

The Wildlife Watch Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Winter 2012

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Dear Dillie

BY E.M. FAY



Dillie and Lady

Veterinarian Dr. Melanie Butera and her husband, Steve Heathman, live in Canal Fulton, Ohio, with a couple of beloved pets. Nothing out of the ordinary about that, of course, until we learn that while one of their animal companions is a now-15-year-old standard poodle named Lady, the other is a seven-year-old doe named Dillie.

Dillie came to live with Steve, Melanie, and Lady several years ago when she was only a little fawn three days old. As Melanie explained, they received a call from a local deer farmer at 3 am one June night. "Dillie's mother was not taking to her, and he asked if we wanted to try to nurse her back to health." Dillie had been born with cataracts, so she was blind at birth, which is possibly why her mother pushed her aside and would not nurse her. Dillie was raised by Melanie on goat's milk right from the goat, and she did well on it.

Melanie, an experienced veterinarian, put Dillie on an IV drip to maintain her strength. She only weighed four

pounds at the time. The treatment worked. "We got her up and running around after about two weeks," Melanie said. Luckily, she and Steve have a property of 5 acres, so there was plenty of room for Dillie to stretch her young legs.

After Dillie had gained sufficient strength, Melanie and Steve had to decide what to do next.

"We then realized that she couldn't go back to the farm and live with the other deer and she couldn't live with our horses because they scared her too much."

Happily, Lady the poodle got along well with Dillie and vice versa. The couple decided to keep Dillie as a member of the family. Dillie's comfortable adjustment to the domestic life was a delight to observe. She had no qualms about making full use of the whole two-story house.

"This became apparent to us when we came home one day and couldn't find her downstairs.

We walked upstairs and found her standing on our bed with Lady. She had obviously learned a few tricks from the old dog."

Dillie behaved in a similar way to other pets, making use of the couple's bed in the early years, climbing the stairs, and even enjoying the family swimming pool! This clever deer is also house-trained, and knows to do her business in the proper place.

Among her other accomplishments, Dillie has learned how to turn the house lights on and off, and get ice from the refrigerator dispenser.

DILLIE

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SHOOTING SAGUARO TO SHREDS

Just as the Sphinx is an Egyptian national treasure, so the Saguaro Cactus is ours. This majestic cactus is the largest of its species in the U.S.; and, outside of Mexico, only grows in the Sonoran Desert. Napoleon's Army presumably used the Sphinx for target practice, and similarly, "recreational shooters" in Arizona are using our living treasures for target practice.



Fallen cactus

The Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) can grow to a height of 40-60 feet, and live as long as 200 years. They are slow-growing, but with sufficient rain a Saguaro can eventually weigh between 3200-4800 pounds. As with most cacti, they grow protective spines. Their fruit and flowers provide food and moisture for a wide variety of desert wildlife. Desert birds find refuge and nest in holes of the Saguaro cactus.

SAGUARO

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DILLIE

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As in any family, health problems are dealt with. Because of her cataracts, Dillie had to be looked after carefully at first. Low light and distances can be difficult for her vision, but her eyes have grown larger since, and the cataracts have not, so she gets around quite well. Steve and Melanie knew their dog Lady was a most suitable caretaker, and Lady did indeed look out for her companion. The two spent so much time together that Melanie says Dillie learned to act like a dog herself. They shared the family bedroom equably for several years. And, like any family "dog," Dillie even warmed Steve's feet by lying on them.

Dillie caused the family a brief scare when she wandered into the front yard one day, but all was well, as she never actually left the property. Melanie and Steve took prompt action to keep her safe. They got a GPS tracking system collar for Dillie to wear, so as "to keep our minds at ease," Melanie added. Deer who wander loose are liable to be destroyed, so they make sure to keep Dillie close to home at all times.

Having Dillie as a member of the family may make this home a little bit different from the average household, but her presence has come to seem quite normal, even indispensable to her "mixed-species" family.

