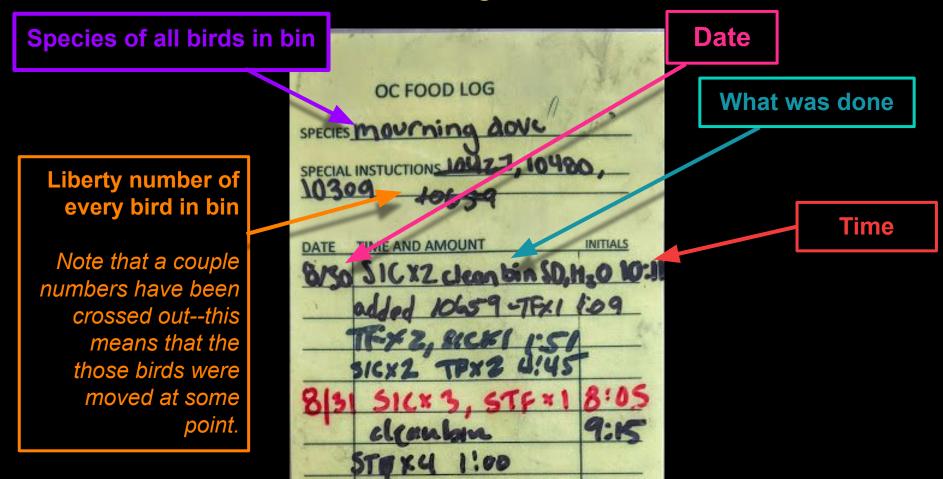
Each bin will have a food log, which will show the history of the feeding and care for all the birds in that particular bin.

We clean bins once per day, and that is also marked on the food log with the time, as to avoid unnecessary cleaning of bins.

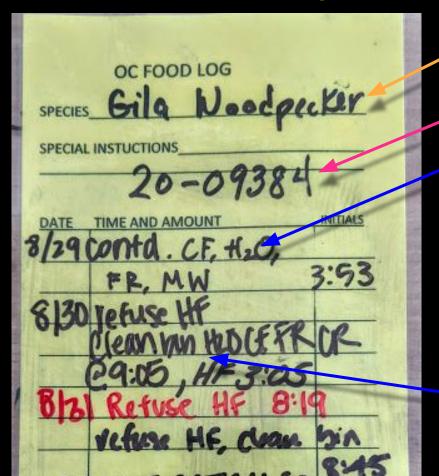
Please note--bins get really dirty. If it's been already cleaned that day, feed and move on. We have had issues in the past where bins have been cleaned multiple times in a day, while babies on another shelf have gone hungry and suffered.

Each brooder will have its own food log--simply write the time you start on that brooder.

#### Food Log Basics



### Reading a Food Log: Gapers



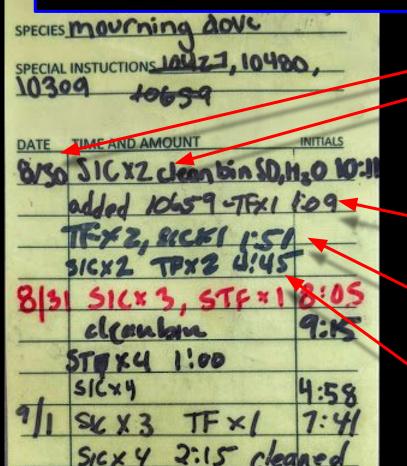
The Species is a Gila Woodpecker

It's Liberty Number is 20-09384

8/29 contd. CF, H20, FR, MW 3:53 -- August 29th, 'contd.'--continued, meaning earlier notations from 8/29 are on the other side of the food log. CF (cat food), H2O (water), FR (fruit), MW (mealworms) were provided in bin at 3:53pm.

8/30 refuse HF Clean bin H20 CF FR CR @9:05, HF 3:05 -- August 30th, the bird refused hand feeding, the bin was cleaned and they provided H2O (water), CF (cat food), FR (fruit), CR (crumble) at 9:05am. The bird was hand fed at 3:05.

### Reading a Food Log: Doves and Pigeons



8/30--August 30th

'SIC x 2 clean bin SD, H2O 10:11'--two doves had seed in crop, which means they were self feeding and did not need to be tube fed. The bin was cleaned. Seed and water were provided. Time done: 10:11am.

<u>'Added 10659- TFx1 1:09'</u> --- A dove with the Liberty number 20-10659 was added to the bin and was tube fed as well at 1:09.

