

# Wild & Free

**Giving Wildlife a Second Chance.....**

## Wildlife Haven Loses a Friend

This past February, having been in poor health for many months, Betty Goodwin passed on and Chuck and I lost both a wonderful personal friend and a great supporter of Wildlife Haven.

We met Betty while we were still based in Tiro. I am really not sure of the year but think it was probably in the early 90's. We had admitted an emaciated cormorant who, for whatever reason, was quite personable and almost friendly. Given those qualities, he was not releasable and when he recovered we placed him with the Columbus Zoo. Once out of quarantine we were invited to come down and see him in his new exhibit and there we met Betty. 'Cormie' was in one of the areas she regularly worked and she was extremely fond of him.

That bird was the start of a treasured personal relationship and also of our having the Columbus Zoo bring their animals to our events. Betty arranged all of that and paid for it every time. She loved coming up for our Open House and usually worked the desk in the office or the Visitor Center. If you attended any of our events you probably met her. She always arrived bearing bagels and cream cheese from one of the fresh bagel places down in Columbus—a favorite of ours. When we would go to Columbus we would often make arrangements to either meet Betty at the zoo or at her house and then we would head out to eat at Joe's Crab Shack or one of the many Mexican places we all liked. She was one of those people who never forgot to send you a birthday card.



Her formal obituary reads, in part: "Elizabeth Ann Goodwin, of Dublin, age 68, died Friday, February 15, 2008 at St. Ann's Hospital, Westerville. Betty was born in Buffalo, NY, although most of her life was lived in Ohio and Connecticut. She was a graduate of the Flora Stone Mather College and the Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case-Western Reserve University and Southern Connecticut State University. She practiced nursing in the Cleveland area and teaching in Orange, CT. After being overcome by Lupus she devoted her life to volunteer work: at her beloved Columbus Zoo, as a member of the Columbus Lupus hotline, and tutoring disadvantaged children. She also established a scholarship for needy students at the Bolton School of Nursing."



Betty never married, but she had a large family of friends and a marvelously full life, despite her health and mobility problems. Her many friends will miss her and I know that it will be a long time before I will be able to go visit the Columbus Zoo without expecting to see her near her beloved penguins and flamingos. She was a great lady and will be very much missed.



## ~ A Message from the Director

Things are getting quite busy around here! We have baby squirrels, raccoons, woodchucks and cottontails in the clinic and nestling birds will soon be showing up. The next week or two will see us releasing the six late-born grey squirrels who spent the winter. The washer and dryer are working overtime—3 to 4 big loads a day—washing all the towels and washcloths we use to keep the young wildlife dry, warm, clean and cozy. Trying to make the time to get this newsletter written and printed is tough!

Our End of the Year Appeal was quite successful and I want to thank all of you who made a donation. We were able to buy the incubator we wanted and I am seriously considering buying a second one for baby birds. The company that makes the incubators, Petiatric of Wichita, Kansas, was kind enough to waive their delivery fee and that saved us \$50! Every dollar counts around here and that \$50 saved will buy another 5 pound bucket of formula powder to feed all those little squirrels, woodchucks and opossum babies we take care of.

Yesterday our summer intern arrived. She is 19 year-old Ashley Lawson and she's from Waterford, Vermont. She's only been here a day, so it's hard to give her a performance evaluation yet, but she is already being quite a help and seems to greatly enjoy the work. We will try to have a little feature about her in the next issue!

We still have another month before most of our volunteers start working - hopefully, with Ashley's assistance, I will be able to keep up with the first rush of spring babies in need of help! At the moment it is just young mammals but soon there will be the extremely frequent feeding necessary for the nestling songbirds.

### Wildlife Haven 3659 S.R. 598 Crestline OH 44827 **Mission Statement**

*To promote positive attitudes & behaviors towards wildlife and foster awareness, appreciation and interest in Ohio's wildlife through rehabilitation, education and stewardship.*

Wildlife Haven was founded in 1990. Our main focus is on the care of injured, orphaned & displaced wildlife. Wildlife Haven gives professional care to native birds and animals and gives them a second chance at life in the natural world..

