

WILDLIFE DISASTER IN THE GULF

By E.M. Fay

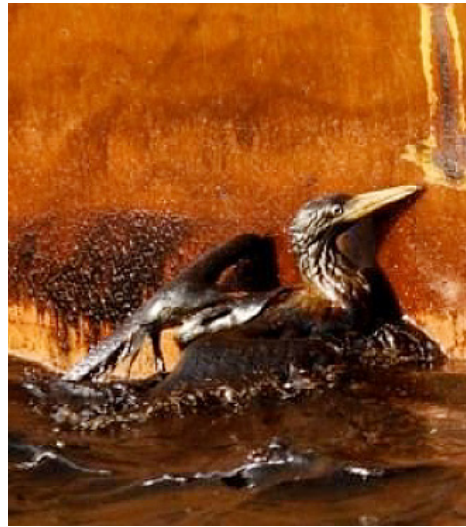
As the inexorable flow of oil spreads ever more widely from its origin in the northern Gulf of Mexico, one thing is certain. No matter how long it takes to clean up as much of the mess as is possible, countless numbers of birds and aquatic wildlife have been killed and/or irreparably damaged.

The catastrophe began on April 20, when an explosion occurred at a British Petroleum oil rig, Deepwater Horizon, sited 50 miles south of the mouth of the Mississippi River. According to workers at the rig, a bubble of methane gas forced its way up from beneath the ocean floor. As the gas shot upwards in the drill column, it naturally expanded, until it burst through seals and other barriers and exploded. When the oil coming up behind it ignited, a bigger blast was triggered.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/rig-explosion-blamed-on-methane-bubble-20100509-uhl.html>

Eleven workers on the rig were killed by the explosions, and millions of gallons of crude oil poured into the Gulf waters. It is believed that this will prove to be the biggest oil spill in U. S. history, many times worse than the notorious Exxon Valdez incident of 1989, which took a terrible toll on wildlife off the shore of Alaska.

Wildlife Watch contacted valiant, local wildlife and environmental activists on the front lines who have been struggling to assist with clean-up efforts. Non-profit organizations such as the **Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper** and the **Atchafalaya Basinkeeper**, members of the



Waterkeeper Alliance work to preserve regional ecosystems and are trying to help injured wildlife. However, these front-liners report that their attempts to document the damage done and to aid animals have been stymied by BP employees who have in some instances blocked boats from reaching affected wildlife. Attempts have also been made to close airspace over the region.

Noting that oil has already washed up around the Chandeleur Islands, Dean Wilson, Director of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, told us on May 11, "The oil company is in command of everything. They are limiting the altitude that planes are allowed to fly at so we can't take pictures. We are trying to get a flight in on Friday to film the effects on wildlife." In spite of these obstacles, the brave and determined

Basinkeepers are planning more boat and plane trips to the area.

To further investigate, **Wildlife Watch** contacted District 8 office of the Coast Guard (Gulf Coast unit). We asked if they knew if allegations about BP blocking animal rescue workers were true. **They told us to call the BP Response hotline.** Given that President Obama had on May 8 appointed Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen as National Incident Commander, with overall responsibility for the government-wide response, **we wondered who is really in charge, the Coast Guard or BP.**

The Obama Administration deemed this an event of "national significance," and the President pledged support with every resource at his command. But the wellhead is a mile underwater, so options are limited. Proposed solutions have run the gamut from deploying chemical oil dispersants to laying plastic floating booms to placing a 4-story "containment dome" over the well. The booms and the dome have already failed, and the chemical "fix" will cause even more harm to wildlife. **The May 9 Houston Chronicle notes that the chemical dispersants are just as dangerous as the toxic components of oil. Both threaten the regional wildlife – from tiny plankton, the foundation of the ocean's food chain, all the way up to dolphins and other mammals.**

Plankton are eaten by crabs, mussels, shrimp, and oysters, among others, so as the oil smothers the plankton it becomes unavailable as a food source. Oyster beds die as the oil settles downwards. River otters rely on shellfish, so their food source will be