'TFx 2, SICx1 1:51' -- tube feed times two, seed in crop times one at 1:51pm. So two were tube fed, but one had seed in crop so it was not tube fed. 'SICx2 TFx2 4:45'-- seed in crop times two, tube feed times two at 4:45.

#### Some OC Bird Abbreviations/ Nicknames

You may see these abbreviations on food logs or other materials.

MODO = Mourning Dove

ECDO = Euroasian Collared Dove (may also be written as 'Collard')

WW = White Winged Dove

Mocker = Northern Mockingbird

Hummer = Hummingbird

Inca =Inca Dove

Gila = Gila Woodpecker



### What if the baby doesn't seem to want to eat?

There are a few reasons why a baby may not be interested in eating.

- Does it seem too sleepy to eat? Let the coordinator know immediately!!! This could be a sign of dehydration, which can kill a baby.
- If it's bright and alert but just doesn't want to eat, first thing to try to 'speak bird,' i.e. make a sound similar to its parent. This works especially well with Mockingbirds. Other things to try is waving your hand over it to replicate the mom coming in for a landing or circling the tweezers with the food to catch its attention (like you'd do for a small human child).
- Is it starting to self feed (applies to bin birds only)? Take the bird's age into account. If it's bright and alert and feathered, it may be starting to see us as a predator. That's good! Observe the bird for a bit to see if it eats on its own, make sure the bird has plenty of food and water, and check back later.
- If it's just arrived from Triage, give it some time (this will be explained on the force feeding slide).

#### When Should I Force Feed a Bird??

The short answer is ONLY WHEN GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE COORDINATOR.

Also,

### PLEASE REFRAIN FROM FORCE FEEDING A BABY BIRD UPON ITS ARRIVAL TO OC

Birds are often traumatized when they first arrive. They've fallen from a nest (or whatever their situation may be), and they've just been handled by the Med Services Team. This can be an incredibly stressful time for the baby. Also, Med Services very likely gave the baby fluids, which can replace a feeding. If the baby gapes/begs for food when it arrives, by all means feed it. But for a baby that refuses--what it needs at that moment is a warm, dark and quiet environment for a little while. If the baby looks dehydrated or unresponsive, let the Coordinator know asap.

#### **Outdoor Hand Feeding**

Certain birds will continue to be hand fed even though they've been moved outside. This is done for a variety of reasons.

Swallows are one of the species for which this applies. As adults they eat and drink while flying (i.e. they will not eat out of a dish), so it is up to us to hand feed them while they're building their flight muscles in preparation for release.

Our goal is to hand feed outside <u>once every two</u> <u>hours.</u>

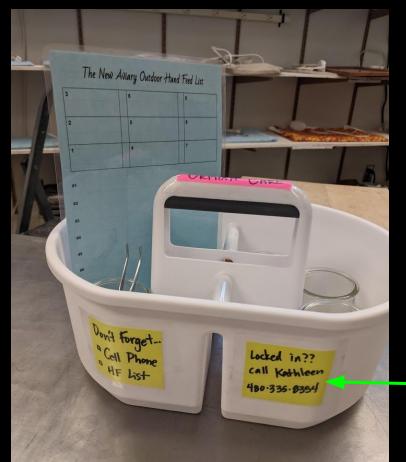
You will be trained on how to feed outdoor birds and the outdoor hand feed list will give you the species and locations of these birds in the aviaries.



Here you can see a swallow flying and catching a mealworm off volunteer

Angela's tweezers!

#### Here is the Outdoor Hand Feed Caddy and Food Log



Outdoor hand feed supplies will be kept in this caddy to expedite the process.

When not in use, the caddy should be placed next to the microwave in Orphan Care.

Please remember to always take your phone with you!!

Here is Kathleen's number in case you get locked in!

#### 'Coordinator Only' Birds

On occasion we will get in a species of bird that will be designated Coordinator Only, such as a Lesser Nighthawk or Poorwill. These birds are to be handled and cared for only by the OC Coordinator (this includes cleaning the bin or berry basket).

They are deemed Coordinator Only because of an attribute that makes the animal more delicate or difficult to feed and care for.

These berry baskets or bins will be clearly marked 'Coordinator Only.'



Newly hatched Lesser Nighthawk



Lesser Nighthawk at approx. four weeks old

#### Common Avian Diseases to Look Out For \*

There are a few diseases you may encounter in Orphan Care that are potentially transferable between birds. The bin will be clearly marked to let you know the bird carries or has been exposed to the disease.

