



THE FLEDGLING

WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC. OF NEW MEXICO

EDITOR:
Janelle Harden

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Denise Coil
Chris Chadwick
Judy Durzo
Elizabeth Penn Elliston
Janelle Harden
Carol Leland
Peggy McCormick
Marilyn Morain
Mike Richard
Tom Silva
Claudette Sandoval-Green
[in absentia]
Brett Snyder
[Emeritus]

TREASURER:
Stephanie Mitchell

[505] 344-2500
P.O. Box 13222
Albuquerque, NM 87192-3222

Wildlife Rescue's rehabilitation data assists New Mexico's wildlife managers

The Spring 2008 *Fledgling* included an article about The RAVEN Project (RAVEN) begun in 2004 by Wildlife Rescue's (WRI) data manager, Anne Russell. Initially, Anne instructed a class at (then) Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute that focused on using geographic information system (GIS) technology to turn WRI data into information that is useful for rehabilitation decisions, public education, and wildlife management issues. Over the ensuing years, it became evident that WRI's data could be of great value to wildlife managers, particularly to those in the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's (Department) Conservation Services Division (CSD). The CSD administers the Department's *Share with Wildlife* program (SwW), whose mission is "to assist all New Mexico wildlife in need, no matter what species." Through SwW, funding is available for 'wildlife in need' within the areas of biological research, wildlife education, habitat conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation.

Wildlife Rescue has been privileged to receive grants from the program since SwW began their efforts to conserve New Mexico's wildlife in 1981. In response to a 2008 Department proposal requesting "projects addressing gaps in information and management for species of conservation need," RAVEN (Anne Russell and Janelle Harden, WRI's Permit Liaison and 20-year member) proposed to apply the WRI dataset to that purpose. A research grant was awarded by SwW for FY 2008-2009 to analyze all threatened, endangered, and species of greatest conservation need (referred to as "target species" within the report) received by WRI over the 19-year span of 1990 through 2008. Anne and Janelle spent a year in research and analysis and delivered the final report on June 30, 2009. The project document focuses on cause of encounter, injury-condition, final disposition (removal or return to the wild population), and natural versus anthropogenic causes of mortality. The 200-page report is very reader-friendly, despite the vast amount of data presented. The animals you brought to us—or rehabilitated—are represented in this research project. We invite all of you to obtain the report, which has been posted at the Department's website: http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/share_with_wildlife/index.htm. Scroll to the bottom of the web page and look in the 2009 reports for "RAVEN: Application of WRI rehabilitation data – Russell and Harden." Wildlife Rescue's annual report is also posted.

In the meantime, Anne Russell has provided a brief commentary on our findings; please see page 2 of this *Fledgling*. The unique and largely untapped dataset found in WRI's records will help fill information gaps about threats to those target species referenced in the Department's request for proposals. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time any rehabilitation organization in the United States has been provided research funding by a wildlife management agency. It is extremely gratifying to apply our rehabilitation data to the broader, population scale of wildlife management issues. —Janelle Harden



What is happening to our state's wildlife?

Of the varied and numerous threats to wildlife in the state of New Mexico, some are better known and understood than others. In general, habitat loss and degradation, the introduction of invasive species, and the broad category of "human disturbance" are the greatest overall threats. Each of these creates serious and far-reaching problems, and when combined with more species- or locality-specific threats, the synergistic effects can overwhelm both populations and ecosystems. It was our intent with this research to explore the unique human-wildlife interactions seen by Wildlife Rescue, Inc. of New Mexico in order to fill some information gaps about threats to the state's at-risk species.

Cats, Cars, and Caring People

One may not initially consider cat attacks and collisions as large threats to wildlife, but our data show that these are indeed factors; *they are the most common causes of encounter for the target species received by WRI*. In addition, well-meaning, caring people—the kind of people who avidly support wildlife conservation—can often themselves be a threat. When they find young animals, they often think that they are in trouble because they are alone or on the ground. "Kidnapped" young are the fourth largest group, in terms of numbers, for WRI's target species acquisitions.

