

Wild Bird Rehabilitation  
9624 Midland Blvd  
Overland, Mo 63114



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## Visit the New [wildbirdrehab.org](http://wildbirdrehab.org) Website

You'll find interesting patient photos and stories, upcoming events and basic information on what to do if you rescue an injured bird. The *Press Room* contains articles and video about WBR and the newsletter library. See our pamphlet **I Found a Baby Bird** in the *Help I found a Bird* section. To join us helping area birds, find the button for the **Volunteer Application** by selecting *Get Involved* and *Volunteer*.

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, Mar 19 Overland Business Association Expo (4-8pm), Overland Community Center.** Stop by our exhibit and visit with WBR.

**Saturday, Apr 18 Estate Sale (7 am-2pm), 645 Bedford Oaks, Kirkwood.** Furniture, collectibles, books, antiques, artwork, household items and much more. All proceeds benefit WBR.

**Monday, Apr 13 & Tuesday Apr 14 Story Hour (10 am-10:45 am) at Whole Foods Town & Country.**

**Saturday, Apr 18 Sunset Hills Earth Day (10 am-3pm) at Sunset Hills Community Center.** Stop by our exhibit and visit with WBR.

**Friday, Apr 24 Schon on the Boulevard (5:30-9pm), #30 The Boulevard** - across from the Galleria Mall. 100% of donations go to WBR at this happy hour art show.

**Sunday, Apr 26 St Louis Earth Day, Muny Grounds in Forest Park.** Stop by our exhibit and visit.

**Saturday, November 14 Trivia Night & Silent Auction, Kirkwood Community Center.** Save the date for a fun evening at this annual event which is WBR's major fundraiser of the year.



# Wild Bird Chatter

Newsletter of Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Spring 2015

## Wild Bird Rehabilitation

9624 Midland Blvd  
Overland, Mo 63114  
(314) 426-6400

*Please call before you  
bring in a bird*

### Hours of Operation

After Apr 15: 9am - 7pm  
Daily  
Prior to Apr 15: 9am - 1pm  
and 5 -7pm

[www.wildbirdrehab.org](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org)



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



Our mission is to provide care for injured, ill and orphaned native wild songbirds and to release them back into their natural habitat. We also provide public education regarding the humane treatment of wild songbirds and the conservation of their habitat.

## Preparing for Spring

We look forward to spring in St. Louis - flowers, leaves on the trees and of course bird song. At Wild Bird Rehabilitation the winter months are spent treating House Finches with conjunctivitis, an occasional Pigeon and Robins injured by the family cat..

### Search for Improvements

The most significant function which occurs during this timeframe is preparation for spring. WBR staff clean and scrub from top to bottom. The staff analyzes methods, procedures and diets to determine what changes need to be made for the coming year to improve patient care. And of course training is critical. All returning volunteers receive refresher training and new volunteers are introduced to the basics.

### Staffing Needs

The spring and summer months require 100 volunteers to staff the Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center. Remember, baby birds require feeding every 15-20 minutes. Also, there are a variety of jobs which do not require "hands on" bird care. Volunteers are needed to do chores, set up cages, manage the front desk, admit patients, maintain patient computer records, handle construction projects and building maintenance.

### Call Center Plays Vital Role

WBR volunteers staff a Call Center which responds to calls regarding "what to do" when a bird is rescued. The Call Center enables the staff and volunteers at WBR to devote 100% of their time to bird care, rather than use valuable resources to answer the phone. Often the bird

"rescuer" can be prompted to take action which could save the bird's life and/or avoid hospitalization. Call Center volunteers work from home and you can help with this vital function.

**Let's Educate!**  
All birds don't eat worms!  
Diets are

determined by bird species, age and health. The



*Julie and Amanda, Mother and Daughter volunteer team, preparing cages. They are returning to WBR for the second year.*

average cost of songbird care for 5 weeks is \$57. Therefore WBR needs help fundraising and educating the St. Louis area on the importance of songbirds to our community and maintaining a safe environment for them. Also, you can help by using the eScrip card at Schnucks or shopping with Amazon Smile and designating Wild Bird Rehabilitation as your charity. Your donations are critical. WBR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency funded totally by donations. To volunteer, visit our website select *Get Involved* and *Volunteer* and click on the **Volunteer Application** button. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Squeezing Lemons for the Birds



*Audrey visits WBR to understand more about how her fundraising helps WBR.*

Neighborhood birds are not drinking lemonade these days but Audrey, a nine year old area girl, saw the *Post-Dispatch* article on Wild Bird Rehabilitation (Sunday, 7/6/2014) and decided she would like to do something to help birds! She and a friend decided to raise funds for their favorite charity by setting up a lemonade stand. They carefully scouted out the area and selected a spot near a playground where there would be plenty of activity. This successful event allowed Audrey to make a donation of \$87 to Wild Bird Rehabilitation. Audrey is no stranger to fundraisers – she previously raised money for kids in Haiti.

Next Audrey plans to continue to help the birds by making nestling baskets with her Girl Scout Troop. Asked about the future, Audrey responded that she hopes to volunteer at WBR when she turns sixteen. Thanks to Audrey for helping area birds!