Dillie the deer had a rough start in life, but she is living the "life of Riley" now,

thanks to some compassionate people – and Lady the poodle – who were willing and able to open their hearts and their home. Dillie will be 8 years old this coming June 6th. She has a popular facebook page and webcam site where animal lovers may follow her story:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dillie-the-Deer/167382209972167>
and www.ww.com/dilliecam,

Note to Readers: Dillie was born in captivity on a deer farm and so cannot survive in the wild. She was not taken from the wild, which is illegal in Ohio. Only specially trained persons, such as state-licensed wildlife rehabilitators, are qualified in the safe and proper way to handle non-domestic animals.

At Wildlife Watch, we have seen and heard many stories of inter-species love and cooperation, and it is always a joy to find new examples of happy relationships like Dillie's family.

Even though a deer in the house is not the norm, and Wildlife Watch does not endorse trying to convert any wild animal into a pet, in Dillie's case it is clearly the only reasonable solution for Dillie and her family. Dillie did not receive the normal nurturing that a fawn receives from the mother to learn how to live on her own in the wild. Dillie is alive and happy with her family, Lady has a good friend, Steve and Melanie obviously enjoy her company, and feel



Courtesy of Dr. Butera

happy that she has accepted them as family.

Wildlife Watch believes that the larger importance of the Dillie story is that it demonstrates that the fear deer have of humans is not a function of "nature" – it is not instinctual, it is not wired into the wild animal, but rather it is a function of "nurture" – it is a learned behavior based on fearful encounters with humans. It is a lesson passed to offspring in the wild. When the conditions that trigger fear change, wild animals and humans will be able to bond once again.

This article was based on an Interview by E.M. Fay with Dr. Butera and her husband.

LIVESTOCK DOOMED TO FURTHER SUFFERING

In yet another decision that shows no concern for the suffering of animals, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously last month to strike down the California law that mandated humane treatment of downed livestock headed for slaughter.

The case, National Meat Association vs. Harris, pitted federal regulation of domestic animal inspection – animals slated for slaughter and human consumption – against California Penal Code 599f, which calls for at least a minimal standard of treatment, including the humane euthanization of nonambulatory animals and not permitting the dragging or pushing with equipment of a suffering animal; the latter had to be moved with a sling, sled, or wheeled conveyance under the penal code.

Even though some Justices original-

ly thought the state code was justified, they all eventually agreed that the harsher federal rules should prevail. In other words, maintaining the bureaucratic primacy of a federal agency was more important to all the Justices than the extreme suffering of living animals.

Justice Elena Kagan delivered the unanimous opinion, writing that the Federal Meat Inspection Act preempts state law. The California law was passed in 2009 after incredibly cruel treatment of livestock by workers at a San Bernardino County slaughterhouse was secretly filmed. Horrific scenes showed workers pushing weak, incapacitated cows into the slaughter pens. Water was sprayed on the sick animals, trying to force them to stand and walk to their imminent death.

Although a San Francisco appeals



www.tinyurl.com/rnbsbxc

Photo: dailyworld.com

court ruled in favor of 599f last year, saying that an earlier decision siding with the meat industry was "hogwash," shamefully, the Obama administration sided with the meat producers.

You can read the Jan. 23, 2012 SC decision here:
<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/11pdf/10-224.pdf>

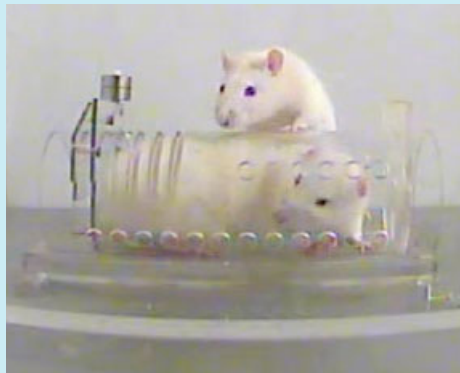
EMPATHETIC RATS

It is common for people to dismiss the notion that non-human species have character traits similar to our own, but animal experts have long noted examples of complex behaviors that indicate otherwise. Now, a University of Chicago study reveals that a species we humans have traditionally looked down on does indeed possess feelings that some people thought were exclusive to homo sapiens and other primates.

