



# The Wildlife Watch Binocular

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Summer 2005

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## Proposed Global Warming Solution: More Harmful Than Helpful to Wildlife

By Eileen Fay

Luc Jacquet's documentary film *March of the Penguins*—due out this July—follows emperor penguins' travails as they struggle to mate and to raise a family in the harsh Antarctic. Faced with winds reaching some 90 MPH, the females march over 70 miles and back to find food. Yet, nature's sheer forces aren't penguins' only challenge. Mounting evidence suggests that global warming—as well as a proposed solution to confront global warming—will bring even more peril to penguins and other species across the planet.

The phenomenon of the greenhouse effect is fairly straightforward. As solar rays heat Earth's surface, part of the energy forms into infra-red radiation. Much of that is absorbed by molecules of CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor in the atmosphere and reflected back to the surface as heat.

The gaseous molecules thus act like a greenhouse's glass panes by retaining the sun's warmth. Too much heat retention can make Earth another Venus, steaming and unlivable for virtually all animal species.

While several affluent humans can alter the climate to survive droughts, most other animals cannot. Whereas we can use irrigation pipes, water tank reserves, and even bottled water from supermarkets, wild animals who rely on a flowing river or non-stagnant woodland pond generally have two choices: travel much greater distances to find fresh water, or die. Often the first choice leads to the second, unintentionally, as a consequence of animals' having to cross more roads to get to water as any of us who have seen a crushed turtle, smashed squirrel or car-struck deer will attest. As for longer and hotter seasons, animals who rely on cool and/or damp climes either must migrate, if they can, or, again, die.

Warmed waters in the two poles already have disrupted polar creatures' lives. Global warming's early breakup of sea ice in Antarctica endangers whole generations of emperor penguins who must wait for their hatchlings to fledge. If the ice cracks earlier than it has for centuries, the young birds die. At the other pole, the polar bears, the world's largest carnivores, may be extinct before Century's end because the current thinning of Arctic ice melts the very ground on which they rely to travel from dens to hunting grounds (Imagine all streets and grounds leading from your house to grocery stores becom-

ing water).

To respond to this planet-wide crisis, one road—an underground one, so to speak—is being taken. For the past few



*Baby penguin reaches for food*  
Photo contributed by  
Guillaume Dargaud

years, several governments, including our own, Canada, and the E. U., are trying to bury excessive carbon dioxide. The process, hailed by numerous scientists, involves "capturing" carbon dioxide from power plants by scrubbing emissions with an absorbent solvent. The CO<sub>2</sub> is then pressured into liquid form and piped into old oil wells and aquifers.

But the proposed solution is not without its potential problems.

Pressure could build due to any number of factors, including tectonic shifts, and no one can predict the result of a sudden, concentrated emission of CO<sub>2</sub>. Any animal species, including homo sapiens, near such an event, could be seriously harmed, if not ultimately destroyed. Forests and greenlands can only absorb so much carbon dioxide. David Schimel of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado told the *Christian Science Monitor* that sequestration is clearly a short-term strategy that overlooks more pressing issues such as renewable energy sources.

Storing carbon dioxide beneath oceans also poses problems. A 2000 Norwegian study showed that carbon dioxide can "migrate" through storage aquifers. However, the Norwegian Project Manager Tore Torp believes that leakage is unlikely for several hundred years.

Despite such claims, the Australian School of Petroleum at Adelaide University has documented Australian and European sites where leaks, indeed, have occurred. Greenpeace International researchers also note that there's almost *no way that a leak could not occur and harm marine life*. Deep-sea organisms, for instance, are physiologically accustomed to stable

Continued on Page WW-2

## Backyard B&Bs for Wildlife:

Gardening & Landscaping Tips to Attract Wildlife

By Jeff Davis

Stand for five minutes in Suzanne Thing's backyard—smack in the heart of Kingston, New York—and you'll likely spy, as did I, a pair of cardinals, blue jays, a gold finch, nuthatches, a house finch, and a Pileated Woodpecker. Stay around even longer, and you might see a hawk stalk its prey, the friendly woodchuck snag a few leaves, a Monarch land on bottlebrush flowers, and even a hummingbird stop in for a cup of nectar.

