The Wildlife Watch Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

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BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! Please join Wildlife Watch in wishing a Happy New Life to 3 African Lions, 2 Mountain Lions, And 1 Black Jaguar.

Watch raised thousands of dollars in funds to participate in the animal auction that was held at the closing of the Catskill Game Farm in Catskill, NY. The Catskill Game Farm was one of the largest privately held zoos in the world.

As we knew canned hunt operators would be there, we felt it would be imperative to attend and outbid them on as many animals as we could. With other animal protectionists feeling similarly, a coalition of individuals cooperated to save the animals. Our fears were not unfounded, once there we saw not only canned

In mid-October, **Wildlife** hunt operators, but taxidermists, breeders, and slaughterers. The generous donations that so many people made to Wildlife Watch allowed us to pay for many animals who otherwise would have faced a bleak future. The list of rescues includes: 2 conures, 1 goffin, 5 emus 4 vervet monkeys, at least 25 guinea pigs, 28 rabbits, 3 iguanas, 1 lory, and others.

Following the auction, we found out that six large cats remained at the Catskill Game Farm. After weeks of working on negotiating the release of the cats to a Sanctuary – we were rewarded with a 3-way

signed agreement just ONE DAY before this Christmas issue of the Binocular was finalized!

The transfer of all the cats to Wildcat Sanctuary www.wildcatsanctuary.org from the Catskill Game Farm is scheduled to take place no later than December 17th. – just in time for them to have a MERRY CHRIST-MAS. The Wildcat Sanctuary, in Sandstone MN, has all required government permits, and more importantly is accredited by TAOS-The Association of Sanctuaries www.taosanctuaries.org and the American Sanctuary Association www.asaanimalsanctuaries.org. In conversations with people about the climate of Minnesota for tropical animals, we were told that they adjust to a wide range of temperature and, in fact, suffered horribly in the heat of the summers in the Catskill Mountains of NY!

We need your quick support now to raise money for their transportation and housing which must be built to beat the clock against the onset of win-



Photos are generic as we could not photograph actual cats prior to going to print

ter. In agreement with the Wildcat Sanctuary, Wildlife Watch has naming rights for all three African lions: one lion and two lionesses. To encourage large contributions to meet our goals, we will give the highest donor by **December 12th the right to** name the lion, and the next two highest donors each the right to name a lioness. The Wildcat Sanctuary agrees to keep those names for the remainder of the lion's life.

Donors contributing \$100 or more will get a professional photograph of the cat of their choosing, once the cats are settled. You will always be reminded of the precious lives you helped to rescue.

Anne



Contributions can be made in one of three ways:

- * Paypal from www.wildwatch.org Specify that it's for THE CATS.
- * Visa/MC by calling 877-WILDHELP (877-945-3435).
- * Check made out to "Wildlife Watch" and mailed to Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Meet Some of the Lucky Animals Rescued at the Auction **Foster Parrots Wins Meet Miss Louise And Rusty A Lucky Lory** By Carol Eiswald, Tusk and Bristle

parrot, but he doesn't eats like while providing life-impacting a parrot, instead he eats nectar. experiences for the tourists and This lucky bird will be taken care sustaining income for the local of by Marc Johnson and Karen people. The success of the fa-Windsor of Foster Parrots.

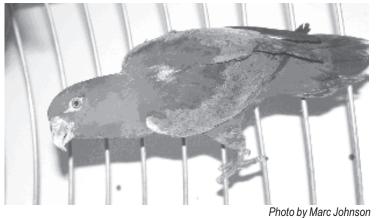
Lory from the Catskill game farm.

parrots or would like to help Foster **Johnson or Karen Windsor, Co**- brought some cash, but made Directors, Foster Parrots, Ltd., PO Box 650, Rockland, MA 02370, (781) 878-3733 Marc@fosterparrots.com

Foster Parrots writes on their website:

"Eco-tourism is a positive step in the direction of preservation

The fellow below looks like a of naturally beautiful places cilities presented here can be measured by people who were former poachers and now are If you need any information about working to protect and preserve what they had once plundered. Parrots, please contact: Marc Before, a parrot captured the next one harder to find and when they are gone, they are gone. Now, by preserving the parrots and their homes, they have a source of income now and for their grandchildren.



