

Wild Bird Rehabilitation
9624 Midland Blvd
Overland, MO 63114



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Joel Sartore, National Geographic Photographer, Visits WBR

Recently, WBR had a return visitor. Joel Sartore, the award-winning photojournalist with National Geographic, stopped by to take pictures of a Pine Siskin that was in our care. Joel is head of the Photo Ark project, and since 2005 has been using his photographs to inspire humans to protect all living things on Earth. To take pictures of a small animal like the Pine Siskin, Joel set up a white cloth photography tent surrounded by lighting equipment on all sides and from above. The tent has a detachable front cover. After carefully placing the bird inside, Joel opened the cover just enough for the camera lens, leaving no room for the bird to escape. *See the Pine Siskin model on P. 2*

For the Photo Ark project, every species is photographed with a solid black or white background. During our session Joel began with the dark background by using a heavy black mat that fit perfectly inside and up the back of the photography tent. When he was finished he slid the mat out with minimum disturbance to the bird inside and took photos using the white tent as the backdrop. The little Pine Siskin fit perfectly inside the tent, but how do you think Joel photographs large animals like a Northern White Rhino? Watch this video to find out.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nkf8R3yB7II> Contributed by Denise White, WBR Executive Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator



Wild Bird Chatter

Newsletter of Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Winter 2021

Wild Bird Rehabilitation

9624 Midland Blvd

Overland, Mo 63114

(314) 426-6400

*Please call before you bring
in a bird*

Hours of Operation

Daily

9 am – 1 pm; 5 pm – 7 pm

www.wildbirdrehab.org



Wild Bird Rehabilitation's mission is to ensure survival of native songbirds through professional medical care and education regarding their value and needs.

Rescue, Rehabilitate & Release!

WBR's mission can be stated very simply with the three words above.

Rescue

You are our field team of rescuers! We need you to rescue songbirds and bring them to WBR but also to spread the word to your friends, relatives and anyone who is interested or in proximity of an injured or orphaned bird. You would be amazed how many people are unaware of the option we provide for saving a bird. WBR is not only a non-profit agency but receives no federal or state funding so we rely on you to provide "advertising". You can also help with rescue by becoming a member of our phone team – see the Volunteer Corner on p. 2 for more information on this great way to help birds from your home, in the car or even on vacation!

Rehabilitate

This critical component of WBR's mission provides professional medical care to birds injured and orphaned. Of course, everyone's favorites are the baby birds in the spring and



Pileated Woodpecker hit by a car in Maryland Heights and was treated for a cranial trauma and released.

summer. You can help by volunteering to work in our center. There are a variety of positions ranging from bird care to cleaning cages and maintenance. Most birds require at least 7 weeks of care. If there is severe injury or an unusual backstory, recovery can take longer.

Release

Of course, this is the most exciting and rewarding R: watching the bird fly off! Birds are generally released in an area compatible with their native environment.

During 2020 WBR cared for over 2500 songbirds – this means not only 2500 songbirds returned to our area but also that multiplies this spring when the baby birds arrive! Help us fulfil our mission by participating in the 3Rs!



American Goldfinch found as a fledgling in Webster Groves. Later released with a recently recovered adult who would hopefully provide some guidance.