Thing, like thousands of Americans, has discovered that

a little wise planning and a minor investment can transform a backyard into a veritable bed and breakfast for hummingbirds and butterflies, fox and frogs. Here are tips to get started.

### A Floor Plan to Attract Birds

"Wildlife, like human beings require three things for happiness and survival," Frances Groeters of Catskill Native Nursery says, "Shelter, water, food." A sketch of your backyard will help you assess existing trees and shrubs for birds to nest and

Continued on Page WW-2

## Into the Woods:

Mentoring Youth in the "Invisible School"

By Jeff Davis

Twelve-year-old Melody Kauff's outdoor education comes in three ways: from the mice whose tracks she follows, from the girl who in a game called "Follow the Scout" led her inadvertently to discover an owl pellet with a skull and teeth mixed in, and from the man in his forties she calls her mentor.

Like numerous youth in the Mid-Hudson Valley, Melody receives an education most of us adults would envy—an education in how to live confidently among deer and bear, owls and hawks. Programs, informal groups, and home schooling opportunities in the area are helping to raise a generation that doesn't simply believe in its integral connection to the earth's myriad inhabitants. They *live* it.

Mentoring programs intimately connect youth to larger communities—human, animal, and plant—through teaching them how to live in nature. At my first workshop on building a mentoring community recently, my hands joined with some forty people, ranging from a spry six-year-old to a grizzled sixty-five-year-old, who held hands and closed the circle.

While we stood in the meadow, workshop leader Mark Morey told the youth that for the next two hours they must go out into the woods and return with certain "goods": evidence of specific types of owl, evidence of fox, dogbane for cordage, and more. "You're going to need each other," Morey told them. "So, first plan how you're going to stay together, and how you're going to find what you need."

Morey's purpose, as I would discover, was not simply to send the kids off on a natural treasure hunt. These tasks were part of a larger vision to help youth become more oriented to nature and more empathetic with wildlife.

The youth later returned not just with the required "items" and evidence. After going through an extensive questioning session with Morey, co-founder of the Vermont Wilderness School, they also possessed a deeper appreciation for their natural community. One boy told me he never really understood an owl's diet and hunger until he felt with his own hands one of its pellets. A young woman said this experience had deepened her appreciation for preserving wildlife's habitats. Consequently, she's become involved with a local animal rescue organization.

These mentoring communities emphasize our responsibility to one another and to wildlife. And it begins, according to Morey, with authentic human commu-

nities connected intimately to natural communities. Adult mentors, Morey said during a telephone interview, "raise the bar of expectation for youth in terms of character." Children consequently grow up more aware of their responsibility both to the human community and the natural community. Morey recently sent an older student, for example, to the Canadian border to assist in a project to track and possibly help preserve lynx, now endangered.

### Empathy with Wildlife

Morey's zeal for building mentoring communities inspired Charles Purvis of Accord, New York, four years ago. After participating in programs similar to Morey's, Purvis said he instantly saw in his two sons an "amazing awakening marked by wonder, enthusiasm, passion." Last autumn, Purvis, David Brownstein of New Paltz, New York, Chris Victor, and others formed Red Fox Friends, a group that offers youth workshops and summer camps to further this community-building.

Imagine the world as an animal. How does he see? How does he smell? How does he hear? These are typical activities that Purvis and others at Red Fox Friends engage youth in.

In an activity called "Owl Eyes," boys and girls learn to view the birch and cedar in front of them with a soft focus. Then, they learn to heed their peripheral vision and "un-focus." Doing so, Purvis notes, gets youth out of their rational, thinking mind and into a more wondrous state of mind that helps them empathize with animals. With the "Deer Ears" activity, youth try to hear *everything* they possibly can—what's above, behind them, beneath them. They try to heed the tiniest ant crawling on a dead leaf. Doing so helps them recognize, too, that someone furry probably is listening to their every move.