Continued on page 2



Louise the Warthog

Following the auction, Carol wrote:

It has been a long last few days, but we really did make a difference!

Our trip home went smoothly. It was suggested that the Eurasian wild boar and the warthog be tranquilized for loading, which we politely refused. The ancient wild boar was very cooperative in loading and then spent much of the ride back arranging his straw and searching for grapes.

Miss Warthog (who will henceforth be known as "Louise") also traveled well. There is no doubt but that they had to be stressed,



Rusty the European Wild Boar

as change is stressful to swine. All is well tonight, and Louise seems very fond of the small condos that we originally planned for potbellied pigs. She was quite occupied for a while in picking out which one suited her best.

It was raining hard when we arrived home, but our Ludwig, a big loveable Russian boar stood near the fence sniffing the air, knowing that a stranger was on the property.

Rusty is 18, very arthritic, thin, but he has taken a great interest in his new surround-

Continued on page 2

Louise And Rusty

From page 1

ings, is moving around a lot better and is eager to explore his new domain further. He has been wormed, put on Bute until his joint supplements begin to ease his discomfort, and his upper tusks will be trimmed later today, as they prevent him from opening his mouth fully. Despite this he is eating very well and we are lucky to have the pleasure of his company.

Later Carol wrote, "I just noticed closely the position of Rusty's awesome tusks today. They are positioned in such a way that the honers do not sharpen the rippers any more. In fact, they keep him from opening his mouth as wide as he would otherwise. This obviously is impeding his eating a bit, and may be the only cause of his skinniness. We think that we can trim the tusks without sedation or anesthesia using Gigli wire, and we will likely give it a try tonight or tomorrow. He sure can put away hand fed fruit and veggies, though of course he believes they are much more nutritious when hand fed!

Am eager to work on Rusty's debilitating arthritis, as I doubt that anything has ever been attempted to relieve his obvious discomfort. He really does look "rough" and I hope we can ease the problem...I think we can.

Louise enjoyed surveying her new real estate. Her area adjoins Rusty's. At one point they resided next to each other at Catskill, so we hope that being next to one another might give each a bit of comfort, as change, even for the better, is stressful to pigs. Louise is adjusting well, and we hope that at some point **Watch** has agreed to accept



Chow-time at the Tusk and Bristle



Rusty enjoying Carol's "cookin"

we can acquire a companion for her. She, like Rusty, has been given Dectomax for parasites. She needs her hooves trimmed slightly, but being as the pigs' property here was once a gravel pit, she may very well wear them down quickly by herself.

As the Tusk & Bristle is a privately owned pig sanctuary and not a 501(c)3 not-forprofit organization, Wildlife



Pigs in Paradise enjoy the wallow at Tusk & Bristle

donations for the Tusk and Bristle for the rescue and needs of Louise and Rusty. When you donate to Wildlife Watch please specify that the donation is for Rusty and Louise. You can pay through PayPal at our website: www.wildwatch.org or you can pay via Visa by calling our toll free number: 877-WILDHELP (1-877-945-3435); or you can send a check made out to "Wildlife Watch" and send to Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Paypal allows you to enter what the donation is for; and you can use the note section of your check to write in "Rusty and Louise."

Foster Parrots

From page 1

current or would-be parrot in a cage." guardians to support this grow-

Foster Parrots is commit- ing industry and experience a ted to the promotion of eco- thrill that far exceeds looking at tourism and encourages all a parrot confined to a small life

There are many more wonderful stories to be told about the new lives for the animals from the Catskill Game Farm thanks to loving people who went to bid on them. If animal businesses had gotten them, their lives would have been short and filled with misery.

