
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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Website: www.ziggystree.org E-mail: ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE!

This spring and summer has been interesting, to say the least. We have seen record numbers of intakes of some species, especially with the local waterfowl. While we usually receive one or two batches of ducks or geese, we admitted 73 youngsters in just two weeks in May!

All duck and goose species are considered "precocial" babies. They are downy, with eyes open and leave the nest soon after hatching, following their mother to water. They can eat on their own, learning from the adult where to forage for food.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)



Wood Ducks are one of our most colorful wild ducks. They are typically about 1/3 the size of a typical Mallard. They primarily live in shallow ponds, marshes and lakes where vegetation is plentiful. These locations are good sources of food (small insects, beetles and vegetation) while also providing plenty of cover from predators.

Wood Ducks nest in tree cavities, such as old woodpecker holes, up to 60 feet from the ground. The female usually lays 8 to 10 eggs and incubates them for 28 to 32 days. The ducklings leave the nest within a day of hatching, making the leap from the nest cavity to the ground, and then join the mother to make the trip to the nearest body of water. They are typically tended just by the female and can fly in 56 to 70 days.

These ducklings are easily identified by the eye stripe that goes from behind the eye to the neck, as opposed to Mallard ducklings whose eye stripe goes from the beak through the eye to the neck.

Wood Ducks are considered "perching ducks" as they have claws on their feet that allow them to grip tree bark and perch in trees.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)



Mallards are probably one of our most recognizable duck species. Mallards are "dabbling ducks". They can be seen feeding in lakes and ponds by tipping their tail up and putting their head under water to reach aquatic plants, seeds and snails.

Mallards nest on the ground, usually near water, although we get several reports each year of nests in low planters in mall and restaurant parking lots. Mallards typically lay 10 to 12 eggs, incubated by the female for 26 to 29 days. They also go to water soon after hatching. They can fly when they are 7 to 8 weeks old.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)



Canada Goose, juvenile

Incorrectly called “Canadian” geese by many people, they are our most common and plentiful goose species. They are easily spotted in flight in a “V” formation. Each goose takes a turn leading the flock in flight as the others coast behind.

Geese are monogamous and form long-term pair bonds. They have a strong fidelity to their nesting territory. They nest on the ground near water. The nest of 5 to 6 eggs is incubated by the female with the male standing guard nearby. Eggs are incubated for 25 to 30 days. They are also led to water soon after hatching to learn to swim and bathe. The young are tended by both parents and can fly when they are 9 weeks old. They may stay with the parents until the following spring.

Geese feed primarily on grasses and insects but may eat the occasional berry. The fact that they eat grass (and have very large poop) is probably a reason they are not very popular on golf courses.



Canada Goose, adult

Did you know.....?

- There are about 154 species of ducks and geese in the world. They are found on all continents. 50 species occur in North America.
- Ducks are 1 to 2 years old when they first breed. Geese are 3 to 5 years old.
- Survival rates are extremely variable. 65 to 80% of ducks may die in the first year. Those that survive that perilous first year live only for another 1 to 2 years. Geese that survive the first year generally live at least another 4 years
- Bread is BAD for ducks and geese. It does not have proper nutrients for them and can cause long-term damage to their bones and feathers.
- Many species of ducks and geese go through a flightless molt, or the simultaneous loss of all their primary flight feathers. They may be flightless for up to 5 weeks.
- Geese are more likely to migrate during the day, while some species of ducks migrate at night.

If you enjoy feeding the ducks and geese at your local pond or lake, we recommend chopped lettuce, bird seed, cracked corn or seedless grapes cut in half.



Wood Duck, adult male



Mallards, adult male and female

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS

A big **THANK YOU** to these good folks who donated during The Big Payback, a one day on-line giving event hosted by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee:

**Sabina Mohyuddin * Lance Groody * Barbara Futter
Philip Hylan * Lloyd Daniel * Rana Pawlowski
Laura McCall * Angela Hensley * Teresa Chrisman
Anne Ray * Susan Parker * Lara Dudley
Hazel Fannin * Margo Ford * Adam Borchardt
Sherry Arledge * Amy Shever * Donna Jennings
Katherine Brown * Marcia Medford * Jeff Cashdollar
LouAnn Partington * Philippa Holloway
The Eskind Family Foundation
Delek Fund for Hope**

We set a goal of \$2000 to help defray the costs of feeding our young bird and mammal patients. We were ecstatic when we exceeded that goal – our final total was \$2185!