And when the kids practice "Fox Walking," they learn how to walk as silently and "invisibly" as possible like a fox. In some instances, Purvis says, some kids have been able literally to walk right up to a deer.

Other wilderness programs in the area offer young people similar opportunities. Riccardo Sierra, Director of Hawk Circle Wilderness Programs—an hour southwest of Albany—says that building bonds between adults and youth is more important than imparting skills. These workshops and summer camps are not about just "cramming" information, says Sierra who has taught in New York since 1989. "The real learning hap-

Continued on Page WW-2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF WWB:

How to Become a Wildlife Rehabber	3
WWB Summer Reading	4
Albino Fawn Rescued	3
For the Love of Wildlife, Gary & Mary Bell	3
An Eye on the News	4
WWB on the WWW	4



*Tiny albino fawn rescued. Story on WW-3.*



## Youth Learn in the Woods

**Continued from Page WW-1** pens between the skills" of animal tracking, fire building, and edible plant harvesting. The nearby Mohonk Preserve's array of dynamic summer camp programs also heightens youths' awareness of the outdoors in the context of building human relationships.

To introduce youth to the wilderness, naturalist and environmental educator Jay Leavitt founded the non-profit organization The Red Tail Rising School for Natural History. Leavitt and his groups of home-schooled youth, among other activities, take regular outings to the Adirondacks to track pine marten or cougar. These youth, Leavitt says, amaze him not just from their knowledge of animal behavior but also from their conviction to make the world better for their winged and furry friends.

The heart of these experiences is not about findings as if on a wild treasure hunt. For Bosch Purvis, who turns thirteen in March, it's about becoming comfortable in nature. "I don't mean just taking a walk in nature," Bosch says. "I mean, you know, being comfortable in nature for three weeks without staying in a building." An avid skier, sledder, and soccer player, Bosch is learning to love the outdoors for more than recreation. He and Melody and thousands of other lucky youth are discovering core parts of themselves as well in what some people like to call "the invisible school"—wilderness.

### HOW TO FIND OUT MORE:

**Red Fox Friends** Based in New Paltz. Offers workshops and summer camps for youth. Charles Purvis, 845.626.2474 or David Brownstein, 845.255.7175. [www.redfoxfriends.com](http://www.redfoxfriends.com)

**New Moon Group** Informal gathering of women and girls to build community in nature. Amy McTee, 845.255.2679

**Mohonk Preserve Summer Camp** Camp Administrator Kim Tischler, 845.255.0919, ext. 234 [www.mohonkpreserve.org](http://www.mohonkpreserve.org)

**Hawk Circle Wilderness Programs** Located south of Albany, NY. Director Riccardo Sierra, 607.264.3396 [www.hawkcircle.com](http://www.hawkcircle.com)

**Vermont Wilderness School** Dedicated to building mentoring communities. Offers numerous workshops and programs for adults and youth. Mark Morey, 802.257.8570 [www.thevermontwildernessschool.org](http://www.thevermontwildernessschool.org)

**The Red Tail Rising School for Natural History** Home schooling, classes, field trips, & workshops for youth & adults. Call Jay Leavitt 845.417.7216.

JEFF DAVIS is a writer residing near Woodstock, NY.

## Global Warming Proposal Heated

**Continued from Page WW-1** environments and cannot adapt to changes such as CO2 coming into their waters.

Then, too, the ocean's pH level would be affected, a potentially lethal factor for numerous sea species. And as Greenpeace campaigner Truls Gulowsen stated, "The more we store greenhouse gases away, the bigger the potential climate bomb is and the longer it will take to get rid of the real problem—the burning of fossil fuels."