We encourage you to support the many sanctuaries that stepped up to the plate to help provide loving homes. We are providing their websites below:

Sanctuaries To Know About:

For wildlife:

The Wildcat Sanctuary www.wildcatsanctuary.org Foster Parrots Ltd. www.fosterparrots.org

Peace River Refuge and Ranch www.peaceriverrefuge.org For farm animals:

Catskill Animal Sanctuary www.casanctuary.org

Wildlife Watch was tabling at Catskill Farm Sanctuary when a potbelly named Rosie passed in front of us to look at the display photos of rehabilitated wildlife from Raven's Beard www.ravensbeard.org - a local wildlife rehabilitation center in Woodstock NY. Rosie was very impressed, especially with the owl!

Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary www.woodstockfas.org/

For domestic and farm animals

Pets Alive www.petsalive.com

Accrediting organizations:

The Association of Sanctuaries www.taosanctuaries.org/ American Sancturary Association www.asaanimalsanctuaries.org

For our Canadian friends, please make note of the following rehabilitator:

Debbie Beacon, BEACON OF LIGHT WILDLIFE CENTRE. Nanticoke, Ontario, Canada, Phone 905-776-5510, e-mail: beaconwildlife@hotmail.com; website: www.freewebs.com/ beaconoflight

Please let us know if you have a sanctuary and rescued animals from the Catskill Game Farm Auction and we will add you to our website.

Skye And Firecracker Have A Home

Mapeth Bird Haven Wrote:

The birds are virtually in top health!! And, we have settled on names....we are calling the Blue Crowned conure SKYE and the Cherry-Headed conure FIRECRACKER.

With Firecracker, four elements were slightly high: White Blood Cell count, Het/Poly, Chloride, and Uric Acid, and one element was low, Potassium. All signs of some stress and change in diet. Otherwise, all of Firecracker's other blood chemistries elements were well in normal range.

With Skye, the Hematocrit, Glucose, Phosphorus, Chloride and CPK were high, and Albumin was a little low. Again, mainly stress-related and we've seen this many times before with birds that

laxation" in our home, and their systems will nor-

out on his own. Firecracker does not, not yet. Firecracker always has to be the first one to eat, chases cage as they please. Skye away and Skye patiently waits until Firecracker is done. We weren't surprised when the the flock, especially their Conure cousins. DNA tests came back: As I thought, SKYE is a male, FIRECRACKER is a female. They are doing Inc. maspethbirdhaven@verizon.net



Give them a week or so of proper diet and "re-just great, FIRECRACKER is usually the first out of the cage, they go right to the top and hang out for hours. In about a month, we'll start trying to get them When we leave the cage door open, Skye comes to step up. We agree that right now we should just let them be, they can come and go in and out of the

We can now introduce them slowly to the rest of

Barry and Gayle Schwartz, Maspeth Bird Haven,

Due to our vital participation in The Catskill Game Farm Auction our usual format has been altered

Rabbit Rescue!



Photo by Anne Muller of Buns still at Catskill Game Farm two days before auction

28 "BUNS" (Rabbits) were won by Nancy Furstinger and Sue Martin.

Nancy did a heroic job of fundraising for the rabbits by telling folks to give "Bunny Bucks" to Wildlife Watch, Nancy and Sue won the bid, found homes for each rabbit, and vetted them. Nancy and Sue should get medals of honor for their rabbit rescue. They may be contacted through Wildlife Watch.

The Avian Welfare Coalition (AWC) is calling on activists around the U.S. to take action on behalf of captive birds by drawing attention to the exploitation of other countries' native birds by the U.S. pet industry on January 5 — National Bird Day. Learn more by clicking on: www.nationalbirdday.org

Please support our campaign to free New York City's carriage horses!



Coalition to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages www.banhdc.org

OLIVER –the Goffin from the Catskill Game Farm

By Linda Brink

Hi all. Just a note to let everyone know that Oliver, the Goffin cockatoo, has now been proclaimed completely healthy. All tests came back negative for problematic conditions, and so now, Oliver is at last residing in the aviary with our other birds.

Oliver remains very shy, cautious and watchful. But at last, we're hearing genuine Goffin calls-small, pipsqueak sounds compared to the blasts we get from our Umbrella 'too, Snowbird. He is very active during the day, busying himself with his toys, and his favorite treat is unshelled almonds. I've kept a towel over the back third of his cage to provide a greater sense of security, and installed a fuzzy Birdie Buddy—these are fake bird friends made out of a soft fleecy material. Birds have great imaginations, and feel comforted by the soft material as they snuggle up against these Buddy toys. Oliver immediately took to his.

