

Rockfish Sanctuary



A Semi-Annual Newsletter

Fall 2007

Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

While wild animals are best on their own, foraging for food in their natural habitat, left alone by humans, many of us enjoy the brief interactions we have with wild animals: seeing a deer in the forest while driving down 29 South, watching a hawk circling in the air above us, being awed by the speed and agility of tiny hummingbirds at a porch feeder, or stumbling on a raccoon creeping through the yard at dusk.

These events can bring great pleasure to an animal-lover and there are ways we can increase our chances of seeing these lovely creatures. We can provide water, food and shelter for suburban wildlife in our yards. Here are some ways to invite animals to share your space:

- Attract butterflies by planting purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*), zinnias (*Zinnia elegans*), and butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
- Attract hummingbirds by planting trumpet vines (*Campsis radicans*), bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), and delphinium (*Delphinium staphisagria*)

- Attract toads by providing a moist hiding place for them
- Attract birds by putting up feeders with the seeds they like most
- Provide water in many ways: small, and large, deep containers
- Place your feeders near cover so birds feel safe visiting them



Protecting Wildlife in Your Yard

Once we invite these revered guests to share our yards, we have a few responsibilities to keep them healthy and safe so they will return.

Sometimes this means giving up our idea of the picture-perfect yard but the pay-off is great and well worth the sacrifice. Here are some

ways to ensure that the animals who visit you stay healthy:

- Plant with the three D's in mind:
 - diversity
 - design
 - diligence
- Diversity: plant many kinds of plants to attract many kinds of animals and the bugs they eat
- Design: create a garden that provides protection for animals against predators and weather
- Diligence: keep trying, sometimes it takes awhile for animals to find you
- Avoid using pesticide and herbicides in your yard so wild animals aren't poisoned
- Learn to put up with a few caterpillars eating your melon plants if you want to enjoy butterflies
- Change water containers frequently, animals thrive on the same fresh, clean water you do
- Clean feeders often to avoid the development of mold and disease which can easily injure birds
- Enjoy the show!

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To:



Rockfish Sanctuary Inc.
P.O. Box 3
Charlottesville, VA
22903

ROCKFISH SANCTUARY INC

Rockfish Sanctuary seeks to:

- Provide care for injured and orphaned wildlife and prepare them for release back into the wild ,
- Provide appropriate, safe habitat areas for wildlife to live their lives in safety and comfort, and
- Provide educational experience to the community and help foster a lifetime of respect and care for wildlife and other natural resources.



Sanctuary
News

Animal
Stories

Animal Census: January 1, 2007—July 30, 2007

Bluebird	19	Blue Jay	25
Box Turtle	2	Canada Goose	13
Cardinal	4	Carolina Wren	2
Catbird	4	Chickadee	2
Chimney Swift	7	Chipmunk	2
Cowbird	1	Crow	7
Deer	1	Dove	3
Eastern Flycatcher	1	Fawn	2
Flicker	3	Flying Squirrel	1
Ground Hog	1	Hawk	2
Heron, Little Green	1	House Finch	4
House Sparrow	3	Hummingbird	1
Killdeer	1	Mallard	81
Mockingbird	2	Mouse	4
Opossum	18	Phoebe	3
Quail	5	Rabbit	20
Raccoon	15	RedShouldered Hawk	2
RedTailed Hawk	1	Robin	15
Screech Owl	4	Skunk	8
Sparrow	5	Sparrow Hawk	1
Squirrel	13	Starling	6
Thrush	3	Tufted Titmouse	1
Turkey	3	Wood Duck	24
Wren	11	Yellow Warbler	1
Unidentified	4		



A Baby Opossum

After being rescued by a brave woman from a drunk man who was kicking this 4 inch long baby, he came to RS with significant brain damage. He could only walk in circles. After some creative thinking, rehabbers put obstacles in his tiny circles forcing his brain to grow so he could move in a different direction or climb over things. While this tiny guy can't be released, he will live out his days in Lynchburg as an education opossum.

Bluebirds of Happiness

A local builder discovered a nest of baby bluebirds in the crankshaft of his frontloader just after he moved the machine from Charlottesville to Montpelier. After hearing from Nathou that the babies wouldn't survive the night without their mother, he climbed in the car and drove back to Montpelier, found the babies with a flashlight and delivered them to RS. Thanks to his willingness to go out of his way, these babies were released one month later in fine condition.

Rockfish Sanctuary Needs More Space!!!

Based on the increase in the number of animals needing our care, the Board is seeking to expand Rockfish Sanctuary. A larger space would allow for three critical components of a successful animal sanctuary:

- *Nursery areas for close monitoring of animal health and frequent nursing care and feedings*
- *Large outdoor cages for animals who need space for healthy motor development*
- *ild areas to 'soft release' animals who are ready to be out of the cage but cannot yet survive on their own without help from us*

Two properties that would meet these needs were identified and explored this year. It was exciting to imagine Rockfish Sanctuary's future in a new space... soon...!

