

Wild Bird Rehabilitation  
9624 Midland Blvd  
Overland, Mo 63114



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Native Missouri plants flourishing at WBR thanks to St. Louis Audubon's **Bring Conservation Home** program. Missouri primrose shown in the foreground and Columbine in the background. Consider adding natives to your landscape: seeds serve as bird food and plants attract pollinators.

November 14, 2015

Silent Auction & Trivia Night

Save the Date!

Plan to attend this fun evening at Kirkwood  
Community Center

If you would like to provide an auction item or  
learn about corporate sponsorship  
opportunities, please contact us

Email: [wbrtrivia@gmail.com](mailto:wbrtrivia@gmail.com)

Phone: 314-426-6400

Remember to help area birds by using  
your eScrip Card and designating  
**Wild Bird Rehabilitation** when you  
shop at Schnucks!



us on Facebook and visit our website [www.wildbirdrehab.org](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org) for information about what to do if you find a bird, WBR events, bird rescue stories and more.



# Wild Bird Chatter

Newsletter of Wild Bird Rehabilitation

Summer 2015

## Wild Bird Rehabilitation

9624 Midland Blvd  
Overland, Mo 63114

(314) 426-6400

*Please call before you bring  
in a bird*

### Hours of Operation

9am - 7pm  
Daily

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



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.

## Inside the E.R.

The E.R. is the starting point of activity at WBR. It's very much like the Emergency Room in the hospital. At times 4 or 5 people are performing various functions: feeding, inspecting a new arrival, checking the incubator occupants and always cleaning cages.

The Volunteers and Staff who manage the E.R. are experienced in all facets of bird care. They examine new arrivals, check on patient progress, feed and administer medications.

Currently, most of the patients are baby birds but also adult birds with injuries from cats, cars, windows and other urban dangers.

Within the E.R. the baby bird progresses through a number of stages. Originally, they are placed in a nest-like basket often crammed with an entire family of nestlings. It seems that birds with nest mates recover and develop quicker. The competition for food causes the bird to develop its aggressive tendencies - a necessity in the wild. If there is no other bird of the same age and species they will be paired with another bird that has a similar diet and personality traits.

As the bird grows he is moved to a larger basket to provide more space. The injured adult bird is generally placed in a small area to avoid too much movement during

recovery until it is medically safe for them to move around in a larger space.



*Pre-fledge Cardinals who arrived separately became nest mates.*

Diet is critical to the baby bird's development. Not all birds eat worms - so WBR feeds the bird a diet consistent with what they would be fed by the mother. Feedings are every 15-20 minutes in the nestling stage

with morning protein

supplements. In the case of an injured adult, diet is critical to the healing process.

When the baby bird shows fledgling traits and is trying to escape from the basket it's time for a cage in the Nursery. The adult bird is moved to Recovery when stabilized. This is a quiet area devoted primarily to recovering adults.

When the bird has the muscle tone and weight necessary for flight, it's time to transition to the Aviary to become accustomed to the outdoors prior to release. At this point it is usually 3-6 days until release and then we have achieved our goal of returning another native songbird to our area!

***Rescue Alert: If you find a baby bird, don't assume that the mother is not returning to care for the bird. See page 3 "Here's what's going on at WBR" for more information about what to do if you find a baby bird.***

## In Honor of...In Memory of

### In honor of the marriage of Tavi

#### Karpilow & Eric Fields

Nnena Achilefu  
Mr & Mrs Eugene Feder  
Mrs Ginger Reinert  
Marsha Shepley  
Ruth & Doug Smith  
Daryl Giblin  
Fred Hale  
Deborah Hauser  
Michael & Rebecca Zaccarello  
Bruce & Susan Buzzell  
Mary Beth Spangler  
Christine Watts  
Rob & Nancy Burkett  
Valerie Haynes  
Jim & Donna Short