University of Rhode Island marine biologist Brad Seibel said in a *Science Daily* article (18 Nov. 2003) that we know enough now about sealife to predict with certainty the effects of an increase of CO2 in our oceans. Atmospheric CO2 not only has already inhibited shallow-water shelled mollusks' ability to form shells but also has dissolved coral reefs. "CO2 injection would be detrimental to a great many organisms," said Seibel. "It would kill everything that can't swim fast enough to get out of the way, because in concentrated form it's highly toxic, even to humans."

The proposed partial "cure" of storing CO2 may prove harmful to wildlife (not to mention ourselves). Whether undersea or underground, this practice is highly questionable, and should be questioned before it becomes accepted as a substitute for more sensible, far-sighted climate-preserving measures—and before species such as penguins lose their breeding grounds and ultimately their place on the planet.

## Resources Related to Global Warming

**GLOBAL WARMING:** Personal Solutions for a Healthy Planet. by Chris Spence (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005). Just published this month, this book offers a lucid account of what global warming is, why it matters, and what on a practical level we can do about it.

**Union of Concerned Scientists** Cambridge, MA [www.climatehotmap.org/](http://www.climatehotmap.org/) an online map of the nation showing local effects of global warming

**EPA Kids Page** [www.epa.gov/globalwarming/kids/](http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/kids/) This EPA website offers games, a list of events, and other ideas to help youth understand global warming. Several pages provide simple scientific explanations of global warming.

E.M. FAY is a freelance writer whose work focuses upon environmental and animal-rights causes. Her work has appeared in publications such as *Canada's Natural Life*.

# Backyard B&Bs for Wildlife

**Continued from Page WW-1** less to wildlife.

Contact your county Soil and Water Conservation District Office, too, to apply for bargain bundles of seeds, yearlings, and more. Brian Scoralick of Dutchess County said that around 600 orders in that county were filled this spring, translating to around 60,000 planting materials provided.



Photo by Lowell Thing  
Suzanne Thing in her backyard B & B of bee balm and yarrow where hummingbirds love to stop in for nectar.

ing to around 60,000 planting materials provided.

### The Kid's Room & Sun Room for Butterflies

To attract butterflies, feed their caterpillar kids. Host plants—plants on which a butterfly lays eggs—nourish the multi-legged butterflies-in-training. Cherries and ashes host the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) and the pale Hairstreaks (which also host on dogwoods), both common to the Catskills. If you wish to harvest herbs while creating a caterpillar nursery, the Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) likes dill, parsley, and fennel.

To lure adult butterflies, let the sun shine. Since butterflies' body temperature must rise to 86 degrees to fly, plant sun-loving flowers—preferably with hues of purple, yellow, pink, and white, their favorites—in clusters. Studies show that butterflies like large clusters of pink or of yellow as opposed to a mixed patch of colors. Summer bloomers such as bee balm and Impatiens draw in several butterflies and hummers.

### The Red Room for Hummers

When Pablo Neruda asked, "Why don't we teach helicopters how to draw honey from the sun?" he must have been dreaming about hummingbirds, those micro-helicopters that shiver for nectar.

The ruby-throated hummingbird—likely the only type you'll spot in the east—loves red blooms that produce more sweetness for their buzz. These winged wonders, among North America's most important bird pollinators, do feed on flowers of other hues, but if you plant red-clustered plants—buttercup (*Ranunculus*), jewelweed, or squill (*Scilla*)—you'll likely see some hummers in no time. Groeters as well as Washington encourage planting native beauties such as wild columbine.

Years ago, Thing's coral bells

attracted what at first she thought was a hornet. It turned out to be a hummingbird. Now, each year a pair of hummers return for her backyard nectar.

### Baths, a Swimming Pool, and a Shady Nook

Don't forget water. A bird bath, regularly cleaned, attracts possibly two to three times more birds to a yard. Hummers also love to dash through a low-pressure spray lawn sprinkler. Jim Dinsmore's pond teems with frogs, newts, salamanders, and birds, but to keep it simple he recommends using small plastic pool forms, available at Lowe's, that make instant swimming pools for frogs. Washington also says that upside-

down flower pots and rock piles make "cool caves" for amphibians."

