
TALES FROM THE TREE

The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

We had another busy year in 2025. We continue to work with rescuers to renest and reunite wild families as much as possible so that we can focus our rehabilitation efforts on those animals that truly need us.

Our spring squirrel intakes were down dramatically, but our fall baby season more than made up for it.

Spring squirrel season started late. Our first mammal intakes, early for both species, were Eastern Cottontails and Virginia Opossums. Our fall baby squirrel season more than made up the lower spring numbers as we are overwintering 52 Eastern Gray Squirrels and 8 Southern Flying Squirrels.



Eastern Gray Squirrel

We admitted a total of 168 mammals this year, including our first melanistic Eastern Gray Squirrel. Melanism is a congenital excess of melanin, resulting in the dark pigment.

We were in double digits for 5 of the 7 mammal species this year. Most notable for the reduced number of intakes was Groundhogs. We only admitted one this year which was transferred to Walden's Puddle to be raised with foster siblings his age.

As usual, our highest mammal intake was Eastern Gray Squirrels. We admitted a total of 77, most of those after July with just a few ready for release before the leaves were off the trees.

We also admitted 32 Virginia Opossums, 25 Striped Skunks, 19 Eastern Cottontails, 12 Southern Flying Squirrels and 2 Eastern Chipmunks.

Our release rate (calculated excluding those that did not survive the first 24 hours) was down slightly this year at just over 87% as we saw more species impacted by the changing weather patterns and free-roaming cats.

Our bird intakes were on par with the previous year, with 367 total admissions encompassing 45 species.

We did have two new species for us this year.



Hooded Merganser

The Hooded Merganser was admitted this spring as he migrated through. He sustained feather damage when he crash landed on the road mistaking it for a pond. We were able to transfer him to Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation for continuing rehabilitation and he was successfully released.



White-eyed Vireo



White-eyed Vireo Nest

We were able to identify this Vireo through the unusual nest they build. This little one was the only survivor of a free-roaming cat. The species is only in our area during breeding season, spending winters in Florida and farther south.

Robins once again topped the leaderboard with 101 admissions. We had 11 other species that were double-digit admissions (a record for us), including Northern Mockingbirds (22), House Finches (20), Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (20), Carolina Wrens (17), Eastern Bluebirds (17) Chimney Swifts (14), Barn Swallows (13), Northern Cardinals (11), Song Sparrows (11), Common Grackles (11), and Mourning Doves (10). These 12 species accounted for 75% of our total admissions.

Our release rate (excluding those that did not survive the first 24 hours) was 72%. We continue to see more wildlife adversely affected by changing weather patterns, habitat loss, and free-roaming cats.

Financially, we are covering our expenses thanks to donations from our rescuers as well as long time monthly, quarterly, and annual supporters. Our total income was \$24,621 and our expenses were \$22,465. The bulk of that money is spent on food, formulas, and medical care for our growing youngsters. We appreciate everyone who has helped us continue to thrive and provide care for our native wildlife.



Eastern Bluebird

ZIGGY'S TREE MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Thanks to our newest board member Kara Williamson, we are developing a merchandise store. You can check out clothing, journals, coffee mugs and more at https://www.bonfire.com/store/ziggys-tree-wildlife-rehabilitation-center/?utm_source=copy_link&utm_medium=store_page_share&utm_campaign=ziggys-tree-wildlife-rehabilitation-center&utm_content=default



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

(September 2025 through December 2025)

WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Deborah Trimble

ADVOCATE

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund & Cheryl Schur

Marica Medford

Wendy Kinkead

Barry & Karla Graul

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Lorena Romero Alberto * Robin Mitchell

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Heather Reineke * Charles Parish

Charles Wharton

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Debbie Bomar * Jason Reineke

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INDIVIDUAL

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VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

Haley Veterinary Clinic

IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Grace Smykiel * Morgan Carter * Katy Miller

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Bonnie & Pete Mortensen

MATCHING DONATIONS

Verizon

2025 RELEASES

SEPTEMBER

3 American Robins

2 Carolina Wrens

3 Chimney Swifts

3 Northern Mockingbirds

1 Song Sparrow

OCTOBER

8 Eastern Gray Squirrels

1 Northern Cardinal

1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird

NOVEMBER

1 Mourning Dove

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.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to our 126 participating families in the Kroger Community Rewards program, we have received \$591.96 for our third and fourth quarter disbursements for 2025. 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!

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	\$30.00
____ Family	\$50.00
____ 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:

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 or Venmo at [@Ziggystree](https://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.