Anyone wanting to donate time or other resources to the valiant small NGOs who are trying to save wildlife should visit these sites:

<http://www.basinkeeper.org/> <http://www.lmrk.org/>
<http://www.saveourgulf.org/>

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cut off. **Large-scale starvation for any number of species is a very real possibility.**

Sperm whales and dolphins are known to be in the area of the oil slick. Contact with oil has a toxic effect on skin, and breathing it in causes lung damage and death. **If it were a relatively small polluted area, the slick could be escaped by swimming away from it, but this mess is far too large.**

"For birds, the timing could not be worse," said Melanie Driscoll, Director of Bird Conservation at Louisiana Coastal Initiative. "They are breeding, nesting and especially vulnerable in many of the places where the oil could come ashore," she said, expressing fear that this will be "a true catastrophe for birds." That's not even to mention the poor fish who are suffering.

Considering that more than 800 brown pelicans perished during a much smaller oil spill in Breton Island National Wildlife Refuge a few years ago, the likelihood of far greater losses to this species is great. The brown pelican's breeding season had just begun, with many couples already incubating their eggs at the time of the spill. The pelicans had been taken off the federal endangered species list last year, but "their relatively low reproductive rate means any disruption to their breeding cycle could have serious effects on the population," according to the Initiative.

Greg Bossart, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Georgia Aquarium, noted that birds on the surface of the water get covered in oil and swallow it, which causes liver and kidney problems. "They need to be rescued and cleaned," he urged. But rescue workers will have a harder time than usual trying to get to the affected birds on



the complex Louisiana coastline, with its many barrier islands and estuaries.

Among the birds' hardest hit are those who nest on the beach such as gulls, terns, and plovers; marsh birds such as ducks, rails, and seaside sparrows; wading birds such as herons, egrets, and ibis; ocean-dwellers such as the frigate bird; and migrating shorebirds and songbirds. In the case of the migratory birds, they are exhausted after traveling over open water for hundreds of miles, so they rely completely on landing in healthy habitats at the end of their journey. **For the more than 500 million birds that enter the United States through the Gulf area each Spring, the ruination of their breeding and nesting grounds is a tragedy beyond reckoning.**

In March, President Obama had announced plans to expand offshore drilling in the Gulf as well as Alaska, angering many Democrats, wildlife advocates, and environmentalists. Although he stated that this would only be part of a balanced package of energy legislation that includes wind and solar power, it was widely seen as a ploy to win support from the oil industry and conservative politicians.

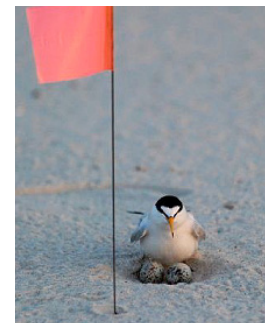
Much more than a mere 'spill,' the continuing gush of oil into the Gulf shows no sign of stopping. Truly, a hole into the bowels of the earth has been opened. When the horrific ramifications of this event became clear, the Democratic senator from Florida, Bill Nelson, said that President Obama's plan to increase drilling would have to be abandoned. "The president's proposal for offshore drilling is dead on arrival," Nelson said.

Another powerful voice was heard when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger withdrew his support for expanded offshore drilling in California. Despite the state's huge budget deficit – a prime motivation for the planned drilling – Schwarzenegger revealed a humane

side when he spoke at a press conference: "I see on TV the birds drenched in oil, the fisherman out of work, the massive oil spill and oil slick destroying our precious ecosystem. That will not happen here in California..." Under the headline, "Schwarzenegger Abandons Offshore Plan; So Should Obama," the May 4th issue of The Nation said, "It is not often that a politician is confronted by reality and does the right thing."