Oliver will need time to take-in his surroundings and begin to feel at home. One thing: no bird in our bird room is ever bored. And no bird feels lost and alone, with such a diverse flock of blabbermouths so near at hand. The noise and activity only stop with lights out.

In time, Oliver's scrufty head will hopefully sprout new feathers, and he'll have his little crest back to flaunt. Still, he's quite charming as he is, don't you think? It will be a few days, yet, before we let him out to explore



on his own—and he may not wish to do so, with so shy a nature. It will be his choice; we will proceed at the pace he chooses.

In time, the real Oliver will emerge as we earn his trust. Right now, unsure, he's giving nothing away. Better safe than sorry, he thinks. And he's right.

Linda Hi all, Finally got some pictures of Oliver, the Goffin cockatoo sponsored by Randi Hoffmann. Oliver will be staying here with us at Sunnyskies.

The band Oliver wears indicates he's a wild caught bird, and as a result, is probably around thirty. He's missing his crest, as it was apparently plucked by his cage mate, a Sulphur Crested cockatoo. Though clearly unsocialized with humans, Oliver is visibly relaxing as the days roll by, and now plays with his toys and shows a great deal of interest in all that's going on around him.

Oliver's initial test results revealed a very slightly elevated white blood cell count that is predictable in stressed birds. All other results were within normal range. By midweek, we should have the PBFD results, the electrophoresis results, and the PCR for Psittacosis results.

Oliver will remain in guarantine (the family room, where he has the company of the dogs and Bill, and a great view of the horses, and now, piggies) until his clean bill of health is complete.

Additionally, Linda temporarily held many of the potbellies who were paid for by Carol Eiswald of **The Tusk** and Bristle. See the article within. They were later transferred to their permanent home at Pets Alive! www.petsalive.com

Linda Brink wrote again:

Hi all, Well, here they are and aren't they just so beautiful? I wish you could see their tails wagging. I wish you could feel the baby soft skin behind their ears. I wish you could scratch their bristles and look into their little eyes, see them smile at you, hear them talk, look at their amazing little feet and even more amazing doughboy bodies. Watch them walk, and root, and lay in the sun, snuggle in the hay.

I'm telling you, these guys are something else! I wish they could stay forever. Thank you, Carol, for saving them. And thanks to everyone else for being a part of their rescue.

In conclusion: humans should, at some point in their life, get to personally know a pig. Really, you haven't lived until you've socialized with one—or seven.

To contact Linda Brink, please contact us at: Wildwatch@verizon.net



Helping A Fish To Live? Yes!





This was e-mailed to us - source unknown - but photos real.

INDIVIDUALS MATTER!

The gentleman above noticed a basket ball in the mouth of a flathead catfish. The fish was totally exhausted from trying to dive, but unable to because the ball caused him to be buoyant. After unsuccessfully trying to pull the ball out, he punctured the ball to deflate it, and he could then remove it.

Avoid using balloons of any kind, many balls, and balloons end up being blown into bodies of water where fish think they are edibles. They often die from eating plastic and rubber objects.

IN THE NEWS

SEAFOOD FACES COLLAPSE BY 2048 due to pollution and overfishing. In the 48 areas worldwide that have been protected to improve marine biodiversity, they found, "diversity of species recovered dramatically, and with it the ecosystem's productivity and stability.

While seafood forms a crucial concern in their study, the researchers were analyzing overall biodiversity of the oceans. The more species in the oceans, the better each can handle exploitation. "Even bugs and weeds make clear, measurable contributions to ecosystems," said co-author J. Emmett Duffy of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences.



Thousands Of Pounds Of Bushmeat In Cities And Towns In The Us!

Justin Brashares, an Assistant Professor at Berkeley in Ecosystem Sciences contributed to an article that exposed that meat from wild animals - including apes and monkeys - is being sold in clandestine markets in North America in some major cities and smaller towns. Body parts of chimpanzees and gorillas were found head, hands, legs, usually not a complete body.