**Pox** (Avipoxvirus) is common to see in Orphan Care. It will look like large bumps often (but not always) near the beak or on the legs or feet. It is contagious between like species, so it's unlikely to pass between a grackle and a dove, but could potentially pass between a grackle and a starling.

**Avian conjunctivitis.** This bacterial infection often (but not always) affects finches, and will manifest as red swelling around the eye or eyes. It is highly contagious between birds.

#### Common Avian Diseases to Look Out For (cont.)\*

Canker (Trichomonosis) is spread through contaminated water or saliva. It mainly affects doves and pigeons, but can be spread between different species (birds of prey often get Canker from eating infected doves and pigeons). Canker will often first present as white or yellow-ish spots in the mouth or swelling in throat or crop. Canker is also often discovered when a volunteer has a hard time tube feeding a bird from the swelling in the throat.

Anytime you suspect a bird may have a disease (and it is not already marked on bin or cage), please let the Coordinator know (or Med Services if Coordinator is unavailable) as soon as possible.

\*please note that these diseases are not contagious to humans

# How Do I Care for a Bird with (or has been exposed to) an Avian Disease?

- Prep all your food beforehand, so there's no risk of cross contamination.
- •Wear gloves and bleach and wash them between each bin. If you handle the bird outside its bin, wear an apron and spray it with chlorhex between bins/berry basket.
- •When tube feeding, make sure the <u>tubes are properly sanitized between bins/</u> <u>berry basket</u>.
- •<u>Tweezers and any other tools</u> used in feeding must be <u>completely sanitized</u> before moving on to next bin/ berry basket.

#### What to do when a bird passes away

The sad truth is we cannot save every baby that comes through our door. Please remember that arriving at Liberty was a second chance for the baby and often even our best efforts do not result in a baby thriving.

- 1. Write today's date on the bird's ID tag. This is incredibly important!!!
- Please put <u>ID tag</u> and any attached <u>med cards</u> <u>into envelope provided</u> (to be filed appropriately later by the Coordinator or Intern).
- 3. If the bird had a **band on its leg, please remove it** and put in designated box. Bands are reused.
- 4. **Dispose of the body** (we do not save the bodies of juvenile animals).

#### **DID A BIRD PASS AWAY??**

ON ITS BIRD ID CARD

AND

PLACE IT IN <u>THIS ENVELOPE</u> THANKS!!!!

This envelope is taped to the cabinet near Brooder #1

#### Did a bird pass away and you can't find its ID tag?

#### DID A BIRD PASS AWAY





#### YOU CAN'T FIND THE BIRD ID TAG?

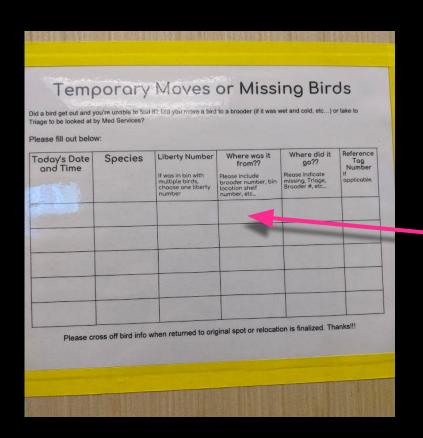
PLEASE FILL THIS OUT.

IF THE BIRD HAD A MED CARD, PLEASE PLACE IN ENVELOPE BELOW AND WRITE ITS LIBERTY NUMBER (IT'S ON THE MED CARD) ON A BLANK ID CARD AND PLACE IN ENVELOPE. THANKS!!

etc) Bin locati
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Fill out this form in posted on the cabinet near Brooder #1.

### 'Bird Out!'



If a bird escapes its bin/cage, simply say 'bird out' loud enough for everyone to hear.

We have a variety of nets in OC to help you safely catch the little one.

If you cannot locate the bird after looking for a time, fill out its info on this form posted on the cabinet near Brooder #1. This will help us if we are unable to find the bird before the shift change.

If you take a little one to triage (and leave it with Med Services), please fill this out as well.

#### The Incubator: Where we hatch eggs!



FYI: A Liberty number is assigned only when the egg hatches. Eggs are never given numbers as they are just the 'potential' of a bird.

People often drop off unhatched eggs at Liberty. The eggs will gently be labeled with a grease pencil with date they came in on.

The water+chlorhexidine trough in the incubator must be filled daily (usually by coordinator, but feel free to check in the morning or before leaving for the evening). The incubator is located in the hallway next to Orphan Care.