The oil industry as a whole came under fire as the significance of their latest catastrophic error became known. Many groups demanded a ban on future offshore drilling. BP executives admitted to Congress that the oil leak could reach 40,000 barrels a day if they cannot cap the flow. But when grilled by the Senate on May 11, executives of the several companies involved just pointed fingers at each other: BP America, Transocean Ltd., operators of the rig, and sub-contractor Halliburton.

The question of BP's negligence is still under scrutiny. Their stance that a backup system for the blowout preventer (a huge device meant to prevent unintended release of oil) was unnecessary was criticized.



Massachusetts Representative Ed Markey, one of the authors of last year's climate bill said, "I'm of the opinion that boosterism breeds

complacency, and complacency breeds disaster. That in my opinion is what happened."

"Boosterism" seems a mild choice of words considering the longstanding chokehold the oil industry and its lobbyists have on our government officials. In recent decades, there have been no realistic safety measures imposed. As Richard Charter of Defenders of Wildlife put it, "Whenever the oil industry sees some proposal they don't like, they kill it." How?, the reasonable citizen might ask. "They throw their money around," Charter declared.

There is plenty of blame to go around. The oil industry, hand-in-glove with a compliant Congress and

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Administration allowing drilling that inevitably leads to environmental disasters and wildlife destruction, share guilt with a short-sighted general public who seem willing neither to make substantive changes in lifestyle nor to push their government to act in the best interests of nature. The damage is irrevocable, but a two-pronged course of action is needed right away. Hold industry bosses and weak-willed government accountable, certainly, but we must also work to ensure the institution and enforcement of enlightened, environmentally-sensitive policies.

The millions of birds and marine animals who cannot speak for themselves are relying on the more progressive and scientifically astute among us to save them from similar future catastrophes. They and the people whose lives were harmed by this calamity need us to speak up loud and strong, to advocate for them.

It is impossible to overstate the zoological devastation that this mammoth oil spill is causing. Countless individual sea turtles,



fish, shellfish, birds, and mammals have already paid with their lives. This is the prime breeding season for many species. Given the sheer numbers of animals who rely on the coastal waters and land of the threatened area, some species may never recover. To make matters worse, at the time of this printing, there are predictions that the oil may travel up the east coast, pushed along by "loop currents." Loop currents are warm ocean currents in the Gulf of Mexico that flow northward.

While government agencies continue to assess the enormous costs of this tragedy in monetary terms – how many commercial fishing jobs lost, recreational beaches spoiled, clean-up expense – an equivalent value should be placed on all the precious wild lives that were cruelly destroyed by this completely avoidable, totally man-made disaster.

ALL PHOTOS FROM:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/05/03/gulf-oil-spill-photos-ani_n_560813.html - Visit that site for many, many more heart-wrenching photographs.

YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO HELP



Wildlife Watch called the Coast Guard to find out what the chain of command is for clean-up efforts in the Gulf. We were told to call the Joint Information Center for the Unified Command, and were given this number: 985-902-5231. **The person who answered the number said she was a BP employee, which we found troubling. We asked her if BP or the Coast Guard is in charge, and she said the Coast Guard, then passed us on to a Coast Guard official who claimed that they are indeed in charge, but they are working with BP.**

We asked about people not being allowed to go in in boats and planes to help the birds, etc. He said that there are sensitive, oil-covered areas and people need to have training classes in how to go in and help properly.

Of course, the Basinkeepers and the Riverkeepers ARE trained, so we said that they should certainly be allowed to go in. The Coast Guard official agreed with us and said as long as they get proper clearance from the CG they can go in.

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com is the website the Coast Guard recommended for people who want to volunteer.

THROUGH MY LENS

BY E.M. FAY

SHARKS AND HUMANS

LET'S DEVELOP A SENSE OF PROPORTION

Between 20 million and 100 million sharks are killed every year as a result of fishing operations. By contrast, the International Shark Attack File at University of Florida says four people died from shark attacks in 2006; and 58 shark bites were reported. Although 2006 was thus characterized as unusually "dull" regarding shark attacks, there is usually a sensationalistic approach to each incident that appears on the news.