We've had an extremely busy baby season. As you could see from our cover story, we had an extraordinary number of ducklings this season. Likewise our mammal numbers are up from last year, in part because we are the only organization in middle Tennessee currently admitting neonate (newborn) squirrels, opossums and cottontails. We are also the only organization admitting hatchling and young nestling songbirds.

Our second round of baby mammals is in full swing. We are currently caring for 70+ Virginia Opossums and 20+ Eastern Gray Squirrels with more arriving nearly every day. The very young ones (eyes still closed) require round-the-clock feedings every 2 to 2-1/2 hours, so our mammal team is not getting much sleep these days.



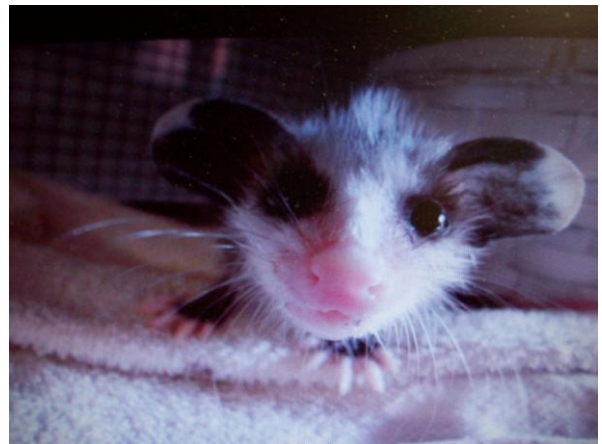
Eastern Gray Squirrel

WISH LIST

- Gift cards (grocery store, Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply)
- High quality dry cat food
- Baby Food (fruit – apples, bananas, blueberries)
- Canned or frozen mixed vegetables
- LCD Projector
- Heating Pads (without automatic shut-off)
- Nuts (pecans, walnuts, acorns)
- Fresh Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini)
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Unscented laundry detergent
- 24, 36 or 48 inch Bungee cords

Contact us at 615-631-2205 or 931-393-4835 to arrange to drop off any of the above items.

GOT MILK?



Virginia Opossum

Our youngest mammal patients require a special formula, developed for the dietary needs of these growing babies. If you'd like to help defray our purchase costs, you can donate by credit card through our Facebook page or our Giving Matters profile, or mail your donation to the address listed on our membership form. Be sure to note that the donation is to be used for the mammal program.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to support us through the Kroger Community Rewards program. To date, we've received \$308.48!

For privacy reasons, Kroger does not provide names of those who have signed up to support us. So even though we can't thank you personally, please know that we are extremely grateful for your support.

Not registered? Just go on-line to www.kroger.com/community_rewards, and enroll your rewards card, selecting Ziggy's Tree as your charity. You still get gas points and discounts – and Kroger donates money to us!

If you are already enrolled in the program, this is the time of year to re-enroll. Kroger requires that you confirm you still wish to remain in the program and still wish to support Ziggy's Tree.

Don't have an e-mail address or computer access? You can still sign up. Just call 1(800) KROGERS, OPTION 3 or 1(800)576-4377, OPTION 3.

And please ask your friends and family to enroll and support us!



SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE

- Become a member – just complete the application on the back of this newsletter, or visit our website to download and print an application.
- Give a gift membership to a friend!
- Purchase items from our wish list.
- Donate newspapers (we use those to line cages and cover the tables under the cages)
- Contact us about volunteer opportunities, such as transport, animal releases, administrative/office work, fundraising, board membership or contributing to our newsletter
- Like us on Facebook and stay updated on releases, admissions and other news.
- Invite us to speak to your church or civic group – we love to tell people about the work we do!

Check our website at www.ziggystree.org for other ways you can support us!