The hunting and sale of animal meat is a threat to endangered species and poses a health risk as it has been linked to some fatal diseases.

Brashares discovered this in a chance conversation with a Ghanaian taxi driver in NY who took him to a market in a warenouse in Brooklyn.

It is very possible that even



Photo by Marc Johnson

One of four vervet monkeys bought with Wildlife Watch donations at the Catskill Game Farm auction. Marc Johnson of Foster Parrots placed the winning bid and secured the needed permits. They will be transferred to a safe environment.

in your hometown it is being sold in small specialty markets. Be alert. Report this to us if you have any knowledge. Try to document it. We've already

reported one small shop upstate, NY and are waiting to hear the outcome of the in-

Thank you. Wildlife Watch

Film Review: Open Season view at http://www.vegetarianfriends.net/issue26.html

As soon as Open Season opened, it shot to the top of the box office charts. Perhaps it was because most people in this nation—and many elsewhere—experienced in our childhoods the trauma of the violent death of Bambi's mother. So we were waiting for a long time (half a century in my case!) for a movie in which the forest critters would repel the death-dealing aggression of the hunters. But why did we have to wait so long? Perhaps because the denizens of the forest could not unite against the invaders until they

The Alpha Stag in this film, being a braggart and a bully, could

had a worthy leader?



not be that hero. However, even Bambi himself could not have led a strong defense against humans; he knew nothing about us, he never even saw a human. Obviously, what was needed was an animal raised by humans and familiar with our ways, qualifying him to use man's tools against him.

The hero of the hour appears in the person of Boog, a gargantuan but good-natured grizzly bear. Orphaned as a cub, he was adopted and raised by kindly Beth the Park Ranger. He is not her "pet," or even her companion animal; he is her child, her baby. They are a happy family of two.

Beth's enemy—and the enemy of all animals—is the psychotic hunter Shaw. He looks, acts, and sounds like the devil incarnate, but he is really not so much evil as insane. This point is realistic: most of the world's evil is done by people who know not what they do.

The movie is a fine voice for the voiceless as well as first-class entertainment.

Alligators: Guilty Until Proven Innocent: The Unfair Case Against the Florida Alligator

For those who think of alligators only as the provenance of their expensive handbag or cowboy boots, the fact that Florida wildlife officials may soon be removing these animals from the list of endangered species will be of no importance. However, for anyone who recognizes the majesty and ecological value of these literally prehistoric beings, this is tragic news indeed.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be deciding the status of alligators at their December meeting. Restrictions that now prevent homeowners from killing alligators as "nuisances" on their property may be removed.

One of the excuses for allowing homeowners to kill 'gators that will likely be brought up at the FWCC meeting is the recent alleged deaths-by-alligator that are still under investigation.



Photo by Anne Muller, Shark Valley, FL

Never mind that some reported alligator attacks may actually be the result of foul play. Never mind that we intelligent humans ought to know better than to trespass on wild animals' turf with our dogs and children. And never mind that in 60 years(!) only 18 fatal attacks have been reported in a state teeming with alligators.

The whole point of declaring

alligators to be an "endangered" species, of course, was to protect them from extinction, to the brink of which the reptiles had come close by 1967, the year in which they were listed as an endangered species. A full six years before the Endangered Species Act of 1973 took effect, the alligator was accorded this privilege because over hunting for commercial and "sport" purto human "development," had very nearly wiped them out from most of their natural range in the southeast. The 1973 Act prohibited hunting, and amazingly, the alligator made a comeback so noticeable that by 1987 it was removed from the federal list. In Florida, however, their similarity to the American crocodile, which is still federally protected, kept the alligator under state control. Now, state protection may be lifted.

Alligators have changed little in appearance and function since their origins on the earth some 200 million years ago. As living fossils from the Age of Reptiles, they provide an invaluable and fascinating glimpse back into our natural history. Their long survival is probably due to their wetlands habitat, a type of terrain that humans have only relatively recently begun destroying on a massively wide scale. The wetlands and the alligator are symbiotic, as this

By E.M. Fay poses, as well as loss of habitat top-of-the-line predator helps control the populations of smaller animals that would otherwise over-burden the wetlands' capacity to sustain life. In addition, the "gator holes" that alligators dig out of the river banks hold water that helps maintain the existence of numerous species that could not otherwise survive the dry seasons.