Consider that sharks have no premeditated interest in attacking humans; whereas those few people who are killed have willfully and consciously entered the sharks' home territory. This obvious fact is often overlooked. Of course, it is tragic when individual people suffer, but when one considers the enormous

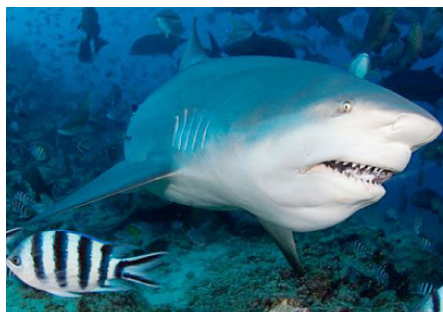


Photo from:

http://img.metro.co.uk/i/pix/2009/04/shark_pic_450x300.jpg

disparity between shark-related human deaths and human-caused shark deaths, it would seem that most people have the wrong perspective.

For more information, go to <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N2D182714.htm> and http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/06/0613_050613_sharkfacts.html.

EYE ON THE NEWS

Parrots Rescued: ANIMALS LEBANON

Illegal trafficking in exotic animals goes on unabated worldwide, but there are certainly ways in which concerned people can help the victimized animals.

Recently, Bulgarian customs officers confiscated 108 African grey parrots that came into the country via Beirut, Lebanon. They were crammed into plastic containers, which, upon opening at the Sofia Zoo, revealed that one parrot had already died. Other cases of parrots transported through Beirut Airport have been documented by **Animals Lebanon**, an advocacy group. Basic shipping requirements were violated, including safe housing and adequate water supply for the helpless birds. Birds with broken wings and legs were observed in at least one wooden crate.

Cargo officials at the airport admitted that they had witnessed a disagreement between the shipper and customs officials, but still, the birds were sent on in a pitiable state. With grey parrots selling for up to \$2000 on the European black market, this

cruel trade is likely to continue with no oversight. Lebanon has issued permits for the trade, and is not a signatory to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), which outlines some humane regulations.

Parrots are known to be exceptionally intelligent, so the suffering involved in their capture and confinement is particularly intense. **Animals Lebanon** has asked the Minister of Agriculture to investigate this situation. The Minister stated that Lebanon will join CITES in 2011, but in the meantime the cruelty to parrots and other animals goes on. Wildlife exploiters also take advantage of the lack of CITES participation in Iraq and Bahrain.

Lana El-Kahil, President of Animals Lebanon, has called for an end to this heartless trade in endangered animals, noting that monkeys, parrots, and others are openly for sale in Lebanese pet shops. Even lions have been abducted from Syria.

Because CITES participation would impose at least some restrictions on the importation of animals, **we ask that**



Photo from:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/27/Congo_African_Grey_Parrot_-_head_detail.jpg

everyone concerned about animal welfare write courteous letters to the Minister of Agriculture, urging him to take a strong, immediate stand against animal smuggling and exploitation. Address: H. E. Dr. Hussein Hajj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture, Embassies Street, Bir Hassan Sector, Beirut, Lebanon.

Read more at:

<http://greenresistance.wordpress.com/2010/05/04/parrots-lebanon-and-illegal-trade/>

BATS DYING AT ALARMING RATE

SYNOPSISIZED BY E.M. FAY

Bats as a species have not been as universally embraced by humankind as, say, koala bears or bunny rabbits. The general lack of appreciation for bats is largely due to ignorance - as well as their inaccurate portrayal in countless horror films. In reality, bats are of great benefit to people. Like bees, they are essential to pollination; and they provide natural insect control, consuming enormous quantities of bugs that plague humans, such as flies and mosquitoes.

Besides their usefulness to us, bats are themselves fascinating animals, with a highly evolved biological sonar system. Like dolphins, they communicate and navigate via high-frequency sounds. And bats are unique as the only true flying mammal in existence.