During this research, we found that 70% of target species that were attacked by a domestic animal(s), and 62% of those animals that suffered collisions (with windows, cars, and other objects), were removed from the population (died). Remember that, for every animal brought to us, there are far more animals that are not found, or *are* found but not taken to rehabilitation centers. Thus WRI's numbers do not fully represent the total number of animals that are attacked or suffer collisions each year.

Understandably, WRI's release rate of 59% for kidnapped young is higher than that of attacks and collisions. To a certain extent, we *are* able to mitigate the losses to the population due to kidnapping. However, some species do not fair as well as others when raised in captive situations. In the same manner as attacks and collisions, it would be safe to assume that at least an equal amount of young animals are *not* brought to WRI as the ones that are—and those 'raised' by an untrained public often do not survive.

Wildlife Rescue places a strong emphasis on educating and informing the public about ways to reduce risks to wildlife and about what they should or should not do if they find animals that appear to be in need of rehabilitation. We discuss options with cat-owners who bring us 'Fluffy's prizes,' always stressing that the best option is to keep their cats indoors; we talk to people about how to 'bird-safe' their windows; and

we provide information about when a baby animal *does* need to be brought to us. However, most of this education occurs on an individual basis while we are talking to rescuers who bring animals to the clinic. Our organization's web site and public hotline messages also include this information, so we do reach more people through these means of communication. However, there are still thousands of folks in the state with whom we never get the chance to communicate.

Our education attempts can never fully address these issues, particularly in the case of cat attacks. In addition, most people don't consider the number of animals killed by *other* people's cats—they only see the few animals that their cats bring home. It is challenging to impress upon the public the tremendous impact that *everyone's* cats have on wildlife.

The Urban Myth

Wildlife Rescue's data, from 1990 to 2008, contains records for 4,088 state-listed and species of greatest conservation need (target species). Because WRI is centered in Albuquerque, the majority of our records involve animals found in and around the city. Therefore, one might reason that the types of cause of encounter (COE) in our dataset are associated only with urban and suburban areas. However, although the scope of this research project did not include studying differences in COEs between urban and non-urban areas, we believe any such analysis would show minimal variances. Moreover, there are several areas in Albuquerque, including the Rio Grande bosque and the foothills of the Sandia Mountains, which provide habitat for numerous and diverse wildlife. Because of these important natural environments, records of species found our 'Albuquerque area' records cannot be discounted as solely related to 'urban' situations.

Of the species of greatest conservation need and threatened and endangered species in New Mexico, 77% are birds, many of whom migrate through the Middle Rio Grande Valley—including those sections that transect Albuquerque and other cities. In addition, some of the species included in our report are year-round residents or breed in Albuquerque and other urban areas in New Mexico. Although they do not reside in 'wildlands,' these animals are part of their greater population within the state and, at least on the outskirts of urban areas, interact with their 'wildland' counterparts. For this reason, threats that may be considered mostly urban-related (such as collisions with windows, cars, and structures and attacks by cats and dogs) must be considered along with other threats to these resident and migratory species.

—Anne C. Russell
WRI Data Manager



BIRDS

WILDLIFE RESCUE INC. OF NEW MEXICO Summary of Acquisitions 2006–2008

	2006	2007	2008
GREBES			
Pied-billed Grebe	3	3	5
Western Grebe	1		
HERONS & EGRETS			
Great Blue Heron	1	1	
Cattle Egret		3	1
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	2	3
DUCKS & GEESE			
Canada Goose	2	3	4
Snow Goose			1
Wood Duck	13	21	28
Mallard	91	116	41
Blue-winged Teal			1
Cinnamon Teal	1		
Northern Pintail	1		
Green-winged Teal	1	5	
Ruddy Duck	1		1
duck spp.		2	9
SCOTERS			
Surf Scoter		1	
HAWKS & ALLIES			
Osprey		1	
Bald Eagle		1	
Northern Harrier		1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	4	10
Cooper's Hawk	20	15	30
Northern Goshawk	1		
Harris' Hawk		1	
Swainson's Hawk	3	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk	1	7	9
Ferruginous Hawk		1	4
Golden Eagle	1		
raptor spp.		1	
FALCONS			
American Kestrel	15	23	24
Merlin		1	
Prairie Falcon		1	1
Peregrine Falcon	1		4
GAME BIRDS			
Chukar	1	1	
Ring-necked Pheasant	16	13	7
Blue Grouse		1	
Wild Turkey		1	
Scaled Quail	79	14	43
Gambel's Quail	17	14	29
Northern Bobwhite			1
quail spp.			12

