
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Website: www.ziggystree.org

E-mail: ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com

EASTERN CHIPMUNK (*Tamias striatus*)

Eastern Chipmunks are one of the mammals we often take into rehabilitation. Chipmunks are diurnal creatures (being most active early and late in the day). They are in the rodent family of mammals. This small rodent is so called due to being endemic to eastern parts of North America. The Eastern chipmunk is a mainly terrestrial animal, distinguished by 5 dark stripes, stretching along its back, from shoulders to rump, and alternating with 4 light colored stripes. The long, soft coat of this animal often becomes paler during the winter months. Individuals of both sexes look alike. The Eastern chipmunks have pouches on their cheeks, made of extendible skin. These cheek pouches enlarge as the animals age and act as stores, where the chipmunks usually carry large amounts of food to later hoard it at their burrows.



A typical burrow of this animal is composed of numerous entrances as well as tunnels, which are connected between each other. They construct their nests out of crushed or chewed leaves in a large chamber. Other chambers serve as food stores. Their burrows are often shallow and easily found by cats, snakes, and other predators. In addition, there have been known cases of individuals, nesting in hollow trees.

The preferred habitat of these rodents is deciduous forest or brush land with rocky ground as well as abundance of logs and tree stumps. The Eastern chipmunks may share their habitat with humans and often inhabit gardens or suburban areas, surrounding houses and outbuilding. They are also frequently seen on rocky outcrops by hikers in our parks. They are solitary creatures and are fiercely territorial.

Eastern chipmunks are generally herbivores, they feed upon fruit, seeds and nuts, complementing this diet with occasional insects, earthworms, slugs, eggs of birds and mushrooms.

Eastern chipmunks have two breeding seasons, one of which occurs from February to April, and the other lasts from June to August. Gestation period lasts for 35 days, yielding a litter of 2 to 5 young, typically in an underground nest. Newborn babies of this species weigh only 3 grams. They are blind and lack fur. Weaning occurs at 40 days old, after which mothers leave their offspring, moving to a new burrow. After a while, young disperse, becoming independent at about 2 months old.

Populations in forests are known to suffer from fragmentation of their natural range. These animals in general face habitat modification due to urban sprawl.



Predators of the eastern chipmunk include hawks, owls, foxes, raccoons, snakes, weasels, coyotes, bobcats, lynx, domestic dogs and domestic cats (free-roaming cats are one of the leading reasons we take in these adorable fur kids). On average, eastern chipmunks live three or more years in the wild, but in captivity they may live as long as eight years.

OUR LATEST NEWS

Baby bird season is winding down, but we're still taking calls on a daily basis. We've been fortunate that so many callers have been willing to invest the time to attempt a reunite with the parents, thus assuring that the birds we take in are indeed orphaned and/or injured and in need of care. As one of the few rehabilitators in the state with a federal permit, it's important that we focus our efforts on those birds that truly need us. We are currently at 420 intakes for the year, with 80% of those being the young of the year.

We've just started our second round of baby mammals – over 60 intakes since the first of July. We are also one of the few organizations in middle Tennessee that accepts neonate (newborn) mammals, so our mammal specialist is facing quite a few around-the-clock feedings for another few weeks until all of our new admissions have their eyes opened and can begin the weaning process. Our second round of babies is comprised primarily of squirrels and opossums. As with our baby birds, we work closely with rescuers to assure that the squirrels we admit are truly orphaned – we like to give mama a chance to come back for her youngsters – we have great success, but the real mother is always the best option to raise the babies.

You'll see from our release list that we've been able to return several turtles to their territories. These releases were primarily turtles we admitted in 2020. Turtles take a loooonnnngggggg time to heal. Patience is definitely a virtue when it comes to dealing with injured turtles!



*Eastern Box Turtle
Undergoing cleaning from paint applied to shell*

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

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

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

For assistance with injured turtles or snakes, text Rachel at 615-587-2977.

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.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to our 69 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we've received our second quarter check for \$385.37. The funds we receive annually through this program are now covering approximately 6 weeks of our operating costs.

If you shop at Kroger and would like to support us through this program, 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!

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.

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.

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



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

(donations received May to August)

ADVOCATE The Bucket Foundation

SUSTAINING

Sharon Butcher

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund * Karen Dean
Deborah Trimble * Kiyomi Hardman
Valerie Bjorn * Sharon Lester
Michelle Boyer-Pennington

SUPPORTING

Amy York * Debbie Bomar * Ann Shapiro
Shelly Thorburn * Laraine Caldwell
Tammery Ray * Amberly Hall * William Garrett
Crown Castle * Bonnie Jenkins * Zoe Dillard
Patricia Brinkley * Bob & Star Eaker
Terri Faircloth * Valerie Payne
Charles Harner * Sylvia McAlister

FAMILY

Larry Partington * Debbie Florio * Ann-Marie Morgan
Carey Wilson * Freida Dobbs * Donna Edwards
Susan Massey * Mike Blackburn * Audra Bingham
Xavier McLean * Rachel Fuller * Rusti Greene
Veronica Frazier * Paul & Laurie Thome * Amayla Knight
Linda Alpert * Josh Reese * Jere Brown * Melissa Corder
Sara Godshall * Heidi Caluger

INDIVIDUAL

Gail Hearn * Emily Marshall * Amber Tate * Lynn Smith
Anita Desousa * Cheryl Sherman * Nessie Rung
Bell Haynes * Cathy Jackson * Terri Templeman
Reagan Bergstresser-Simpson * Vickie Saez
Robin Willis

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center
Airport Animal Clinic
Creekwood Veterinary Hospital

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Bryan & Maryanne Kobylak * Sherri Davenport
Natalie Miranda * Lisa Dammert * Rosanna Ohlsson
Jeanette Dumont * Carrie Chapman * Kelly Nichols
Travis Vickery * Peg Rindfleisch

2021 RELEASES

MAY

1 Pied-billed Grebe
1 Northern Mockingbird
1 Common Loon
5 American Robins
1 Brown Thrasher
36 Eastern Gray Squirrels
4 Fox Squirrels
17 Virginia Opossums
7 Eastern Box Turtles
3 Red-eared Sliders

JUNE

2 Eastern Chipmunks
6 Groundhogs
15 Eastern Gray Squirrels
1 Mallard
15 Wood Ducks
2 Carolina Wrens
12 American Robins
1 Summer Tanager
1 Northern Mockingbird
4 Mourning Doves
1 Song Sparrow
1 Eastern Phoebe
1 Chipping Sparrow
1 Carolina Chickadee
1 Blue Jay
1 Pileated Woodpecker
5 Eastern Box Turtles

JULY

4 Mourning Doves
8 Carolina Wrens
1 Northern Flicker
6 American Robins
2 Northern Cardinals
2 Carolina Chickadees
1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
1 Brown Thrasher
1 Eastern Meadowlark
4 Blue Jays
1 Eastern Bluebird
3 Eastern Box Turtles
1 Red-eared Slider

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
PO Box 713
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
PO Box 713
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/Administration

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. You can also renew/donate by credit card at [Paypal.me/ziggystree](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/cgi-bin/?cmd=_express-checkout&context=express).

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 and our gratitude.

Ziggy's Tree strives to be environmentally conscious. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, please check the box above or e-mail ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com to be placed on our mailing list.