It is heart-breaking for bat aficionados to learn that the recent incidents of White-nose Syndrome - the worst bat-killing disease in history - are continuing unabated. What was first discovered in only one cave in north-



http://www.bats.org.uk/data/images/threats/white_nose_al_hicks_nydecrop.jpg

ern New York State four years ago, killing off whole local populations, is spreading northward and westward at an alarming rate.

Hibernation sites as far west as Missouri have reported colony die-offs, including the Smokey Mountain National Park, home to the largest colony of endangered Indiana bats in Tennessee. At least 12 states are involved. The disease has also spread north to Ontario and Quebec, in Canada. The mortality rates are phenomenal, virtually 100% in many caves. Biologists have reason to

believe that all bats throughout North America are threatened.

White-nose Syndrome is a fungal disease. The spores penetrate the bats' skin, disrupt their hibernation, and cause irritation and starvation. Scientists have so far failed to find a cure for this horrid disease. Some suspect it may be contributed to by humans unwittingly carrying fungal spores into caves on their clothing. In Missouri, caves on Department of Conservation lands are being closed to protect from this possibility.

Bat Conservation International's White-nose Syndrome Emergency Response Fund is doing critical research. If a cure is not found very soon, there is a frightening possibility that WNS will drive bat species into extinction across the United States and Canada.

To learn more, or to support WNS research and other BCI initiatives, go to

<http://www.batcon.org/>

R.O.C.K. -

Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

Wildlife Rehabilitators are aware of the many perils facing individual wild animals in their daily existence. Some can be avoided by personal steps that we can take - others need to be dealt with through education or lobbying efforts.

Wildlife rehabilitators are **licensed by state game agencies, yet they are given no other support**, and

they are **not allowed to charge for their "services."** Sadly, animals often come to the attention of rehabbers when they are found by people who either don't want them near their house or don't know how to help them. When the DEC's, DNR's or police are called, they normally recommend killing or letting the animals die; and most veterinarians cannot take time from their busy schedules.

FEATURED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

LEEANN FREEMAN MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

Leeann Freeman has been helping injured wildlife in southern Mississippi for 18 years. She lives in Brooklyn, MS, a small town about 30 miles inland from the Gulf. Brooklyn is surrounded by the DeSoto National Forest, so there is an abundance of wildlife in the area. As a state-permitted wildlife rehabilitator, Leeann is experienced with helping a variety of wild animals, although she specializes mostly in mammals. She has worked with wild animals from squirrels and opossums to white-tailed deer to coyotes and bobcats. It can be challenging, to say the least.

"Most of the adult bobcats we get in are in pain and frightened, so usually they are not in their right mind," Leeann explained. Collisions with cars are the most common form of injury for the adults. "I have a wonderful vet who does sedation, x-rays, and examinations. When they are feeling better they are really a handful, and are released as quickly as possible. Not manhandled in any way, but very much respected."

In the case of the juvenile female pictured here, she was found afflicted with many parasites and emaciated for lack of food. Leeann noted that her habitat had been severely reduced by human development in the area, which limits bobcats' hunting grounds and food supply. Hurricane Katrina also destroyed a great deal of their habitat.

An Ohio native who has lived in Mississippi for 35 years, Leeann is very concerned about the catastrophic effects on wildlife due to the masses of oil gushing into the Gulf region. "It has not reached my area yet," she told us. "But it has hit Louisiana already."

About the continuing oil disaster, Leeann said, "I am horrified. This will not go away in one year or even three



years. Our ecosystem will be affected for many years to come."

Leeann works on her own, but is very grateful for the support and assistance of her husband, John. She acknowledges that he is a rarity among southern men, who are usually hunters. John has great compassion for animals, and helps her by building cages, among other tasks. "I would not be able to do this work without him," she said. "He is very supportive."