	2006	2007	2008
RAILS, GALLINULES, & COOTS			
Virginia Rail		1	
Sora	1		4
American Coot	4		2
CRANES			
Sandhill Crane	1		3
STILTS & AVOCETS			
American Avocet		1	
PLOVERS			
Killdeer	1		9
SANDPIPERS & PHALAROPES			
Spotted Sandpiper		1	
Marbled Godwit			
PIGEONS & DOVES			
Band-tailed Pigeon	1	2	1
Collared Dove	31	15	15
Collared/Turtle-dove(?)	31	15	25
(genus <i>Streptopelia</i>)			
White-winged Dove	97	112	131
Mourning Dove	302	307	303
Inca Dove	4	3	4
dove spp.	1	2	2
CUCKOOS & ROADRUNNERS			
Greater Roadrunner	34	38	23
BARN OWLS			
Barn Owl	3	8	11
OTHER OWLS			
Flammulated Owl	1		1
Western Screech-owl	9	12	12
Great Horned Owl	17	9	16
Western Burrowing Owl	2	4	4
Long-eared Owl		2	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl			3
NIGHTHAWKS & POORWILLS			
Common Nighthawk	5	4	7
Common Poorwill	6	5	8
HUMMINGBIRDS			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	88	90	115
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	5	2	
Rufous Hummingbird	8	7	8
KINGFISHERS			
Belted Kingfisher			1
WOODPECKERS & ALLIES			
Red-naped/ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		1
Williamson's Sapsucker	1		1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker			5
Downy Woodpecker	2		1
Northern Flicker	12	2	5

...continued on page 4

BIRDS, continued

	2006	2007	2008
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS			
Black Phoebe	1		
Say's Phoebe	21	22	8
Cassin's Kingbird	2		1
Western Kingbird	10	13	6
SHRIKES			
Loggerhead Shrike	1		
VIREOS			
Cassin's Vireo	1		1
Warbling Vireo	2		
JAYS & ALLIES			
Steller's Jay	1		
Western Scrub-jay	8	5	6
Black-billed Magpie	1		
American Crow	8	17	18
Common Raven	7	6	13
Chihuahuan Raven	2	1	
LARKS			
Horned Lark	1		
SWALLOWS			
Violet-green Swallow	2		1
Cliff Swallow	4	26	1
Barn Swallow	8	22	12
swallow sp.			1
CHICKADEES, TITMICE			
Juniper Titmouse	1		1
Mountain Chickadee	1		
BUNTINGS			
Lazuli Bunting	1		
BUSHTITS			
Bushtit	5	3	5
NUTHATCHES			
White-breasted Nuthatch	3		
nuthatch spp.	1		
WRENS			
Rock Wren	1	1	1
Bewick's Wren	1		
House Wren	2		1
Winter Wren	1		1
THRUSHES & ALLIES			
Western Bluebird	1		6
Mountain Bluebird	1		1
Townsend's Solitaire	1		
Hermit Thrush	1	3	3
American Robin	105	97	88



Wildlife Rescue's acquisitions for 2008 were distributed as follows:
 78% birds
 20% mammals
 2% herpetiles
(Same percentages as 2007)