Psychologists left one rat in a see-through cage that could only be opened from the outside. A second rat was left loose outside the cage. The free rat was observed at first circling the cage, but then he tried to dig under it and bite through it. Finally, he figured out how to release the latch to open the cage and free his fellow.

"It's very obvious that it is intentional," says study co-author Inbal Ben-Ami Bartal. "They walk right up to the door and open the door."

After each instance of release, both rats engaged in excited running around. To prove that opening the cage was not simply an act of curiosity, the scientists also put free rats near an empty cage. These subjects were not as interested in the mechanism. The numbers tell the story: 23 out of 30 rats who saw the trapped



sciencelife.uchospitals.edu

rat learned how to open the cage, but only 5 of the 40 rats who saw an empty cage bothered to work the mechanism. Interestingly, rats reacted to the presence of a "trapped" stuffed animal exactly as they did to the sight of an empty cage. They were not fooled by a fake rat!

Rewards were not given to those rats who saved a trapped rat, thus self-interest played no part in their actions. Even more significantly, chocolate chips – a favorite treat – were offered as an alternative to altruism. The free rat was shown two cages, one with a trapped rat in it and the other with chocolate chips ready to eat. The psychologists found that the rats were equally likely to free their fellow rodent as they were to open the cage with the chocolate. In fact, the rescuer rats

also shared the coveted chocolate with their companion in at least half of the instances.

This series of experiments certainly seems to show that even the "lowly" rat will behave with empathy for their fellows. One further observation was that female rats displayed more empathy than males, with all 6 females in the study freeing the trapped individual, while 17 of the 24 males did so.

Now that science has shown that pro-social empathy is not limited to humans and primates, perhaps we can at last rid ourselves of old prejudices that consign other animals to an inferior, non-cognizant status. Knowing that we are not the only possessors of finer feelings, and that animals are not unthinking beasts, the next step surely should be to reconsider the ethics of animal testing, especially with all of the good alternatives that exist. Scientists will tell you that what works for mice will not work for rats. How different humans are from rodents and yet companies are still testing on rodents to see how humans can be affected by products. Isn't it time to move away from this flawed model?

Read the whole story at:
www.tinyurl.com/7wccv8s

The Charms of the Sandhill Crane

Every species has its own individual charms and idiosyncrasies, as all true animal lovers know. Mated Sandhill Cranes, for instance, perform a complex series of coordinated "unison" calls. They stand upright, with heads thrown back as they make the calls. The females initiate the unison calling. In addition, all cranes engage in dancing, their moves including bowing, jumping, running, wing flapping, and tossing sticks or blades of grass. Dancing can take place during any season and among cranes of any age. Scientists believe that dancing is a part of the cranes' motor development, and that dancing reduces aggressive behavior, relieves tension, and strengthens pair bonding. (Perhaps we humans could take a cue from these intelligent birds!)



www.tinyurl.com/7yuezmx

To see the mating dance of the Sandhill Cranes, visit
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCzEI9QwuCc>

~~TJ Maxx~~ After discovering that TJ Maxx was selling fur this fall and winter, **Connie Young**, an environmental writer and animal protector, wrote to them asking them to stop participating in cruelty to wild animals. She promptly got a form letter back saying that they are "looking into this issue." She then sent this letter back: *Thanks for responding to my letter protesting your sales of fur, but despite your excuse, I still cannot purchase anything from T.J. Maxx, and will tell my friends and colleagues to do the same while you continue to sell products stolen in a cruel way from live sentient beings. There is no excuse!*

Please send a letter to them letting them know how you feel at : Ms. Carol M. Meyrowitz, CEO, The TJX Companies, Inc. 770 Cochituate Road, Framingham, MA 01701, Main Number: 508-390-1000.

TURTLE CROSSING SIGNS NEEDED IN TOWN OF SPRING LAKE, NC

In January, Wildlife Watch received a call from an employee at Ft. Bragg, NC, whose window faces State Road 1451 (Manchester Road at that point). He had witnessed many turtles trying to get from one pond to another and getting hit by cars. Many never made it and were fatally crushed or severely injured crossing State Road 1451.