For assistance with orphaned or injured mammals or general questions about mammals, call or text Angela at 615-631-2205.

For assistance with orphaned or injured birds or general questions about birds, call LouAnn at 931-393-4835 or 931-841-9781.

Looking for a project for your scout troop, church, school or civic group? We'd love to have more squirrel nest boxes, and could also use small bluebird or woodpecker boxes to use with our young cavity nesting birds. Contact us for more information.

We're also looking for a volunteer with construction skills to help build a small cage for a non-releasable bird of prey. Call or text LouAnn at 931-841-9781.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

SUSTAINING

Peebles 30 Days of Giving

SUPPORTING

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund
Shane Brindley
Deborah Belmont
Susan Cain
Anne Kenney

FAMILY

Jeannie Cobb * Charles Hailey * Alice Jacobson
Martha Smith * Philip & Marilyn Falk * Karen Sciulli
Linda Britt * Stacy Turner * Clay & Deborah Faulkner
Stephanie Bogue * Renee & Tony Halterlein
George Gifford * Janet Samsel * Molly Bronaugh
Darlene Zamora * Patrick Wright

INDIVIDUAL

Leah Harwell * Charalin Kipker * Diane Witt
Sandy Phillips * Susan Gennoe

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund * Barbara Leibert
Wildlife Resources & Education Network
Debbie & David Stovall * Laurie Casner * Larry Campbell
beth Kline * Adam Chandler * Melissa Meeks
Sydni Nixon * Whitney Quandt * Jonathon German
Mike Blackburn * Janet Browand * Lana Holland
Michelle MacQuarrie * Sandra Carter * Cassandra Wilson
Steve Prater * Fran Consalvo * Sami & Kathy Green

VOLUNTEERS

Animal Care: Sami Green, Valerie Bjorn, Sherry Teas,
Brenan Bailey, Tahira Mohyuddin, Sherri Pierce, Angela
Hensley, LouAnn Partington

2017 RELEASES

APRIL

1 Great Blue Heron
1 Eastern Bluebird
1 Turkey Vulture
2 Mallards
1 American Crow
1 Mourning Dove
48 Eastern Cottontails
30 Virginia Opossums
4 Eastern Gray Squirrels

MAY

1 Mourning Dove
2 White-breasted Nuthatches
11 Carolina Wrens
17 House Finches
1 Chipping Sparrow
4 American Robins
1 Downy Woodpecker
1 Tufted Titmouse
1 Northern Mockingbird
57 Virginia Opossums
25 Eastern Gray Squirrels
52 Eastern Cottontails
1 Southern Flying Squirrel

JUNE

2 Brown Thrashers
1 Carolina Chickadee
1 Mourning Dove
2 Northern Cardinals
5 American Robins
7 Eastern Bluebirds
5 Eastern Phoebe
2 Mallards
7 House Finches
1 Eastern Meadowlark
2 Northern Mockingbirds
6 Carolina Wrens
2 Canada Geese
20 Mallards
42 Wood Ducks
1 Southern Flying Squirrel
27 Eastern Cottontails
45 Eastern Gray Squirrels
43 Virginia Opossums

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
92 Maple Ave.
Tullahoma, TN 37388



NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.

PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE, I AM ...

- A NEW MEMBER**
 RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are for one year
Gift Memberships are also available.

Please Mail This Form To:

**Ziggy's Tree WRC
92 Maple Ave.
Tullahoma, TN 37388**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

___ Individual \$25.00
___ Family \$40.00
___ Supporting \$100.00
___ Sustaining \$250.00
___ Advocate \$500.00
___ Wildlife Champion \$1000.00

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Home Phone (____) _____ Zip _____ -- _____
Work Phone (____) _____
e-mail _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- ___ Environmental Education
___ Wildlife Rehabilitation
___ Fundraising

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. If you'd like to renew by credit card, use the Donate button on our Facebook page or visit our profile at GivingMatters.guidestar.org.

Not sure what to get that special someone for birthdays, anniversaries or just because? Consider giving them a one year membership to Ziggy's Tree!

Members receive our newsletter.

Ziggy's Tree strives to be environmentally conscious. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, please check