We will often put extremely young neonates in incubator as they made need the higher temp/humidity.

Please use extreme care when opening incubator and pulling out shelves----SHELVES FALL FORWARD!

PLEASE KEEP ONE HAND ON SHELF ENTIRE TIME.

#### OC's Online Editable Calendar

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This is the OC 'by the week' editable
calendar. When we
have shifts that are
short staffed, we will
send out an SOS call
(via email) with a link
to this calendar.

You may add your name to the shift that needs help (this only commits you to that one shift that particular day).

You may also email Kathleen to add your name to a shift if you are unable to add it yourself.

July by the Week (Example)							
28 Sunday	1 Monday	2 Tuesday	3 Wed	4 Thurs	5 Friday	6 Saturday	
7am-11am Kaori Edward L. Colleen O. Danielle	7am-11am Hannah B. Lise Ginger	7am-11am Carolyn Lee	7am-11am Phyllis B. Natalya	7am-11am Lori	7am-11am Allison R Sophie B Jamie T	7am-11am Sammy S. Ajay Leah S. Savannah E.	
11am-3pm Amy (every other) Rafael Desiree Brittany	11am-3pm Elizabeth M. Nancy Christine A.	11am-3pm Jan R (until June) Cara M. Julie P.	11am-3pm Emile S. Sandi N.	11am-3pm Shannon M. LaVerne	11am-3pm Tina R. Jay Reilly H. Sierra	11am-3pm Christine D.(until May) Logan and Grayson Nicole M.	
Bpm-7pm Dawn E. Jen T. Barb Katie G. Catherine W.	3pm-7pm Angelica G. Danielle K. Taylor S. Vanessa (5-7)	3pm-7pm Jorie Becky Katie C. Sydney (I)	3pm-7pm Alex H. Melissa K. Molly Katie C.	3pm-7pm Darcelle Kelsey C Sarah W. Sydney (I)	3pm-7pm Mira Gabrielle Raelyn C. Joel D.	3pm-7pm Adrian B. Kailey L. Jen F. Caroline V.	

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
<b>7am-11am</b> Kaori Edward L. Colleen O. Danielle	7am-11am Hannah B. Lise Ginger	7am-11am Carolyn Lee	7am-11am Phyllis B. Natalya	7am-11am Lori	7am-11am Allison R Sophie B Jamie T	<b>7am-11am</b> Sammy S. Ajay Leah S. Savannah E.
11am-3pm	11am-3pm	11am-3pm	11am-3pm	11am-3pm	11am-3pm	11am-3pm
Amy (every	Elizabeth M.	Jan R (until	Emile S.	Shannon M.	Tina R.	Christine
other)	Nancy	June)	Sandi N.	LaVerne	Jay	D.(until May)

A hard copy of this will also be posted in Orphan Care at all times as well.

# Social Media Policy Reminder Please <u>never</u> post Orphan Care photos online!



It's ok to take the occasional photo in Orphan Care, but please <u>never</u> share these photos <u>via social media.</u>

We have certain rules put in place by Fish and Game that must adhere to, and this is one of them. This applies to <u>any</u> photo taken on the rehab (hospital) side of Liberty, including the outdoor aviaries.

The Education side is open to the public three days a week. There you are welcome to photograph, post, and tag as much as you like. Please let the Coordinator know if you have any questions. :)

### Do you have pet birds or bunnies at home? Read this:

If you have pet birds (this includes parrots and backyard chickens) or a domestic rabbit at home, it's a good idea to take precautions!

Having a designated pair of shoes for Liberty that you never wear in your home is a good idea (some people keep their Liberty shoes in their car). Also, it's advisable to immediately shower and change clothes when arriving home as well as a precaution.

It's great to help wildlife while also keeping your at-home pets safe!



# Thank you so much for taking the time to read/watch this presentation!!!!



2021 is going to be a great season!
We so appreciate your caring and hard work!! :)

#### Questions

- 1. What kind (species) of birds do we strive to hand feed every 20 minutes?
- 2. How often should hand feeding happen in the outdoor aviaries?
- 3. What kinds (species) of birds should never be hand fed (please name a couple examples)?
- 4. What should you do if a baby seems too sleepy to eat?
- 5. When should you throw out a Liberty file or med card?
- 6. How often should a bin be cleaned?
- 7. When should you force-feed a baby bird?
- 8. What info should you include on a bird ID card?
- 9. What do you do when a bird passes away?

Please email answers before your first shift to Kathleen at kathleens@libertywildlife.org