We found out that Kent Langdon of the NC Department of Transportation is the traffic engineer for that state road.

After a call from the employee and from Wildlife Watch, he said there would have to be an investigation and to call him back in March.

We certainly hope that this is not merely a pro forma exercise. PLEASE HELP BY CALLING THE NC DOT CUST. SERV. LINE: 877-368-4968 for starters to tell them that you are calling about State Road 1451 (W. Manchester). This is a human safety issue as well, as cars occasionally swerve to avoid the turtles. Although, even if it weren't, it is unacceptable to allow this slaughter to continue.

Mr. Langdon can be reached directly at 910-486-1452. Please let him know that you would like to see something positive done to help the poor turtles, and turtle crossing signs would be the best way to start.



WITH A LITTLE HELP, "63" FOUND HER ROAD BACK HOME

BY TERESE EVANS

This three toed box turtle was released back on her home turf last week.



63 the box turtle from MO

A HUGE thank you to **Merle and Vicki Wilson**, from Jesup, IA, who took her back to her home turf in MO!

This turtle came to us in mid June. Her rescuers were a young couple who were visiting family in MO and along the way, they saw a large number of turtles crossing the road; many were hit by cars and died. They found this one still alive and scooped her up and brought her back to IA with them. The turtle was fed bananas for one and a half months. When they went to the local pet store to buy an aquarium, the pet store fortunately asked them to call us at the **Black Hawk Wildlife Rehabilitation Project** for advice.

They wanted to do the right thing and did not realize that what they had done was wrong: to remove a turtle from its home turf and provide a diet deficient in many ways for a box turtle. When we got her, we dubbed her "63," as she was found on highway 63 in Missouri and I am right off highway 63.

So "63" spent a few months here recuperating. When I contacted the MO DNR, they wanted her back once she was well. She was pronounced well by Dr. Cherney recently and was sent down to MO with a health certificate in hand, in case there were any questions on the way, and the letter from the DNR saying they wanted her back in MO.

We had to figure out how to get her there safely. It was going to be over a 7-hour trip one way back to her home near Rolla, MO!

Merle and Vicki Wilson responded to the challenge and I put them in touch with the young man who brought her here to get more specifics on where exactly he found her.

As you can see in the photo, she was one happy turtle to get back to the wild! Thanks so much, Merle and Vicki and big thanks also to **Rachel Shadle** for rehabbing her until she was ready to go.

It often times takes a few helping hands to get a wild one back out there. This picture on her release day makes it all so worth it!

To learn more about the MO Box Turtle—check out this site! <http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/outdoor-recreation/nature-viewing/amphibians-and-reptiles/turtles/box-turtles>

If you are in our neck of the woods one day and you find a wild animal who needs help, please get in touch with me: **Terese Evans**, Black Hawk Wildlife Rehab Project teresedo@gmail.com; www.bhwildliferehab.com

Thank you to Merle and Vicki for all they did and for sending Wildlife Watch this happy story. Vicki wrote: Here is the box turtle that we took back to her home area near Rolla, Missouri. If you look on a map you can find Rolla about 2/3 of the way down in Missouri. We found a beautiful spot, nicely wooded, along a shallow gravel/rock bottomed creek. When I put her on the ground, she lifted her head, looked around and began to head up a slight rise to the wooded area in search of friends and home. You could almost see a smile on her little face! I hope she has a long, healthy life, many babies, and sunshine on her face every day.

Thank you Vicki, Merle, and Terese for all that you do for wild animals!

R.O.C.K. - Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

Wildlife Rehabilitators are aware of the many perils facing individual wild animals in their daily existence. Some can be avoided by personal steps that we can take - others need to be dealt with through education or lobbying efforts.

Wildlife rehabilitators are **licensed by state game agencies, yet they are given no support**, and they

are **not allowed to charge for their "services."** Sadly, animals often come to the attention of rehabbers when they are found by people who either don't want them near their house or don't know how to help them. When the DEC's, DNRs or police are called, they normally recommend killing or letting the animals die; and most veterinarians cannot take time from their busy schedules.