	2006	2007	2008
MOCKINGBIRDS & ALLIES			
Northern Mockingbird	6	2	2
Sage Thrasher	1		1
Curve-billed Thrasher	9	6	11
WAXWINGS			
Cedar Waxwing	4	2	1
NEW WORLD WARBLERS			
Orange-crowned Warbler	1		
Virginia's Warbler	1		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	1	1
Northern Waterthrush			1
MacGillivray's Warbler	6	5	3
Hooded Warbler	1		
Wilson's Warbler	2	1	2
Yellow-breasted Chat			1
TANAGERS			
Summer Tanager	1		
Western Tanager	2	2	2
TOWHEES & ALLIES			
Green-tailed Towhee	3		3
Spotted Towhee	1	2	3
Canyon Towhee	5	1	
Chipping Sparrow		4	1
Clay-colored Sparrow			1
Brewer's Sparrow	1		
Black-chinned Sparrow	1		1
White-throated Sparrow	1		
White-crowned Sparrow	2	5	1
Dark-eyed Junco	4	3	6
CARDINALS & ALLIES			
Black-headed Grosbeak	8	9	4
BLACKBIRDS & ALLIES			
blackbird spp.	1		
Western Meadowlark	1		
Brewer's Blackbird	2		2
Common Grackle	8	6	4
Great-tailed Grackle	1	5	1
grackle spp.		1	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		1
Orchard Oriole	1		
Bullock's Oriole	2	4	5
Scott's Oriole	1		
GOLDFINCHES & ALLIES			
Cassin's Finch	1	1	5
House Finch	141	169	124
Pine Siskin	2	2	4
Lesser Goldfinch	19	17	17
goldfinch sp.			1
Evening Grosbeak	1		
UNKNOWN avian spp.	1		2

AVIAN TOTAL: 1342¹ 1398² 1364³

[See Year-by-Year data comparison page 5]



MAMMALS

2006 2007 2008

Mexican Free-tailed Bat	4		2
Pallid Bat		1	
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	1		
Silver-haired Bat	2	1	
Hoary Bat			1
bat spp.	5	1	2
Coyote	2	1	3
Common Gray Fox	1		
Bobcat	2		
Long-tailed Weasel	1	5	1
weasel spp.			1
American Badger	1		
Striped Skunk	1	30	88
Spotted Skunk	2		2
skunk spp.	29	2	2
Ring-tail (Cat)			1
Northern Raccoon	3	18	14
White-tailed Antelope Squirrel			1
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	4		2
Gray Squirrel		3	
Least Chipmunk	2		3
Uinta (?) Chipmunk		1	
chipmunk spp.		3	
Abert's Squirrel	1		
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1		
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	1		
Mexican Spotted Ground Squirrel			1
Spotted Ground Squirrel	3		1
ground squirrel spp.		3	4
Rock Squirrel	26	19	19
squirrel spp.		9	5
Northern Pocket Gopher	1		
Valley Pocket Gopher	1		1
Field/House Mouse	7		
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	1		1
Pack Rat	2		
Southern Grasshopper Mouse	1		
White-footed [deer] Mouse	3		
Harvest Mouse spp.	3		
domestic mouse	1		
mouse spp.	1	8	9
North American Porcupine	1	1	2
Jack Rabbit	3		7
Desert Cottontail	199	227	187
domestic rabbit	3		
mammal spp.			5

MAMMAL TOTAL: 312⁴ 358⁵ 348⁶



REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS

2006 2007 2008

Common Snapper Turtle			2
snapper turtle spp.	1		1
Eastern Three-toed Turtle	2		
Eastern box turtle spp.	17		8
Western (desert subspecies) Box Turtle		1	
Western (ornate subspecies) Box Turtle	8	10	3
Western Box Turtle spp.			3
box turtle spp.			7
turtle (aquatic) sp.	2		2
Red-eared Slider (turtle)	8	6	6
Western River Cooter (turtle)	1		
Spiny Soft-shelled Turtle spp.	3		1
turtle spp.	3		2
Russian (?) Turtle			2
Woodhouse' Toad	1		
Spadefoot Toad	1	2	1
toad sp.			1
Bullfrog	5		3
frog spp.			2
Texas Horned Lizard			1
Horned Lizard	1		2
Round-tailed Horned Lizard			1
Eastern Fence Lizard	1		
Blue-tailed Lizard	1		
Spotted Whiptail Lizard			1
lizard sp.			1
Exotic (leopard) Gecko	1		
Coachwhip Snake	1		
Bull/Gopher Snake	3	2	1
Gopher Snake sp.			1
rattlesnake sp.			1
Boa Constrictor [Exotic]			1