### Your Backyard B & B in the Larger Picture

The 2004 Audubon State of the Birds report claims that some 85% of grassland birds have declined in forty years. Woodland birds such as the pine siskin finch have dropped in number by over half. Too, migrating ruby-throated hummers travel 500 miles or more and must double their weight to travel. With increased land development, their journeys have become more challenged.

But backyard by backyard, butterfly by butterfly, Americans are reversing that trend. Consider joining people such as Thing this year. Plant a few seeds for the future, and make your backyard a friendly B & B for wildlife.

### RESOURCES for Your Backyard B&B

**Catskill Native Nursery** Kerhonkson, NY 845.626.2758; native plants & workshops

**Cornell Cooperative** Ithaca, NY 607.255.2815; offers soil analysis and other services and classes

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** [www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard) specific suggestions for conservation in your backyard

**National Wildlife Federation** [www.BackyardWildlifeHabitat.info](http://www.BackyardWildlifeHabitat.info), online certification program to register your backyard B & B.

**Windstar Wildlife Institute** [www.windstar.org](http://www.windstar.org); several online articles & courses

JEFF DAVIS is author of *The Journey from the Center to the Page*. His articles appear in publications such as *Conscious Choice* and *Enlightened Practice*. He is Managing Editor of *Wildlife Watch Binocular*.



# R.O.C.K. - REHABBERS OFFER CARE AND KINDNESS

## Wed for the Love of Wildlife: Mary & Gary Bell

By Anne Muller

The Wildlife Watch hotline number brings in numerous calls during spring and early summer. It's the time of year that wildlife rehabbers (rehabilitators) call "baby season." I have to admit that responding to these calls is by far the most immediately rewarding aspect of our work. Often on the phone with a panicked caller, we can determine that the animal doesn't need help because mom is still around. Other times, we are able to unite people who have an injured animal with those who can help them.

Here is why wildlife rehabilitators are so special: It's a rare veterinarian who treats wildlife. Rehabilitators receive no state money. They undertake rehabilitation at their own expense, time, and effort for the personal satisfaction of helping wild animals and for an occasional contribution.

Our hats go off to those noble souls who care for other creatures as though they were members of their own family and, from a higher vantage ground, they indeed are.

When Mary and Gary Bell exchanged wedding vows, it must have gone something like this: You get 'em and I'll take care of 'em. Fawns, that is. And that's what the Bells have been doing ever since. In spite of full-time jobs, Gary brings orphaned

fawns to Mary who feeds them on schedule, putting all other engagements and demands behind her commitment to the fawns. Speaking lovingly to the fawns as though they're children, cleaning their little rears with leaves, and providing them with nourishment, the Bells ensure that their charges will be rein-



Photo by Anne Muller  
A beaming Mary Bell watches over the fawns. See photos below.

roduced to the "wild" when the babies reach maturity.

Sometimes, the totally cured and mature "patient" doesn't want to leave. The Bells still have a groundhog, Porkchop, who insists on visiting often, literally knocking on the kitchen door and waiting for his big green

leaf of kale (See photo in "Hotel Bell Photo Gallery" below.). A rescued squirrel hangs out in the yard and watches the antics of the people and former nurses, leaving only when he gets bored.

The deer, according to Mary, stay nearby for a few days, but then she rarely sees them again. Mary confessed that she often thinks of them and would love to know how they fare.

Mary and Gary, licensed rehabilitators, will accept any animal, but are partial to fawns, squirrels, and woodchucks. They've established a network with other rehabbers, some who specialize in birds, others in reptiles, and fortunately, they have discovered a veterinarian who never refuses to treat a wild animal or provide them with information. He's Dr. Dasaro of the Newburgh Animal Hospital. Mary credits her successful releases to both the rehabilitator network and the veterinarian.