## In Honor of...In Memory of

### In honor of Aren Ginsberg and Mark Tubbs

William Tubbs

### In honor of the WBR Staff

Marvin & Sandra Ginsberg

### In honor of Stephanie Avery

Lisa Avery

### In honor of Miss Peggy Sue

Laurence Rosen

### In honor of All Our Bird Friends

Mary Jo Stockwell

### In honor of My Children & the sweetness of a bird's song

Sarel Braisted

### In honor of My Father, John W. Hollis, Sr.

Melissa Keller

### In honor of Shamus

Ruth Vlasak

### In honor of Leslie Wainwright

Christine Knoll

Linda Lee

### In honor of Mr & Mrs Nelson Wainwright

David & Royal Robbins

### In honor of Marylou Gillman

Sue Kotar

### In honor of Hannah & Guinness

Idella Mae Fleetfoot

### In honor of Nancy Giannasi

Laura Jones

### In honor of Ruth A. Mason

Susan Mason

### In honor of My Beloved Baber

Diane Lapinski

### In honor of Finnegan Bayou

Mossotti

Lindsay Mossotti

### In honor of Marlena's Bird Buddy

Ron Speraneo

### In memory of Delores Tidwell

MJ Bohnert & Dave DeBold

### In memory of Paulo, a Dear Friend's Feathered Friend

Kathy Huck

### In memory of Elaine Sosna

Linda Sosna

### In memory of David Faintich

Carol Faintich

### In memory of Mildred Braun

Charlotte Evans

### In memory of Robert Skilling

Mike & Joyce Patton

### In memory of Peeps

Anonymous

### In memory of Mourning Dove #4950

Gabrielle De Moulin

### In memory of Dazey

Charlene Bambrick

### In memory of John Wiggins

Barbara Wiggins

### In memory of BJ the Cockatiel

Debbie Werner

### In memory of John Robert Eckerts

Ellen Harms

### In memory of Rocky the

Mockingbird

Larry & Diane Wilson

### In memory of Maria Blest

Cindy Blest

*Memorial brick for  
Our Friend  
Sallie Lynch*

### In memory of Lynn Davis

Eric & Jeanne Olson

### In memory of Betty Blankmann

R Blankmann

### In memory of Harold E. Mason

Susan Mason

### In memory of Larry Hoard

Bob & Barb Wanless

### In memory of Sweet Rocky

Catherine Mizerany

### In memory of Jitterbug

Judith Thompson

### In memory of Alberto, Obie & Catie

Patricia Viamontes

## Here's what's going on at WBR...

Recently representatives from WBR attended the annual *National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association Symposium* in Princeton, New Jersey. This is a great opportunity to learn about trends in the field and informally discuss practices and procedures with other rehabilitators. Sessions cover a variety of topics from volunteer recruitment to wound management. One of the goals for this year was to improve skills related to adult avian critical care.



*One of our winter patients, a House Finch, recovering from conjunctivitis.*

This month at WBR the focus is on preparation for the baby birds which will begin to arrive at the Center in mid-April. We will be continuing practices we began last year which proved to be successful. Matching diet to the bird species and increasing berry and insect content resulted in an improved rate of development. Each bird was closely monitored

insuring they were given sufficient space for exercise as the bird grew focusing on release as soon as they were physically ready. We'll be continuing to improve on environmental enrichment which helps develop skills the bird will need upon release. Surrounding them with plants found in their normal habitat and encouraging curiosity through creative ways of finding food help develop the foraging skills they would normally learn from their parents.

We are working with St Louis Audubon's **Bring Conservation Home** program on an exciting project to develop a native plants landscape at WBR. For information about how you can take advantage of this program at your home see [www.stlouisaudubon.org/BCH](http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/BCH).

### **WBR Staff & Volunteers**

## A Tale of Two Robins

For these two Robin siblings things did not start out well. They were found as nestlings by a well-meaning rescuer who tried to care for the Robins but did not provide the proper diet. Though this period was only a few days, an improper diet during this critical period led to a nutritional deficiency.

The Robins appeared to develop normally. They gained weight and had good body condition but there was one serious problem –



they didn't fly. They were sent to the aviary to acclimate to the outdoors and strengthen their wings prior to release – but all they did was hop and run. They did not have the wing strength for flight. This presented a serious problem. A critical component of the WBR Mission is to return songbirds to their natural habitat but this isn't possible if the bird can't fly and would thus be easy prey for a predator.

After research and discussion a treatment plan was developed: pull feathers that did not have a blood source to promote new growth. The birds were given medication prior to the treatment to lessen discomfort. Miraculously, this treatment worked! A month later the Robins were flying in the aviary. Now it was time for release but there

was concern that after such a lengthy stay at WBR they wouldn't know how to forage for food and find shelter. This concern wasn't necessary. Once they realized they were free they took flight and never looked back.

**Volunteer Manager Announced:** Wild Bird Rehabilitation is proud to announce that Denise White has accepted the position of Volunteer Manager. Denise is currently busy contacting volunteers and coordinating training and scheduling. This is quite a task since Wild Bird Rehabilitation requires 100 volunteers during the busy spring and summer season. Denise is a recent graduate of Webster University and has been a WBR volunteer for over 2 years. She organized the 2013 and 2014 Trivia Night Fundraisers and has been instrumental in the WBR education and outreach programs.

**Board of Directors:** Diane Bricmont, Bobbie Donaldson, S.L. Kotar, Donna Short, Mary Beth Spangler and Leslie Wainwright;

**Executive Director:** Tracy Durrell