REPTILE / AMPHIBIAN TOTAL 58⁷ 45⁸ 33⁹

YEAR-BY-YEAR COMPARISON

¹ 2006 avian increase of 9% over 2005

² 2007 avian increase of 4% over 2006

³ 2008 avian decrease of 2.5% over 2007

⁴ 2006 mammal increase of 17% over 2005

⁵ 2007 mammal increase of 15% over 2006

⁶ 2008 mammal decrease of >1% over 2007

⁷ 2006 herpetile increase of 123% over 2005

⁸ 2007 herpetile decrease of 22% from 2006

⁹ 2008 herpetile decrease of 27% from 2007

Photo Wild!

On November 1, 2008 Wildlife Rescue held its first *Photo Wild!* Participants were able to get up close and personal with some of the group's education assistants. The event was a huge success, so another session was held on May 23, 2009. We thank Ruth Wheeler for all of the work to set up, advertise, and manage these events—as well as all of the other volunteers, educational-bird handlers, and photographers who worked so hard to make both photo sessions such a resounding success!

...continued on page 7

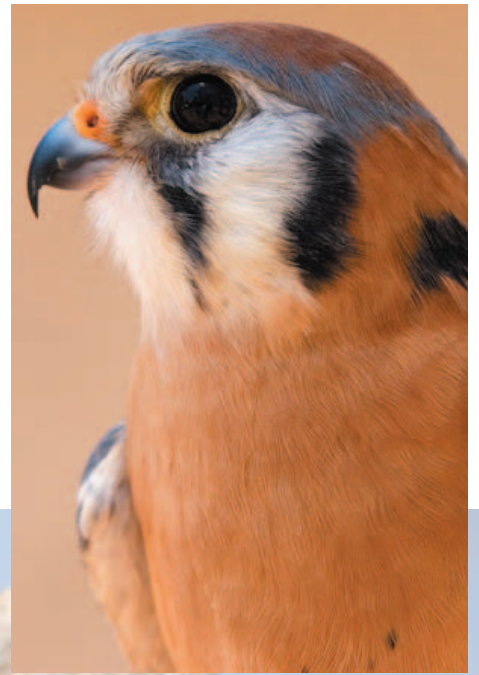
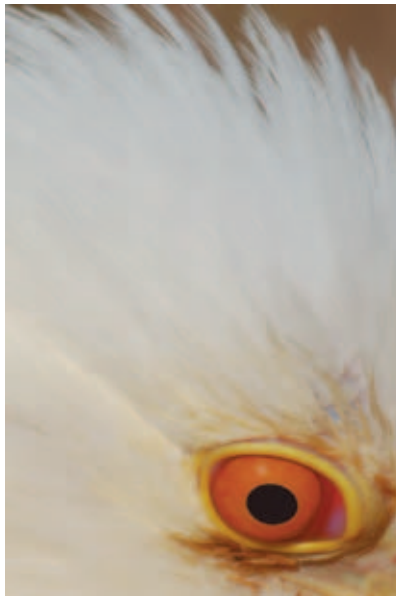


Photo Wild! participants were able to experience a unique opportunity to take amazing shots of a variety of beautiful birds of prey—in natural settings. The events have been equally popular with both serious and amateur photographers. All attendees were able to **Enjoy Breakfast with the Birds**—and while they ate, WRI gave a brief presentation about Wildlife Rescue and the history of each of the birds that participants were able to photograph. Participation was limited to the first 25 photographers who registered and made a \$50 donation to the organization. The event has proven to be a successful fundraiser for the group.



Attendees were able to photograph WRI's American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Saw-whet Owl, Barn Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Harris' Hawk, an albino Black-crowned Night Heron, and a Swainson's Hawk (not shown). Thank you to the photographers who allowed us to print their photos in this issue of *The Fledgling!*



From the Clinic Director, Kristin Madden

On the one hand, I can't believe we have been in our wonderful clinic building for seven years already. On the other hand, it seems as if we've always been here. At various points during each busy summer season, I realize how happy I am that we have this permanent facility.