Gary has traveled close to two hours to pick up an animal – and he'll get up in the middle of the night for a three-hour round trip if he gets a call. Mary has stayed up all night with an injured animal and then has gone to work the next day. Mary is casual about saying something extraordinary: they answer calls 24/7. She has reason to be proud of that fact. It's rare. Because education also is vital

Continued on Page WW-4

## Albino Fawn Found and Rescued

By Anne Muller

This story came our way via the Internet:

Mistaken for a kid (baby goat), this rare albino fawn was almost killed on the road twice as horrified onlookers gasped. Someone finally dashed to her rescue and took her home. Fortunately, the people who took the fawn understand that she can't be given cow's milk. She's so small, almost the size of a shoe. We pray for her survival and will try to put them in touch with a facility that can care for her and give her freedom.



Albino fawn finding refuge



Fawn watching and being watched. Story below. Photo by Michele H

## Hotel Bell Photo Gallery

See above story.



Photos by Anne Muller  
Porkchop Bell loving peanuts



Two fawns who have fallen for each other while in rescue.



A fawn with broken nose in recovery



The WW hotline helped rescue fawn waiting to be checked in at Hotel Bell.

# WILDLIFE WATCH HOTLINE

Wildlife Watch maintains a "hotline" in two phone directories, and every spring, we receive numerous panicky calls about fawns. The advice we give is leave fawns where they are provided they're in a safe location. Although fawns may appear to be abandoned, the mom will come about twice a day to nurse, usually when no one is around and usually when it's dark. If the fawn seems comfortable and healthy, chances are s/he's getting her nourishment. Try to locate a fawn rehabber near you for those rare times when the mother has been killed. For first aid tips,

please see the link at our website – [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) "Feeding Orphaned and Injured Wildlife." **Never** give a fawn cow's milk which can cause severe diarrhea.

We were gratified by the following letter that came by e-mail.

Dear Anne,  
We followed your advice about leaving the baby alone!!! We did a lot of watching ... The fawn was right in front of our home under a tree and near the rocks in the photo. He stayed with us for about 2 days, and we were so worried.. but we hoped that the mom was coming by at night or when we were not around. We

never did get to see her. A male deer was feeding by the fawn and didn't even know he was there. When he discovered the baby he jumped!! (the male jumped not the baby) It was so funny. He sniffed around for a quick minute and went back to feeding. We were going to give it one more day and then call you back but he left in the late afternoon... hopefully with his mom. We did see a mom one day later with 2 babies, hopefully one of them was our little guest.

Thanks for the advice.  
Michele M  
Valley Cottage, New York

## 1-866-WILD HELP

Please call if:

**YOU ARE A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR.** We'll post your information, related events, or presentations plus we may do a story about you. Email photos and stories.

**YOU NEED TO CONTACT A REHABBER IN THE NY LOWER OR MID HUDSON VALLEY AREA.**

**YOU WILL VOLUNTEER TO TRANSPORT INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE TO REHABILITATORS.**

## SO, YOU WANT TO BECOME A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR?

By Marilyn Leybra

I can't help helping animals in distress.

When I took my first wild animal to the veterinarian, however, the vet had to refuse helping it. He said it was illegal for me to bring wildlife to him unless I were licensed by the State as a wildlife rehabilitator.

That incident sparked me to take a wildlife rehabilitator's test and get licensed. The license allowed my name to be posted with the police department, veterinarians, as well as local and animal shelters as "legitimate" hands to help wildlife. Consequently, people bring all kinds of animals my way or notify me of their whereabouts. I am able to help many more animals than I otherwise would have because now people bring them to me or notify me of their whereabouts.

So, I still do what comes naturally to me, but the license lets me help even more animals. Becoming a licensed rehabber can give you endless rewards, but I have a few suggestions.

Use common sense. Human fear often exacerbates the plight of wild animals. Health departments and the media can actually cause people to believe that a raccoon going for a piece of food in their garbage must be rabid. (An animal with rabies has no interest in food.) Many people believe that if they touch a wild bird, they can get West

Nile Virus whereas the virus actually is contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito. A little knowledge and common sense, though, go a long way in helping animals recover.