### In honor of the Dedication of All

#### WBR Volunteers

Patricia Viamontes

### In honor of Leslie Wainwright

Sarah Yeargain  
John P Rosenau

### In honor of Diane Doster

Marcia Block

### In honor of Carol Kershner

Katherine Snowden

### In honor of Bonnie Boime

Helena Servis

### In honor of all Staff & Volunteers of

#### WBR

Charlene Schneider

### In honor of Lynne Breakstone

Mary Ann Shaw

### In honor of Betsy Ligon

Linda Lindsey

### In honor of Martin Hill

Jonathan Cage

### In honor of Thorn Holliday

Kendra Holliday

### In honor of Mary Blackmar Shelden

Martha Ziegler

### In honor of a crow named Sam

Fred Boeneker

### In honor of Shasta

Mike, Kelly & Grace Geraghty

### In honor of Marlena's Bird Buddy

Ronald Speraneo

### In honor of Stubbie

Laura Sullivan

### In honor of Zephyr & Indigo

Mary J Ames Brown

### In honor of Hubertine

Natalie Gerke

### In memory of Jane Nelson

Tim Watt

### In memory of Nancy M Thomas

John Thomas

### In memory of

#### Eleanore Anderson

Brooks Anderson

### In memory of

#### Jeannette Weiss

Lynette Baker  
Karla Poole-Malaney

### In memory of

#### Barbara Framer

Linda Sosna



### In memory of BJ the Cockatiel

Debbie Werner

### In memory of Punky

Eric Mueller

### In memory of a Wild Bird 2 days old

Caroline Smith

### In memory of Christopher Robin

Mrs Dorothy Hess-Tanner

### In memory of Mattie, our Yorkie

Ruth Vlasak

### In memory of Molly, my Dog

Janet Noble

### In memory of the little Robin who broke his leg

Kimberly Gillespie

*In memory of Dorothy Anna Walters who included Wild Bird Rehabilitation in her estate plan.*

## Calendar of Events

**Sunday, June 14 Sustainable Backyard Tour.** This event includes a visit to WBR's native plant garden. See [www.wildbirdrehab.org/events](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org/events) for a link to more information and the registration page.

**Saturday, June 27 Estate Sale (7 am-2pm), 645 Bedford Oaks, Kirkwood.** Furniture, collectibles, books, antiques, artwork, household items and much more. All proceeds benefit WBR.

**Saturday, October 17 Shaw Nature Reserve (2-6 pm)** Special event highlighting the insect/bird connection.

**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.

See [www.wildbirdrehab.org/events](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org/events) for up-to-date information!

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

Baby birds are everywhere at WBR. Though we love them and they're cute as can be, the goal is to release them to their native habitat; so it's important if you find a baby bird to take action that results in the most positive outcome possible for the bird. The first choice is to have the baby remain with the mother.

We have a guide on our website:

<http://wildbirdrehab.org/help-ifoundabird/>

that takes you step by step through the process if you find a baby bird. Here are a few general guidelines:

- Birds are not sensitive to smell – so return a nestling to the nest if you find it on the ground.
- If you think a bird or nest has been abandoned, it is necessary to begin **dedicated watching** for 30 – 40



*Eastern Bluebird fledglings*

minutes to make sure the mother does not return while you're not looking. You may think the nest has been abandoned but mom is secretly visiting to avoid drawing attention to the nest. Predators may be lurking!

- If you determine the baby bird has been abandoned and if its body feels cool to the touch, warm the bird if it's cold by putting it in a box inside the house or garage.
- Fledgling birds hop around on the ground while they are learning to fly – they look wobbly and vulnerable but aren't automatically injured. Be sure to restrain any pets in the area.

If a bird appears injured in any way contact WBR. Our Call center is available from 8 am to 8 pm and can help you determine a plan of action for a bird you think may need our help.

### WBR Staff & Volunteers

## Preserving Our Native Species

Since WBR is licensed to care for native wild birds and songbirds, we are starting a program to help limit the number of Starlings, a nonnative invasive bird, that we treat. The Cornell Institute of Ornithology states the European Starling is considered a "problem" bird for several reasons:

- It competes fiercely for nesting cavities, ousting such native birds as bluebirds and various woodpeckers. It sometimes kills the original cavity-holding birds, and often destroys their eggs and young.
- It is aggressive at feeders, keeping smaller birds away and quickly exhausting birdseed supplies.
- Its enormous winter foraging flocks are considered pests in agricultural areas.
- Its huge winter roosts present hygiene challenges in human-inhabited areas.

Since Starlings, Pigeons and English House sparrows are non-native and therefore not protected by federal laws, you may, therefore, raise them on your own; WBR will supply you with the information and equipment you need. Beginning in 2016, we no longer will accept Starlings.



*Starling nestlings which are recognizable by their large yellow mouth.*

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