Leeann always releases her patients back into the wild when they have recuperated. She firmly believes in the right of all wild animals to have their freedom. "It's a great feeling when you turn something wild loose again," she said. "They deserve to be free. **Wild animals do not make good pets.**"

With humans increasingly encroaching on their habitat, wildlife needs a lot of help. Leeann says that she stays

connected with other rehabbers in the area and they all communicate regularly. Regarding the Gulf crisis, she remains deeply concerned. "We humans take a lot out of nature. We all use gas; we want our cars. For the animals' sakes, I hope that in the future there will be better protections put in place so this does not happen again."

Looking after injured and recovering wild animals is an expensive proposition. Providing everything from various kinds of milk replacement formulas to nuts and animal chow gets very costly. Then there are blankets and towels, medical and cleaning supplies of all sorts. Donations are necessary to help Leeann continue to save animals, and are most appreciated. **Anyone wishing to help her with this vital work for wildlife may send donations to Leeann Freeman, 2005 Carnes Road, Brooklyn, Mississippi 39425.**



Wildlife Watch fields hundreds of calls in the spring and summer. We pass information to people who are in remote areas of the country without help or facilities nearby or unattainable at the time they call. We connect them with rehabilitators who are nearby, and within a certain radius we help to rescue and transport animals to veterinarians or rehabbers.

Please help this service to grow by contributing to Wildlife Watch.

Join Wildlife Watch

BOOKS TO KNOW ABOUT

RARE: Portraits of America's Endangered Species

BY JOEL SARTORE



Joel Sartore traveled the country to photograph endangered American animals and plants. All the photographed animals are on the verge of extinction.

Joel said, "Whatever press these animals get is really minimal. Even some of the animals we call 'charismatic mega-fauna' — like whooping cranes, California condors — they don't get enough press, so can you imagine the Pyne's ground-plum or the Mount Graham red squirrel — what odds do they have to ever get even their 15 minutes of fame nationally? The goal is really to get people first aware of these always amazing plants and animals and to get them to care, before it's too late. A lot of the things that are going away are very small, little plants and invertebrates."

Joel Sartore's photograph of gentle Bryn (right) is a permanent record, but she has been lost forever. The Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit died in 2008 shortly after the picture was taken. She was the last of her kind! Sartore, who has worked for the National Geographic Society for two decades, called the brief shooting session with the doomed rabbit a "solemn occasion," knowing she would not be around much longer.

The photographer said his interest started because "My mother had a set



of Time-Life picture books. One was called The Birds. In that book was a look at several birds that

have gone extinct including the heath hen, the great auk, the ivory-billed woodpecker, the Carolina parakeet and the passenger pigeon. The very last passenger pigeon, a bird named Martha, was shown alive in a photo taken just before her death in the Cincinnati Zoo back in 1914.

I was astounded. **This was once the most numerous bird on Earth,**

with an estimated population of five billion, and here it was reduced to this single female, with no hope of saving it. I couldn't understand how anyone could tolerate this. I still feel the same way, and I work hard to prevent this from ever happening again. Of course, things have gone much farther downhill since then, but that doesn't mean we don't all keep trying. **Hopelessness doesn't get us anywhere.** It's just a matter of getting people to realize what's at stake. Most of these species are failing because their habitat is being chewed up. It's folly to think that as animals ourselves, we can let the rest of the world go to hell but we'll be just fine. We're all interconnected."



Get signed copies of the book at <http://www.rarethebook.com/>

Check the following websites for more glimpses of a great book with a powerful message.