Be wise. Many times a well-meaning individual will do the wrong thing and actually harm the animal or herself. First, determine whether or not the animal needs help. Often it's best to wait to see if a mother returns to her young.

In addition to the book knowledge that rehabbers get from preparing for the test—what I'll call the basic science of being a "wildlife rehabilitator"—intuition and common sense play vital roles in our work. Direct experience has been my greatest teacher, and I recommend that even after you get your rehabilitator's permit that you apprentice with rehabilitators who specialize in various areas of wild animal rehabilitation. Anyone who has the heart and mindset to help a "wild" creature, with a little direction, can do the same thing I do.

Imagine you found an orphaned baby rabbit. Treat her as you would treat an orphaned kitten, puppy, or human infant. Make her comfortable, warm, and cozy and then proceed to bottle feed her formula from a pet store. As the rabbit progresses, you'd progress to using some regular jarred baby food (vegetables), add some small pieces of cut-up apples as well as some grassy weeds such as clover and dandelion that she will be eating when she's released.

Experience also has taught me about the benefits of moistened dog or cat chow. It's the best emergency food and most easily accessible food for a baby bird. Most people think of worms and water, but nestling birds don't have access to water. First and foremost, warmth and comfort are crucial to their survival. When you first get an injured or orphaned bird, just gently hold him in your hand, and you will provide needed warmth until you can get him onto a heat pad set to low or until you can place it in an incubator.

If interested in becoming a licensed rehabilitator, simply call your state's wildlife agency. In New York State, it's the Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany at 518-402-8985. Request information about taking the test given once a year, usually in April. Getting a license does not obligate you to do anything more than you feel capable of, but it does allow you to be recognized as somebody allowed by the State to have wildlife in your possession.

For people predisposed to care about a distressed animal, there is no greater feeling of satisfaction than to know you made his or her life a little easier, and that you were able to give the animal some comfort. Don't al-

Continued on Page WW-4



# EYE ON THE NEWS

Articles synopsised from the news by Anne Muller

## CHICKADEES HAVE COMPLEX CODES

Biologists have reported that chickadees convey complex information about predators. According to Chris Templeton, a biology student who has studied their chirps, chickadees actually communicate details. A string of 6 to 10 "D" notes means there is a serious threat. The biologist says that their warnings are related to the body size of the predator. Small predators are viewed as more dangerous because they are often swifter.

Small owls, for example, generate more alarm than larger raptors. Chickadees are quite able to avoid larger clumsier birds. Biologists say that no one has realized the complexity of the birds' communication because some features can't be heard but only seen in a sonogram.

Other studies have shown that birds dream, rehearse their songs, and have regional dialects.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH JOINS ACTIVISTS TO SAVE PARROTS

The Roman Catholic Church and parrot activists are asking wor-

shippers not to cut the leaves of wax palms on the slopes of the Andes for Palm Sunday Services. There are only 540 yellow-eared parrots thought to be left in the wild, and they live in wax palms. The Church is providing seeds and education to worshipers to plant other types of palm trees for their fronds.

## FOR BUTTERFLY WATCHERS

The Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center in Pine Mountain, Georgia has reopened a 14,000 acre nature and recreation center in the Appalachian foothills. There will be 1,000 tropical butterflies and lush flowers that provide the insects with nectar. The Center is about 70 miles southwest of Atlanta.

<http://www.callawaygardens.com/ccontactus.htm>

## BAD NEWS FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Monarch butterflies are dying in Mexico. While weather is considered to be one of the reasons, the problems include loss of habitat due to logging and the spraying of pesticides and other poisons. The population has declined by 75%. Logging can create climatic changes.

## WILDLIFE REHABBER?

Cont.'d from Page WW-3

ways expect a "Thank you." In fact, you may get a resentful, dirty look. But, I promise, you will still feel good.

Marilyn has been a wildlife rehabilitator in Rockland County for over 20 years. For more information about Marilyn's rehab experience, please e-mail us and we will forward your posts to her.

