
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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IT'S A QUIZ!

We've compiled some fun facts about some of our native wildlife found right here in Middle Tennessee. Let's see how knowledgeable you are in regards to our wild friends!

1. What animal has opposable thumbs and is part of nature's clean-up crew? It is also our only native marsupial.
2. What animal glides thru the trees at night and is often mistaken for a bat? We see them quite frequently at night at our bird feeders.
3. What bird can fly backwards? And fast, too!
4. How many species of fox do we have here in Tennessee?
5. What animal can easily jump vertically 6 to 7 feet?
6. What little "chubby" gives us our spring weather forecast?
7. These animals have a lovely designer coat, but they do not wear designer perfume.
8. This animal is a "tank".
9. This guy's a bandit, but doesn't rob banks!
10. This animal is not a house pet! Meow!
11. Some of their cousins are famous for their movies and records.
12. This animal is good at building. They are marvelous architects.
13. The mother of the species spends less than 5 minutes. a day caring for her young!
14. This black colored bird will warn the neighborhood if there is a bird of prey around.
15. Our state bird is?
16. These are sometimes confused for a beaver, although they have short legs and a long tail.
17. These velvet furred animals have tiny eyes and ears, small back legs and large front legs and paws.
18. What bird builds their nest with their saliva?
19. What bird is known as a "Rain Crow" but isn't a crow at all?
20. What bird mooooves around the area depositing an egg in the nests of other birds?

Turn the page for the answers.



1. Virginia Opossum. The only North American marsupial. They eat an enormous amount of ticks, are immune to snakebites, and carry their young on their backs. What's your super power?
2. Southern Flying Squirrel. Our only nocturnal squirrel. They commonly share one nest in winter to conserve body heat.
3. Ruby-throated hummingbird! This is the only hummingbird species native to our area.
4. We have both the Red and Gray Fox in Tennessee. In Tennessee, Red Fox adults weigh 7-12 lbs, while the Gray Fox weighs 7-16 lbs. They are heavier in northern states.
5. White-tailed Deer. Ask anyone that has witnessed the tail waving "goodbye" as they jump fencing when startled!
6. The Woodchuck. Also known as a groundhog or Whistle pig. They do truly hibernate thru the winter months. Woodchucks can climb trees and can swim. Despite their bulky size, they are very agile.
7. We have two species of skunks! Both the Striped and Spotted Skunks are found in Tennessee. They are hesitant to spray, because it takes up to a week for them to produce more of that delicate aroma. They spray as a last resort.
8. The Nine-banded Armadillo. Some folks call them "possums on the half-shell". This amazing creature has a shell of bony plates and keratin, and are closely related to anteaters and sloths. They give birth to four identical pups.
9. The Raccoon. They are highly intelligent and is our state mammal.
10. The Bobcat is about twice as large as a big housecat and is a fierce predator. They eat small to medium prey. That includes chicken, ducks, small cats, puppies, rabbits, etc. Important to keep our pets inside for safety!
11. The Eastern Chipmunk. This adorable little animal is an excellent climber. They have cheek pouches that can hold large amounts of food that the chipmunk will then store away. They gather up to 165 acorns a day! They also hibernate throughout our winter months.
12. The Beaver is our largest rodent. Their fur is waterproof, they have webbed feet and are excellent swimmers. They are responsible for lots of ponds and waterways that create habitat for many other animals.
13. The Eastern Cottontail. This amazing animal has multiple litters of young a year. She spends very little time with her babies. She literally nurses them a couple of times a day, spending only minutes with them and then she's gone. The young don't have a scent to attract predators, so she can't stay and let her scent linger. They are very fast at maturing. They have to be up and gone since they have no other means of protection!
14. The American Crow. These guys are super intelligent and they send out an alarm throughout the neighborhood if there's a hawk or owl anywhere around.
15. The popular Northern Mockingbird! Have you ever been "bombed" by getting too close to their nest?
16. The River Otter. These animals are often photographed sliding down muddy river banks. They are predators whose diet consists of primarily fish, but also crayfish, frogs, and other small animals.
17. The Eastern Mole. These subterranean mammals can dig 18 feet of soil per hour. They paralyze their prey (worms and insects) with the poison in their saliva.
18. The Chimney Swift. They use their saliva and twigs to build a half saucer nest which they attach to the inside of a vertical wall in the chimney. Swift pairs tend to return to the same nesting site every year.
19. The Cuckoo. People believe that their appearance or calls predict a summer storm. It's more likely that there are just a lot of storms in our part of the world. We have both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos in our area. Their favorite food is the tent caterpillar (not Cocoa Puffs).
20. The Brown-headed Cowbird. This is known as parasitic nesting behavior. The young are supported by the foster parents for a short time until they rejoin the cowbird flock.