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary Saving Lives, Preserving Wildlife, Enriching the Environment

BY KELLY SIMONETTI

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary is a 120-acre preserved farm located in Warren County, New Jersey. It is a wildlife rehabilitation center that provides vital care and treatment to sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife. Licensed by the state of New Jersey to care for fawns, raccoons, skunks, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, woodchucks, and other small mammals, the Sanctuary is dedicated to rehabilitating these animals back to health so they can be returned to the wild where they belong. Our mission is also to actively educate the public about the importance of:

- Caring for ecosystems
- Supporting the environment in which we live
- Respecting the wildlife with whom we share this environment
- Protecting and preserving our native lands for future wildlife habitat

Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, supported entirely by public donations and volunteers. We receive no local, state or federal funding.

Late 2011 presented a huge challenge to the sanctuary with the floods in North Jersey and Hurricane Irene. During the



storm Antler Ridge Sanctuary lost power and had to care for over 70 animals in their car!

Then, the day after the storm the phone rang off the hook. Squirrels, skunks, fawns and raccoons were also affected by the storm. Seven days later, our intake was over 160 animals -- something no one expected.

Volunteers and community-support helped us pull the animals through hypothermia, broken limbs and dehydration. Our volunteers were feeding animals by candle light, and the volunteers who had power were taking home

items to wash.

Ten days later the power was restored to the sanctuary and we continued our effort of rehabilitating wildlife. So far, in 2012, we have been fortunate in North Jersey to experience a mild winter to support the animals that might not have made it. If you would like to learn more about the sanctuary and donate to keep our mission strong you can visit our web site at www.antler-ridge.com

This little guy was one of our rescues from the freak 2011 storm. He came in cold and dehydrated. He was found in a hollowed out downed tree by a tree service company. Orphaned and cold, he was crying for his mother and siblings who were never found. He was nurtured and cared for by our volunteers and was put into another litter of raccoons about his same size and age. After several weeks of adjusting to his new family we were unable to tell one from another and they were able to be released back to the wild.

Kelly Simonetti is founder and director of **Antler Ridge Wildlife Sanctuary.** <http://www.antler-ridge.com/>

I Make a Difference



Katherine McGill and masked friend

I am a wildlife rehabilitator. I make a terrified creature less afraid. I help an animal with her pain and even with her babies after she has been struck down by a careless driver, or killed because she sought refuge in your attic. I nurse and care for her surviving babies to be able to return them to the woods when they are older. I can make 5 minutes feel like a lifetime when I am rescuing you and your family from a scared skunk in your family room. I make a child experience empathy for another living being. I make the world a less scary place for every animal that has died in my arms from rat poison that

someone placed in their barn, or anti-freeze leaking from their truck. I make animals breathe after they have stopped. I heal their wounds after they were excruciatingly caught in a trap. I can make you less fearful of the natural world you simply must learn to exist in. I make myself get out of bed at 3am to assist a wildlife officer with a deer that has fallen in your pool, and I have never asked for thanks.

Katherine McGill is with the **League of Humane Voters - FL** and the **National Urban Wildlife Coalition.** Visit Katherine on Facebook



SAGUARO

Continued from page 1

They contribute to the desert ecosystem, keeping alive other life.

When a Saguaro dies naturally, its woody ribs are often used to build roofs, fences, and even furniture.

The Saguaro's respected status is such that Arizona has strict regulations about the harvesting, collection, or destruction of this species.

In spite of that, and because of almost no law enforcement, many Saguaro plants have been used for target practice and shot repeatedly until they fell over. Spent bullets and shell casings litter the area, along with garbage hauled in by "recreational shooters" for target practice and never removed. Even cacti left standing could die within two years if they have been shot enough times.

John Scheuring of the Arizona Native Plant Society (ANPS) said, "It looks like they targeted the arms first and shot off the arms, then went to the bases and shot them down."

The Bureau of Land Management



Shot Saguaro by John Scheuring.