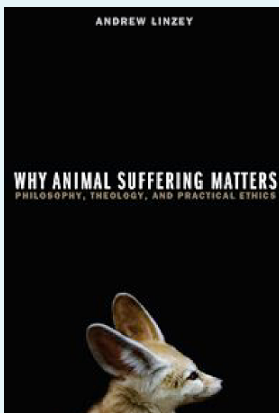
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/04/24/mears.sartore.ganda/index.html>

<http://www.pdnphotooftheday.com/2010/03/3873>

<http://www.amazon.com/National-Geographic-Rare-Portraits-Endangered/dp/1426205759>

We highly recommend this important book:

WHY ANIMAL SUFFERING MATTERS *Philosophy, Theology, and Practical Ethics*



By Andrew Linzey was published by Oxford University Press in 2009

Oxford/\$29.95/206 pgs. /

Hardback/July 23, 2009/

ISBN13: 9780195379778

New York: Oxford University Press, 2009

Linzey shows that many of the justifications for inflicting animal suffering in fact provide grounds for protecting them. Because animals, the argument goes, lack reason or souls or language, harming them is not an offense.

Linzey suggests that just the opposite is true, that the

inability of animals to give or withhold consent, their inability to represent their interests, their moral innocence, and their relative defenselessness all compel us not to harm them. Linzey pioneers a new theory about why animal suffering matters, maintaining that sentient animals, like children, should be accorded a special moral status.

Andrew Linzey is Director of the **Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics**, and a Member of the Faculty of Theology in the University of Oxford. He has published more than 20 books including: *Animal Theology*, *Creatures of the Same God*, and *The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence*.

E mail: andrewlinzey@aol.com;

andrew.linzey@theology.ox.ac.uk

Centre's website: www.oxfordanmalethics.com

MOVIE AND THEATER STAR ATTRIBUTES HER HEALTH TO VEGANISM

In a news report, **Alicia Silverstone** said that she used to feel sick all the time, had bags under her eyes, but now she feels awake, alert and inspired. She lost weight and feels strong. She attributes it to organic, vegan food. She also realizes that she's helping animals and the environment.



Here's just one fact: Producing a pound of animal protein requires about 100 times the water needed to produce a pound of vegetable protein.

And, did you know that livestock for meat production is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions measured in CO2 equivalent. That's 38% higher than that emitted by all the world's vehicles combined. Please visit: www.vivavegie.org/101 or contact 212-871-9304 for more information.

For great organic/vegan/raw food in the **New Paltz, NY** area, try **KARMA ROAD CAFÉ**, 11 Main St., and meet the owners **Seth** and **Jen** who do an amazing job of cooking and preparing vegan food. The juice bar is great, so is the bakery, and the company is wonderful. Yummy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL PIGEON DAY

Saturday, June 19th, 10 am to 3 pm

Place: Pilgrim Hill in Central Park, NYC

Enter the park on Fifth Avenue and E. 72nd Street and Pilgrim Hill is a few minutes' walk.



The New York Bird Club, founded by **Anna Dove**, invites and welcomes you to participate in the Third Annual **National Pigeon Day** to honor pigeons everywhere and to acknowledge the fact that pigeons are heroes and friends.

Prior to the age of electronic communication, pigeons were one of the most reliable forms of communication in existence. During World War I, pigeons carried thousands of messages that saved many hundreds of lives. In World War II pigeons continued to be used.

In World War I, for instance, American pigeon, **Cher Ami** was

awarded a French Medal of Honor for her heroic service for successfully delivering 12 messages. On her last trip, **Cher Ami** successfully delivered a message that saved the lives of over 200 U.S. soldiers, even after **Cher** was shot in the wing.

Pigeons continued to fly through enemy fire, and amazingly 95% of them completed their missions! Pigeons can fly almost 60 m.p.h., though they average 30 mph, for over 10 hours at a stretch.

Please visit the National Pigeon Day blog for complete details and to view the past two National Pigeon Day events:

<http://www.nationalpigeonday.blogspot.com>

You can also visit them on Facebook (**Cher Ami**) where National Pigeon Day is featured.

Wildlife Watch will be speaking at National Pigeon Day.