While last year's bird intake was low on insectivores and high on raptors, this year has clearly been "the year of the raccoon and squirrel." As a matter of fact, there have been so many raccoons that we have been forced to stop accepting them. For a while, we were able to pass on what we couldn't handle to The Wildlife Center in Espanola, but even they are full now. We are very appreciative of their help; we are currently working on alternatives with the N.M. Department of Game and Fish.

We continue to offer specific 'Training Tune-Up' days for managers and other volunteers throughout each winter. This has been advantageous in continuing the bonds of our community during the off-season, and it allows our clinic staff to continue honing their skills.

Thanks to our incredible clinic staff of thirteen seemingly tireless clinic managers, and their amazing seventy-plus volunteers, we have been able to serve New Mexico's wildlife in the best possible way, all while having fun and enjoying a unique community.

In April, more than sixty people attended our clinic volunteer training at the Game and Fish Hunter Education room. They were treated to fun and

...continued on pg. 8

From the Clinic Director, *continued*

informative talks by rehabilitators and other WRI staff, as well as by agency officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the N.M. Department of Game and Fish. Of that group of trainees, twenty-seven are now working at the clinic and a few are also new phone volunteers.

Also in April, Chery Pell again offered a mammal training class. As a result, we have some much-needed additions to our Mammal Team. New volunteers are showing up each week, and we are so appreciative of all of you. There is no way we could do this without you!

We are grateful to everyone that has been there for us, in any, and so many, ways. People have donated money, supplies, cages, pet carriers, refrigerators, nest boxes, books, and more—not to mention their invaluable time. The staff of the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park are a joy to share such beautiful space with, and they are a great help to us. Thank you all so much for your interest in WRI and your devotion to New Mexico's wildlife. ■

Wildlife Rescue is very grateful to

Individuals: **Chris Chadwick** of N.M. Game and Fish for all his assistance throughout the years; **Darrell Cole** of N.M. Game and Fish for all his assistance throughout the years; **Beth Dillingham**, Superintendent of the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for her assistance and ongoing support; **Ray Hudgell**, DVM for veterinary services; **John Marsh** of NM Game & Fish for all his assistance throughout the years; **Kamile McKeever** of Region 2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for many donations, advice, and for managing our permits; **Mike Melloy**, DVM for veterinary services; **Cheryl Riggs** for our mammal food refrigerator; **Ruth Wheeler** and the **Better Mousetrappers** for building, setting up, and monitoring nest boxes; and **Marisa Yaniro** for supplying 'greens' all summer!

Organizations:

- El Rincon Pet Hospital
- Hawks Aloft, Inc.
- Matheson Tri-Gas
- Petroglyph Animal Hospital
- Rio Grande Nature Center
- The Wildlife Center
- Wildlife West

MAIL TO:

**WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC.
OF NEW MEXICO**

P.O. Box 13222
Albuquerque, NM 87192-3222



Wildlife Rescue, Inc. of New Mexico
is a NON-PROFIT, TAX-DEDUCTIBLE organization.

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO:

- the opportunity to help New Mexico's orphaned and injured wildlife
- support the efforts of WRI's *VOLUNTEER* Rehabilitators
- receive **THE FLEDGLING** -- WRI's informative digital newsletter
**Make sure you add your e-mail address below!!*
- the opportunity to use your time and special talents any way possible to help benefit New Mexico's wildlife

I enclose the Annual Fee of \$15.00 for membership in Wildlife Rescue, Inc. of New Mexico.

This is a: RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP
 GIFT MEMBERSHIP

from: _____

to be sent to the person listed below. (YOUR NAME ABOVE)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ *EMAIL _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO WILDLIFE RESCUE, INC.

INSTEAD of membership I am enclosing a contribution to Wildlife Rescue in the amount of \$ _____

IN ADDITION to membership I am enclosing a special contribution to Wildlife Rescue in the amount of \$ _____

Check here if you wish to become a Rehabilitator. Rehabilitators care for wildlife in their homes or at our intake clinic AFTER receiving training and passing the examination(s).

Check here if you are interested in being a phone volunteer or office worker for Wildlife Rescue.

Please send me a volunteer form that explains other ways I can help Wildlife Rescue.