In Honor of...In Memory of

In Honor of Tom Becherer Jr
Wild Bird Rehabilitation

**In Honor of my grandson,
Matthew Scarry**
Elizabeth Cox

In Honor of Becky Maltman
David Maltman

In Honor of Jim Rekart
J Schneider

**In Honor of Donna Short & Leslie
Wainwright**
Ann Woody

**In Honor of
John W Tatum
IV**
John Tatum

**In Honor of
Warren
Vatterott**
Madeline
Vatterott-Mori

**In Honor of
Terpstra
grandchildren**
Dan & Margy
Terpstra

**In Honor of
Kalysta, the
hamster**
James Hasheider

In Honor of Baby Robin, Robbie
Suzanne Lucas

**In Honor of Peaches, the
cockatiel**
Valerie Gerst

In Honor of Patches
Teresa Levine

**In Honor of the baby robin
brought in – Summer 2020**
Vince Koepf

**In Honor of Jackie Fluff, the
brave mourning dove**
Anonymous

In Honor of our Little Robin
Clifton & Sharon Brown

**In Memory of Rosemarie
Goldbeck**
John Goldbeck

**In Memory of Robert & Shirley
Lindberg**
Christina Lindberg

In Memory of Cindy Benward
Donna Short

In Memory of David Faintich
Carol Faintich

In Memory of Margaret Giblin
Daryl Giblin

In Memory of Georgia Fletcher
The Kruger Family

In Memory of Ginny Nester
Mary Kriegshauser

In Memory of Rose Phillips
Judy Phillips

In Memory of Ina Mason
Jan Mason

In Memory of Petey & Bella
Patricia Drone

In Memory of Lil Bird
Andrew Baldrige

In Memory of All Our Family Pets
Robert & Carol Preis

In Memory of Ellie Zarkie
Lori Notzke

In Memory of Caesar & Indie
Lois Donaldson

**In Memory of My Little Friend
from Castlewood Park**
Rabia Bajwa

In Memory of Lily
Kathy Danegger

In Memory of Sonny
Francisco Lopez III

**In Memory of Hans, Pitufa,
Barney, Gustavo, Arsenio,
Logrono**
Jan Barton

In Memory of Hum
Bill Lindsay

In Memory of Lenny the dog
Meredith Yeager & Julia Slipsky

In Memory of "Sadie"
Judith Drew



WBR Pine Siskin patient who modelled for Joel Sartore! See p. 4

**In Memory of
Doris Fortner**
Walter Fortner

**In Memory of Jo
Ann Flottmann**
Bill Flottmann

**In Memory of
Tucker "Tuck"
10-21-2016**
Wayne T Bryant

**In Memory of
Chris Hendry**
Lisa & Scott
Hendry

**In Memory of
Mary Lou**

Montgomery
Anna Schultz

In Memory of Mom & Dad
Linda Isbell

In Memory of Moon Stuesse
Michelle Stuesse

**In Memory of Mrs Ruth
Catherine King**
Susan & Richard Burke

In Memory of Robert Evans
Sally Bobbitt

In Memory of Ed & Ruth Pfaff
Steven Pfaff

In Memory of Shirley Austin
Jenni Harned

In Memory of John Zeuschel
Agnes Melchor

In Memory of Raymond Cox Jr
Matthew Scarry

Volunteer Corner

When the pandemic began WBR developed COVID-19 safety protocols unique to our organization while still complying with CDC guidelines. Our building is closed to the public; only staff and a limited number of volunteers are allowed inside. Everyone must wear a mask, and fortunately we have enough space that everyone can work in isolation. We plan to establish more independent work areas this year and look forward to welcoming more volunteers.

Join our phone team! This is a way to volunteer from home. You will discover by answering phones for WBR how caring and kind people are and how grateful they are for the guidance we offer. The phone team determines the best course of action for a bird. By asking a series of questions it may be possible to reunite a baby with its parents or it may be necessary to instruct someone through the capture of a bird in order to bring it to WBR for medical attention. We provide comprehensive training and offer guidance and support from other team members and our medical staff whenever needed. In this time of uncertainty one thing is certain - by April birds will return to our area and by May babies will arrive! If you would like to be part of Season 2021 please fill out a volunteer application at www.wildbirdrehab.org and watch for upcoming training dates. If you have any questions please feel free to email our Volunteer Coordinator, Denise White at wbr.schedulehelp@gmail.com.



Nesting Yellow-Billed Cuckoo



Cuckoo released in Brownsville 6 weeks later



Red-crowned Parrot amongst a roost of hundreds



Common Nighthawk that was unable to fly, recovering from a coracoid fracture



Successful release of the nighthawk in Brownsville



Roseate Spoonbill at South Padre Island

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SUMMER INTERN POSITIONS

Position responsibilities include:

- ◇ the rehabilitation of ill and injured birds
- ◇ caring for orphaned songbirds
- ◇ creating environmental education programs and displays
- ◇ conducting research projects to benefit rare and endangered birds

Commitment is 30 hours per week for 12 weeks from May-August. Minimum age of 18.

Send resume to:
Attn: Joe Hoffmann
9624 Midland Blvd
St Louis, MO 63114 or email
wbr.edir@gmail.com

No transportation or housing provided.

WBR Team Members' Trip to South Texas

An essential part of the rehabilitation process is ensuring that all birds are given their best chance of survival upon release. The migratory birds WBR cares for can present a special challenge. These birds primarily feed on insects that are no longer in abundance in Missouri by mid-October. Our late-release insectivores this year included a young Yellow-Billed Cuckoo that needed extra time to mature and two Common Nighthawks that sustained wing injuries requiring weeks of cage rest.

To release these birds in suitable habitats, we drove them to Brownsville, Texas, which is in the southernmost part of the state along the Gulf. The insects these species feed on are found there much later into the year, giving the birds a chance to bulk up before continuing south. Being in south Texas also gave us a unique opportunity to observe species that aren't found in the Midwest. During the day, we visited South Padre Island, whose inhabitants include Brown Pelicans and Roseate Spoonbills. In the evening, we watched Red-crowned Parrots, the only parrot to have established wild populations in the United States, roost in a Brownsville park. Although this seems like a distance, the passage from St. Louis to Brownsville is not half of a nighthawk or cuckoo's route to their South American wintering grounds. These birds still have a long way to go and we were thrilled to help them catch up! *Contributed by Darby Turner & Bryan Prather, WBR Team Members*

Calendar of Events

Give STL Day, Thursday, May 6, midnight-to-midnight, online at www.givestlday.org. Join the St. Louis Community Foundation for the biggest online giving event in St. Louis and support WBR at this critical time of the year.

Trivia Night & Silent Auction, Friday, October 22, Kirkwood Community Center. Save the date for this annual event which is WBR's major fundraiser of the year. You can help! Silent auction items and sponsorships are critical to the event's success! Contact wbrtrivia@gmail.com or call 314-426-6400.