Jane Schnelker, Exec. Director  
Chuck Cotsmire, Trustee  
Dianne McMahon, Trustee  
John Shuler, DVM, Trustee  
Deb Landin, Trustee  
Shannon Henize, Trustee  
Boyd Epperson, DVM, Advisor  
Juanita Carter, Advisor  
James Pry, Atty., Advisor  
Mike Hocker, Advisor

Our Open House will be June 21st this year - it's always on the 3rd Saturday. We hope we'll have the usual beautiful weather for the day and we also hope that you will take the time to stop by and help make it a great success. I have never run into anyone who was disappointed about stopping by!

Thanks to all of you who have cared enough to bring us an animal in need of help or donated money to help us achieve our goals of giving wildlife a second chance.....

~ Jane





## Annual Membership

How would you like to give yourself the good feeling of knowing you are helping to make a difference? We're offering our friends and supporters the opportunity to share in helping wildlife by **becoming a member of Wildlife Haven**. Member's support will provide animals in our care with the necessary food, medical care and housing. **The biggest benefit given to members is the knowledge that they are a part of Wildlife Haven and are actively doing something to help the environment on a personal and local level.** Wildlife Haven Memberships run January through December. Simply circle a category, clip out this form and slip it and your dues into the mail to Wildlife Haven, 3659 St. Rt. 598, Crestline, OH 44827-9729! Those who are already members will receive their renewal form, along with a stamped addressed envelope via first-class mail ! Thanks for your support!

### Wildlife Haven Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join in the following membership category: (Circle one)

Regular ~ \$25

Family ~ \$40

Student/Senior ~ \$15

Sustaining ~ \$100

Patron ~ \$250

Benefactor ~ \$500

## A Windfall for Wildlife?

It's always great to have a little extra money - unexpected money like the 'rebate' check most of us are getting from Uncle Sam. Some people will use their check to pay bills, some might go buy themselves something they have been wanting but didn't feel they could really afford. Another option to be considered is donating a bit of it to a good cause.

Wildlife Haven, a non-profit facility that operates in large part due to the kindness and generosity of private citizens, would benefit greatly by this type of gift. We didn't do a spring mail fund drive this year so perhaps this could be a good way to beef up our operating funds so that we can meet the needs of all those creatures who will be brought to our clinic over the next few months!

Please take the time and consider donating a portion of your tax rebate check to Wildlife Haven! The wildlife in our care will certainly benefit from your thoughtfulness!







## Wildlife Profile ~ American Robin

### American Robin

*Turdus migratorius*

#### At-a-Glance

- Mating: Monogamous
- Peak Breeding Activity: April- July
- Incubation Period: 13 days
- Young Hatch: Late April- July; they are altricial, and require their parents' care
- Number of Eggs: 3-4
- Eggs Produced: 2 broods in a year are typical, but sometimes 3 are produced
- Migration Patterns: Seasonal resident although there are winter roosts of robins in Ohio. Peak of the migration south is in October.
- Feeding Periods: Probably the majority of feeding takes place in the morning and evenings. When feeding young they likely feed all day.
- Typical foods: Earthworms, insects, and fruit

#### Description

The head, back, wings, and tail are a very dark gray to black in male robins and a slightly duller/lighter shade in females. The well-known breast is a light brown to brick red for adult males and a duller shade of red in females. The tail is tipped in white. Robins also have a slight white ring around their eyes. Legs and feet are a beige-gray.

#### Habitat and Habits

Robins prefer mowed habitat in urban, suburban, and rural areas for most of their activities. Some will use open woodland areas with sparse understory or ground cover. They are social birds that, when not breeding, will roost communally with other robins and occasionally with starlings and blackbirds.



#### Reproduction and Care of the Young

Robins breed and nest in virtually any mowed area with suitable nesting sites--ranging from trees, to buildings, to fence posts--nearby. Nests are usually within 35 feet of the ground. Young robins are altricial, meaning they depend on their parents for their complete care. The female constructs the nest and incubates the eggs. Males help rear the nestlings and fledglings by providing food. The male's feeding role is more prominent late into the rearing of the first brood, as the female has diverted her attention to building a nest for the next brood. Young robins leave the nest at about 13 days.