- Concurrent tracks on animal abuse, organizing, tactics, ideology
- Eyewitness reports on the whale wars and other key campaigns
- Ninety speakers from 60 organizations
- All viewpoints on animal liberation featured

- Talks by other social justice leaders
- Awards to celebrities and activists
- Extensive learning and networking options
- 90 exhibits (free to visitors)
- 80 videos (including "Skin Trade" premiere)
- Highly discounted sleeping rooms
- Magnificent conference space
- Free shuttle to Metro and free parking

WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing this vital national service for helping injured and orphaned wildlife. In addition to our national hotline, Wildlife Watch lobbies for wildlife protection bills, does direct rescue locally, and contributes when to the local rehabbers for their care of the babies we bring to them. Through our publication, the **Wildlife Watch**

Binocular, Wildlife Watch emphasizes the unique spirit of individual animals and promotes wildlife watching as a means of spiritually and ethically relating to other beings, and as an enhancement of our life enjoyment.

Will you become a part of our team?

YES

For additional articles, photos, and items of interest, please visit our enhanced website at: www.wildwatch.org

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We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

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**NEED HELP FOR
INJURED OR
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?
CALL THE WILDLIFE
WATCH HOTLINE!
1-877-WILDHELP
(1-877-945-3435)**

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed upon request at our discretion up to the amount available.

You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400

✓ Contribute by mail:
Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box
562, New Paltz, NY 12561

LET'S GO WILDLIFE WATCHING HAWK MOUNTAIN, PA

www.hawkmountain.org / 610-756-6961

1700 Hawk Mountain Rd, Kempton, PA 19529

Phone: (610) 756-6961 * Fax: (610) 756-4468



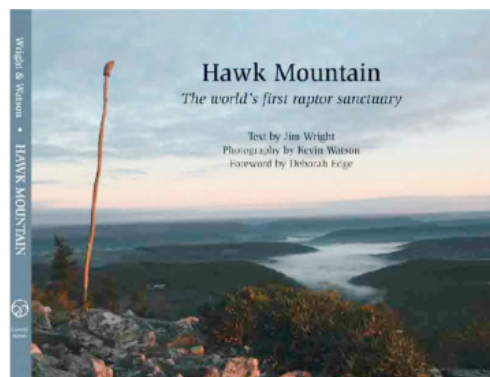
Photo from Wikipedia

While our staff has not been here, it has been given a rave review by a wildlife rehabilitator who spent some time there.

Hawk Mountain is part of the Kittatinny Ridge or Blue Mountain, the prominent, southeastern most Appalachian ridge in the Ridge-and-Valley Province. The Sanctuary's 2,600 acres, along with more than 13,000 acres of private and public lands, make up one of the largest, protected tracts

of contiguous forest in southeastern Pennsylvania. Hawk Mountain lands are a critical "source" reserve for eastern Pennsylvania flora and fauna, and may replenish populations in smaller forest tracts elsewhere in the region.

On spring and autumn weekends, staff, volunteers and interns are stationed at Lookouts to help you identify these striking birds. With a good eye and practice, you'll increase your chances of spotting a wild raptor on your own. If you happen to be standing or sitting next to a bird-watcher more experienced than you, don't be shy about asking questions. Sharing your enthusiasm and curiosity about raptors is always welcome.



THANK YOU WILDLIFE WATCH

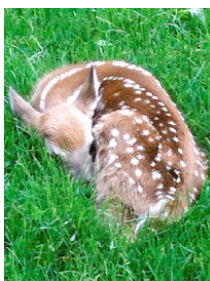


Photo by
Tara Connolly

Hi Anne - Here is the photo. Hope you can use it. Thanks again for your help! It was wonderful to see the baby running around this morning with her mama. Priscilla Connolly.

This time of year, Wildlife Watch gets more calls about fawns than any other wild animal. Fawns are left by their Moms, so the mothers

can feed themselves to generate more milk for the fawn. The mothers don't want to attract attention to the fawn by staying there. We always suggest that people who call just stay back and watch – or check up every few hours. For more detail about fawns and how to help them, visit our website:

www.wildwatch.org