> There is already state-sanctioned hunting of alligators in Florida, with each hunter officially allowed two kills for each permit. Dropping the imperiled status of 'gators would open the doors to unrestrained slaughter of these magnificent and essential creatures, represent an unconscionable step backward in wildlife conservation.

> If you live in Florida or know someone who does, urge them to tell the FFWCC they strongly object to this wrongheaded idea. The alligators deserve better from us!

WILDLIFE WATCH CATALOG

MAGNIFICENT GOURD ORNAMENTS/BOXES

These gourds are fair trade gifts. They are made with natural products and handmade with pride by talented artists in Peru.

Sea Turtle Gourd

New! These graceful swimmers are carved gliding freely through the ocean. The uncanny beauty and long life span of sea turtles make

them a natural marine wonder, here replicated by our contemporary Peruvian master gourd carvers who follow a tradition of over 4000 years. They finely carve the intricate designs

with simple hand chisels and naturally color them with fire. Sizes and details shown will vary as nature and the artist intended. The inside of this gourd box has been finished with a protective coat and we hand pick every single piece to give you only the best. 3"D x 4"H \$25 or \$22 members

Owl - Tree ornament. Young and old owls are here to bring natural wisdom and charm to holiday and yearround decor! Each accent has been hand-carved and naturally colored with fire by a Peruvian artist following a technique that dates over 4,000 years. They average 1.5 inches tall and details will vary as nature and the artist

WILD WATCH CATALOG ORDER BLANK

member

intended. Price is for

one ornament. \$8 or \$6

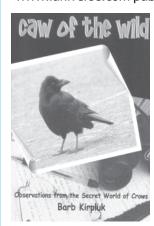
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Subtotal: Shipping and Handling: \$5.00 For \$25 Join WW and take your deduction NOW:				
NYS residents <i>must</i> add appropriate sales tax: Additional contribution to help				
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Special Instructions:			
Ship to address below (if different from above):			

Please make checks payable to: Wildlife Watch, Inc. P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561 • 845-256-1400 • wildwatch@verizon.net

Wildlife Watchers Should Know About: CAW OF THE WILD: Observations from the **Secret World of Crows** by Barb Kirpluk order by calling 1-800-Authors (1-800-288-4677) www.iuniverse.com published in 2005.



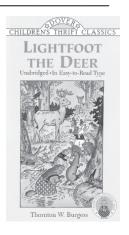
Kirpluk is masterful at describing her observations and interactions with these intelligent animals. She broadens our understanding of the species by deepening our connection with the individuals who comprise the species. CAW OF THE WILD is a MUST READ!

This book was sent to us by Rita Sarnicola of **CROW** (Citizens Respectful of Wildlife) in Auburn, NY.

Please contact Rita and Joe Sarnicola for a professionally produced DVD of crow ecotourism in Auburn: 315-255-1405.

You may recall that Wildlife Watch and CROW co-organized an E-Crow Tourism Jaunt to Auburn, NY last year. Keep your ears and eyes open for the most exciting crow tourism event in history, next November, 2007. Barb Kirpluk will be there, Dr. Anne Clark will be there again to lead tours early in the morning and late at night, along with many others involved with crow protection and developing a crow economy for Auburn. We'll make announcements as the time gets closer!

Lightfoot the Deer by Thornton W. Burgess, published 1998 by Dover Children's Thrift Classics. Lightfoot is a "graceful and majestic deer who is wandering the Green Forest, proudly displaying his new set of antlers. He leads a happy and peaceful life until the first day of the huntseason...." http:// www.thorntonburgess.org/



STRIETER-LITES REDUCE **NIGHTTIME COLLISIONS**

An estimated 1,500,000 deer-vehicle collisions occur annually.70%-80% occur between dusk and dawn. Strieter-Lite® reflectors can reduce nighttime collisions by 78%–90%. **Learn more at http://strieter-lite.com/**

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