(BLM) wants to wait for six months to a year before banning recreational shooting, which would no doubt condemn many more Saguaro to early and violent death at the hands of some sick "recreational" shooters.

US AZ Representative, Jeff Flake, introduced HB3440 in mid-November, which seeks to tie the hands of the BLM from limiting the "rights" of recreational shooters on BLM managed National Monuments. HB 3440 was co-sponsored by a slew of other Republican congressmen and fully backed by the NRA.

<http://flake.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=269490>

Since December 29, 2011, there have been at least five additional saguaros intentionally gunned down. The most recent was a 25 foot saguaro with six magnificent arms that was savaged two weeks ago.

Please disseminate news of this outrageous behavior by target shooters and the AZ congressman to a wider audience.

Contact **John Scheuring** through the Society at: aznpsinfo@yahoo.com

Sites to help you help wildlife

Marilyn Leybra, wildlife rehabilitator in Rockland County, NY, suggests that these sites be kept archived for reference about rehabilitation:



For example, what should you do if a bird is trapped in your house?

These are active links on the Wildlife Watch website.

www.tinyurl.com/86taccp2

www.tinyurl.com/76wa9p3

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We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

LEARN WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A LICENSED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

Come to a Fun, One-Day Workshop:

Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get there at 9:45. BYO lunch, coffee/tea provided.

RSVP before 3/26. Call 914-762-2912, ext. 110.

Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining, NY (Westchester)

Cost is \$25 for non-members of Teatown, and \$20 for members.

For directions visit www.teatown.org



WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital services for helping injured and orphaned wildlife. In addition to our national hotline, Wildlife Watch lobbies for wildlife protection bills, does direct rescue locally, and contributes to the local rehabbers for their care of the babies we bring to them. Through our publication, the **Wildlife Watch Binocular**, Wildlife

Watch emphasizes the unique spirit of individual animals and promotes wildlife watching as a means of spiritually and ethically relating to other beings, and as an enhancement of our life enjoyment.

Will you become a part of our team?

YES

<http://wildwatch.org/join/join.htm>

In Memory of SPLASH KISSER 1999-2012



Nancy Furstinger, author of 100 books about animals, including **Maggie's Second Chance** <http://wild-watch.org/Binocular/bino24/maggie.htm> lost her wonderful dog on February 2nd. She wrote, "*Splash Kissier, my wonderful nearly 13 rottie mix, has transformed into a star today. I'll miss my marvelous boy, whose love was absolute, sharing his passion with everyone, especially his two labby sisters. He is now in a peaceful place full of grace with Diamond and his bunny pals.*" To send your condolences, please e-mail Nancy at: animauthor@frontiernet.net.

I don't have time

This small squirrel
broken
by a speeding car,
he was so young,
so naive about roads,
just scampering
from woods to woods.
Well, he's just one of millions
smashed by us,
just a piece of roadkill debris
to be ground into the pavement.

I don't have time
to mourn for him,
to move him to a resting place,

I don't have time
to think about him
and all the others,

I have things I have to do,
I have places I have to be,
I have people I have to see.

Then why
do I stay here,
why
do I make this soft shallow grave,
why
do I move him so gently
why
are all these tears
pouring down my face ?

by John Cannon of the Shenandoah Valley, VA

Let's Go Wildlife Watching Lake Pleasant Regional Park Near Phoenix, Arizona

<http://www.communitywalk.com/wildlife#1019044fV210733.3BAJ9-112.19bV10>

Watchable Wildlife Inc. has created a wonderfully helpful website (above) to help wildlife watchers find places or animals of interest. We at Wildlife Watch are always on the lookout for places where our readers will be safe from the ricocheting bullets of hunting. Unfortunately, hunting is permitted in other parts of the larger system, but this Regional Park is hunting free.



Photo of Harris' antelope squirrel by Alan and Elaine Wilson <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

The park boasts resident deer, javelina, coyote, foxes, gray squirrel, Harris' antelope squirrel, and multiple bird species including peregrine falcon and nesting bald eagles, which in the winter and spring are main wildlife attractions. The lake's quieter coves attract a variety of migratory and wintering waterfowl, grebes, and other

water birds such as herons, egrets, cormorants, and gulls.