*Editor's Note: Our thanks to the Ohio Division of Wildlife for this article and the photo of the adult.*

*The photo of the 3 fledglings was taken in the*

*clinic here at Wildlife Haven. While I am typing this, I can glance out the window at the nest in the large shrub against the house and watch an adult robin brooding her eggs. Will be fun to watch the progress!*



## ASSISTING YOUNG WILDLIFE

**Every year thousands of young wild animals are found by people. Many of these animals do not need to be rescued!! We can help you decide whether or not to rescue a young wild animal. The following information will help you to assess a situation before you call.**

**Am I an Orphan?** An "orphan" is a young animal that is not able to care for itself and whose parents cannot be found or are known to be dead. If you find a healthy young animal that is able to walk and is fully feathered or furred, it may not need your help. Its parents are usually nearby. Observe the young animal from a distance for awhile before calling the wildlife rehabilitation facility.

**Am I in Danger?** Young wild animals in danger do not necessarily have to be taken from the wild, just protected from the danger. Pets and children are the most immediate hazard to a young wild animal in your yard. Pets may attack the young animal and children may cause injury by mishandling it. Some wild animals carry diseases. Keep pets and children away from the animal while you assess the situation with a wildlife rehabilitator.

Another danger is hypothermia. Nestling (infant) animals need to be brooded and kept warm by their parents. If a young animal is cold to the touch, tell the wildlife facility so they can advise you about what to do.

**Am I Injured or Weak?** If the young animal appears thin, weak or injured, it should be rescued and delivered as soon as possible to a rehabilitation facility. If an animal has been attacked by a cat or a dog, assume it is injured even if no injury is obvious. Pet attacks usually cause significant internal damage.

**Eastern Cottontail Rabbit** - Eastern cottontails feed their young only at night. You will not find the female at her nest during the day. Rabbits leave the nest at a very young age. A small rabbit with its eyes open, ears standing up, and approximately five inches long is self sufficient and does not need your help.

**Squirrels and Raccoons** - Squirrels and raccoons will retrieve their offspring when they fall or wander from

the nest. They also have alternate nest sites if one nest is destroyed. Give the mother raccoons and squirrels plenty of time to find and rescue their young before intervening.

**Virginia Opossum** - Opossums are marsupials. Their young stay in a pouch on the mother's belly. Female opossums that have been killed by cars may have live young in their pouch that need to be rescued

**White-tailed Deer** - A small fawn lying alone in a meadow is not necessarily an orphan! The female deer will protect her young from predators by leaving it alone in a secluded spot. A fawn in trouble will usually be wandering around making distressed sounds. Do not attempt to rescue a fawn until you have discussed the situation with a rehabilitation facility.

**Do  
I Need  
Help?**



**Songbirds and Birds of Prey** - Nestling songbirds and birds of prey (hawks and owls) usually lack feathers or are covered with down. They are not yet able to perch. These young birds can be placed back into their nests if at all possible.

When songbirds and birds of prey leave the nest they are "fledglings" and have feathers covering their bodies. They leave the nest before they are able to fly well and often are in danger due to introduced predators such as domestic cats. If possible, remove the danger and place the young bird under cover of shrubbery or on a tree branch. Watch from a distance to be sure the adult birds are caring for the young bird.

**Waterfowl** - Young ducks and geese are often separated from the rest of the brood as they follow parents to food or water. When you find a young duckling, note the location of possible places where the rest of the brood may be, then call a rehabilitator for advice on how to reunite the youngster with its family.

### Earth Share of Ohio - Environmental Workplace Giving

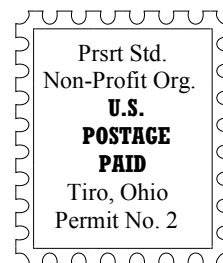
If you already support Wildlife Haven by your designated workplace giving through Earth Share of Ohio, please disregard any funding appeals you may receive from us throughout the year!

A NEWSLETTER FROM WILDLIFE HAVEN~  
CENTER FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION

3659 State Route 598  
Crestline OH 44827-9729

Giving Wildlife a Second Chance....

Return Service Requested



Earth Share  
OF OHIO

## **WILDLIFE HAVEN'S OPEN HOUSE**

***Saturday, June 21st Noon to Five***

*Our Open House is your annual opportunity to tour Wildlife Haven, visit all our residents, our Visitor Center, and learn a little about the work of a wildlife rehabilitation facility!*



*"Think green" on June 21st and come out in support of Ohio's native wildlife and the work done at Wildlife Haven. Check us out, enjoy a brat-wurst sandwich or a hotdog and a can of pop and sit in the shade under the trees! You're sure to enjoy yourself and we would love to see you, whether you're a first-time attendee or a long-time friend and supporter of Wildlife Haven.*

*We look forward to seeing you here!*