## WWB on the WWW [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org)

Visit [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) for the following:

- \*Gain more tips for wildlife rehab.
  - \*Get updates on Wildlife Watch news, efforts, and events.
  - \*Read extra articles and stories not published in the print version of WWB.
  - \*View additional animal photos.
- We want this website to be yet another extension of wildlife education, reflection, connection, and activism.

**A HUMMINGBIRD IN MY HOUSE: The Story of Squeak** by Arnette Heidcamp. (Crown Publications, NY 1990). This charming book recounts how Heidcamp--from Saugerties, NY--on one cold October day found a male ruby-throated hummingbird. Well-written and with 57 color photographs of the bird she called "Squeak," this book offers a heartfelt account of gaining a

## Wed For the Love of Wildlife: The Bells

Cont.'d from Page WW-3

to Mary's philosophy, at least once a year, she visits a school or a community group to talk about what they do. They educate the public about what they should and shouldn't do to help an animal. She said that the more she educates, the easier her job becomes.

You're probably thinking that Mary and Gary never had children. Wrong. They have three happy, healthy children. They are all interested in the animals and share the same enthusiasm and love for wildlife as their parents. Was Mary ever afraid that the animals would make her children ill? As a professional hygienist, Mary never had that concern. Mary and Gary express so much gratitude to the wild animals who have made their family, friends, and community so much "richer."

Anne Muller is WWB's tireless publisher and hotline helper. Call 845-256-1400 for more info.

new friend and, ultimately, of letting him go.

**PRODIGAL SUMMER** by Barbara Kingsolver. (Perennial, 2000). This fictional account explores three stories, each a paean of sorts to wildness--of human nature, of nature, of wildlife. Anyone concerned about mass coyote hunting will find this novel a stirring, provocative piece, and

the steamy scenes are bound to wake you up to the wild mating teeming in the woods near your house.

Future issues of WWB will offer more extensive reviews. If you are an author or publisher of a book related to wildlife, please send a review copy to Jeff Davis, P.O. Box 601, Bearsville, NY 12409.

## WWB's NEW DEPARTMENTS & Call for Queries

*The Wildlife Watch Binocular* is a newspaper quarterly devoted to helping the general public discover more ways to enjoy the wild life of wildlife that surrounds us--whether we live in crowded cities, convenient suburbs, or remote woods. Neither antagonistic nor pacifist, WWB offers intelligent opinion pieces, well-researched informational pieces, and entertaining pieces on a wide spectrum of topics related to wildlife. "Watch" in our title refers at once to the fact that we watch wildlife, and it, us.

During the past few months, we have been gathering the interest of some stellar writers on the environment from around the country.

The Autumn 2005 issue of WWB will introduce a few of these writers to you and also will introduce new departments that we hope will heighten your reading experience.

**THE FRONT LENS:** Non-polemic investigative or well-researched informative pieces. Local features. Educational pieces. Length: 750 words. One or two photos from author should be included

**HOW I SEE IT:** Personal narrative. Intelligent op-ed. Length: 500 words.

**ON THE LOOKOUT:** Interviews with activists, writers, artists, and more related to wildlife. One or two photos from author should be included. Length: 750 words.

**R.O.C.K.** (Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness): Features on Wildlife Rehabbers. One or two photos from author should be included. Length: 750 words.

**Queries:** Please send a full query before sending full manuscripts to Jeff Davis, Managing Editor, via email: [info@centertopage.com](mailto:info@centertopage.com).

Please do not send queries or submissions not directly related to wildlife.

Happy watching.

*The Wildlife Watch Binocular* is produced quarterly by Wildlife Watch, Inc., a 501 (c) Not-for-Profit Corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561 Phone: 845-256-1400; Fax: 845-818-3622; Send e-mail to [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net); [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) Anne Muller — Publisher

**YES, I would like to join Wildlife Watch and support the Wildlife Watch Binocular publication.**

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**Here's my additional contribution to R.O.C.K. \$ \_\_\_**

**I will continue to get the Wildlife Watch quarterly.**

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