And now you can impress your friends with your wildlife knowledge!

A BUSY START TO THE YEAR

With 40 overwintering squirrels, we were hoping for a slow spring baby season, but that was not to be. Our baby squirrel season started at the beginning of February. We've admitted 40 of the youngsters so far, along with cottontails, opossums, groundhogs and skunks. Most of these youngsters will be ready for release within the next couple of months.



Our first Virginia Opossums of the year

Our baby bird season also started a little earlier than usual as well. Robins started arriving the first week in April and have been steadily pouring in since then. We've worked with several callers to successfully reunite several different species but still admitted over 60 birds for our first month of baby season. American Robins and Common Grackles have been out most common admissions this spring.



American Robin nestling

Baby bird season will continue at a rapid pace through about the middle of July (at least in a normal year). And about the time our bird population is winding down, we'll be gearing up for the second round of baby squirrels.

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Tennessee Wildlife Federation recently held their 59th annual Conservation Achievement Awards. These awards were created to recognize individuals and businesses contributing to conservation in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wildlife Federation was created to lead the conservation, sound management and wise use of Tennessee's wildlife and natural resources.

Our songbird specialist was one of the award recipients this year.

From the program brochure:

"LouAnn Partington has been a wildlife rehabilitator for more than 30 years. When she moved to Tennessee, she began volunteering with Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center as a songbird specialist. LouAnn cares for hundreds of birds each year, and she also uses her role to educate community members. By empowering the community with knowledge about native wildlife and their habitat needs, LouAnn is creating better ecosystems for wildlife and reducing the chances for wildlife to need rehabilitation."



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!

WISH LIST

- Gift cards (grocery store, Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply)
- Dried Bloodworms
- High quality dry cat food
- Baby Food (fruit – apples, bananas, blueberries)
- Canned or frozen mixed vegetables
- LCD Projector
- Nuts (pecans, walnuts, acorns)
- Fresh Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini, apples)
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Unscented laundry detergent
- 24, 36 or 48 inch Bungee cords

Contact us at 615-631-2205 or 931-841-9781 to arrange to drop off any of the above items.

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.

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 98 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we have received our first quarter check for \$382.87. The funds we receive annually through this program are covering approximately one month 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!

(January 2024 through April 2024)

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Deborah Trimble
Decherd Presbyterian Church

ADVOCATE

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund & Cheryl Schur

SUSTAINING

Sharon Butcher * Julie Wotruba
Robin Mitchell * Valerie Bjorn
Karen Curry * Jennifer Overfelt

SUPPORTING

Amy York * Larry Partington * Debbie Bomar
Lorena Romero Alberto * Bob & Star Eaker
Eric Gunderson * Nancy Skinner
Donna Jennings * Jack Triplett
Cheryl & Mike Powell * Becky Jarman

FAMILY

Mike Blackburn * Terri Templeman * Linda Briggs
Charles Craddock *

INDIVIDUAL

Sharon Carver * Kristen Miller * Sharon McCleary

VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center
Haley Veterinary Clinic

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Kay Ford * Holly Fuller * Frances Kriete
Teresa Kudarauskas * Erica Carlson * Jessica Houston

MATCHING DONATIONS

Verizon

2024 RELEASES

MARCH

1 American Robin
2 Northern Cardinals
1 Eastern Cottontail

APRIL

1 Northern Mockingbird
1 Barn Swallow
40 Eastern Gray Squirrels

SNOW GOOSE GETS A NEW HOME



The Snow Goose we admitted last year and transferred to the Carolina Wildlife Rehabilitation Center was deemed non-releasable due to some vision issues and abnormally friendly behavior. We suspect there may have been some brain damage from severe emaciation. When we admitted her, she was only about 50% of normal weight. She'll be heading to the Smithsonian Zoo in Washington, DC as soon as all the paperwork is complete.

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
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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 N E W M E M B E R**
 R E N E W I N G M Y M E M B E R S H I P

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 _____
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- 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/?x=1&from_seller=ziggystree) or Venmo at [@Ziggystree](https://www.venmo.com/ziggystree).

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 the box above or e-mail ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com to be placed on our mailing list.