Animal Stories Stories



A Green Heron

RS received its first ever Green Heron this summer. She came to RS as a nestling and needed to be taught how to fish before she could be released. Using sticks in a baby pool, rehabbers

How You Can Help RS

We need a lot of things to keep Rockfish Sanctuary humming. Please let us know if you can help with any of the following:

- Jars of Beechnut Baby Food—meat flavors
- Hardware cloth for shoring up our cages
- Help cleaning cages
- Dry dog food
- Hay & straw
- Blue pads from the drugstore
- Cash donations—most of Rockfish Sanctuary's funding comes from donors, animal-lovers just like you.
- Please contact us if you can help!

Hugs & Roses: Our Gratitude

Sanctuary Interns

Sarah Howell : UVA intern who worked every weekend all summer
Ginny Mills: Longwood intern who worked 40hrs/week May-August

Wildlife Rehabilitators

Nathou Attinger, our founder
Beverly Rayman

Sanctuary Board Members

Becky Allen
Boo Barnett
Beverley Butler
Erla Hagan
Mary Huey
Patty Wallens



Rockfish Sanctuary Supporters

Beirne Carter Foundation

\$2000 for new cage

BAMA Works Fund

\$2000 for new cage

J & E Berkeley Foundation *\$1000 for care & feeding of animals*

C'ville Area Community Foundation

Farkas Family Foundation

Perry Foundation

\$17,000 for enclosure improvements

Southern States

Hardware cloth sold to RS at cost

Linda Maxwell

Accounting services

Huey & Bjorn

Payroll services

Judy Heyde

Mailing list & animal statistics

Jim & Erla Hagan

More than we can describe!

David Lee & Liz Courain

Building a new skunk cage on short notice

Susan Hastings

Regular feeding of the RS babies

Ann Salami

Cage cleaning

Charlene Hurt

Microwave, refrigerator &

plastic ware

Conor Pratt

Eagle Scout project: building a 12'x10'x8' enclosed cage



Animal Stories



One of These Things is Not Like the Other!

No, you aren't seeing things! One of these baby birds is a lot bigger than the rest. The bigger baby is a robin who took comfort from sharing a nest at the sanctuary with a group of baby bluebirds. We think she won't be worse for wear based on her experience!



A Raccoon in the Road

This baby raccoon came to RS after being hit by a car and rescued by a Sweetbriar professor. He was comatose on arrival but after treatment with anti-inflammatories and antibiotics, he got much better. After sharing a cage with other rescued raccoons, he was released in late September.

Training and Information



The Wildlife Center of Virginia's
Conference on
Wildlife Rehabilitation

October 27 & 28, 2007
Best Western Inn Conference Center
Waynesboro, VA
www.wildlifecenter.org



National Wildlife
Rehabilitators Association
Annual Symposium

March 4—8, 2008
Cherry Hill, NJ
www.nwrawildlife.org



Wildlife Capture, Restraint, Handling
& Transport Workshop
Introduction to Raising Orphaned
Mammals Workshop

December 8, 2007
Wildlife Center of Virginia
Waynesboro, VA
540-942-9453
outreach@wildlifecenter.org



Creative Solution!

Rockfish Sanctuary received several goslings with foot and leg deformities this summer. This gosling's legs were splayed out when he arrived but after a week in a special, very narrow cage, he emerged with legs aimed straight ahead!



A Spider Rescue?

Wildlife Rehabilitator Beverly Rayman and RS Intern Ginny Mills found two Black Widow spiders this summer in the Crow Cage! After some soul-searching, they successfully captured both spiders in glass jars and relocated them a safe distance from the Rockfish charges. Black Widow Spiders take 2-4 months to mature and most spend all their lives in one spot. The Black Widow Spider is venomous with venom that is 15 times more potent

Animal Quotes



I have developed a deep respect for animals. I consider them fellow living creatures with certain rights that should not be violated any more than those of humans. ~Jimmy Stewart

The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men. ~Alice Walker

Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar. ~Bradley Millar

The human spirit is not dead. It lives on in secret.... It has come to believe that compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind. ~Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace Prize address, "The Problem of Peace in the World Today"



An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language. ~ Martin Buber

There's no need for a piece of sculpture in a home that has a cat. ~ Wesley Bates

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened. ~ Anatole France

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. ~ Ben Williams

All of the animals except for man know that the principle business of life is to enjoy it. ~ Samuel Butler

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before. ~ Robert Lynd

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song. ~ Chinese Proverb

Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms. ~ George Elliot

There are no ordinary cats. ~Colette



No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as a dog does. ~ Christopher Morley

The bluebird carries the sky on his back. ~Henry David Thoreau

Lots of people talk to animals.... Not very many listen, though.... That's the problem. ~Benjamin Hoff, The Tao of Pooh

If you want to live and thrive, let the spider run alive. ~American Quaker Saying

When the bee comes to your house, let her have beer; you may want to visit the bee's house some day. ~Congolese Proverb