Flocks of American white pelicans and the occasional brown pelican (late summer) stop by the lake during migration. Common desert birds surrounding the lake include gilded flicker, Gila and ladder-backed woodpeckers, Costa's hummingbird, ash-throated and brown-crested flycatchers, verdin, black-tailed gnatcatcher, cactus and rock wrens, curve-billed thrasher, phainopepla, and black-throated sparrow. The taller and denser vegetation found in desert washes is also attractive to many migrating warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles. In addition, multiple reptiles inhabit the area, including desert tortoise, desert spiny lizard, zebra-tailed lizard, coachwhip, common kingsnake, and speckled and western diamond-backed rattlesnakes. You'd be one lucky wildlife watcher to see all the wildlife that calls this park home and it's just a short drive north from the Phoenix metropolitan area.

To learn more about this park and all it offers, contact: Maricopa County Parks at Ph: 602-506-2930; maricopacountyparks@mail.maricopa.gov

"KITTY GOES HUNTING" KEEPING KITTY ENTERTAINED WHILE YOU ARE OUT

Don't worry, no one gets hurt here. It's a video that has birds, fish, mice, and other animals darting across the screen, screeching and squeaking, to keep your kitty occupied.



You can see more information about it on the Amazon website or just by Googling.

RECOMMENDED VIDEO OF THE TRAVELS OF CANADA GEESE

Choo Choo Love of Canada writes: "Take your time and enjoy the awesome, inspiring travel of the wild geese. Canada geese arrive in the middle of the video."

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/Y1jL5jFct0>
Recommended by Choo who is the founder of
<http://lovecanadageese.com/>



**NEED HELP FOR
INJURED OR
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?
CALL THE WILDLIFE
WATCH HOTLINE!
1-877-WILDHELP
(1-877-945-3435)**

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed upon request at our discretion up to the amount available.

You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400

✓ Contribute by mail: Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Books for Children: FREEDOM FOR FREDDIE by Sharon L. James

Sharon dedicated her first book to her first granddaughter, Brooke, and to her former pet turtle, Freddie.

Sharon found Freddie sixteen years ago crossing a road with his "brother." He was about the size of a quarter. Sharon got off of her motorcycle to move the babies to the other side of the road, but then thought her daughter would like to have them as pets. She took them home and Freddie's brother died the following day. Poor Freddie spent the next 12 years alone in his tank. Sharon thought she was doing Freddie a favor by keeping him in a tank with all the enrichment that pet stores had to offer. Four years ago, she began to realize that she had really deprived Freddie of a full, rich life for years.

It's Sharon's wish that her book will teach kids (and adults) to leave wild animals in their own habitat.

Sharon had her revelation when she moved to her lakeside house. As she rowed out on the lake, she discovered many turtles basking in the sun, and she compared their lives to his, and decided that Freddie should join them. After careful consideration of the weather and location, she placed Freddie in the chosen spot, a shallow part of the lake. Saying

goodbye was painful, but then Freddie started swimming and diving, and surfaced once with his hands in the air as if he thought to say "Good-bye."

Sharon visited Freddie daily that summer. At first, when Sharon rowed out to the area where she had placed Freddie into the lake, she would call his name and rattle the container with the little sticks that Freddie used to be fed in confinement. He heard her and would make himself known by following her boat and putting up his little hand to say, "It's me." After several weeks, Freddie stopped greeting her, but Sharon believed he was there and fully acclimated to his new surroundings. Freddie could now get his own food, make his own friends, and have a wide assortment of

interesting rocks, branches, vegetation, and other critters to keep his mind occupied.

If you ever want to visit Freddie, he now lives in a lake in Wallkill, NY with other turtles. Perhaps if you contact Sharon, she'll row you out for a visit.

Illustrated by **Sonia Desilets**. The book may be ordered by visiting www.xlibris.com/bookstore or calling 888-795-4274 ext. 7879.

