

## IMPROVING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AT AIRPORTS

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT BY E.M. FAY



Coyote outside of fence

Modern airports have to contend with a great number of safety issues. In some cases, the problems are technical, related to the proper functioning of equipment or weather events. Some considerations are human-oriented – anything from obstreperous passengers to the more dangerous possibility of terrorist activity. And then there are animal-related concerns, as when wildlife get near airfields or aircraft in a way that endangers both humans and animals alike.

Among the animals that can pose a hazard for planes, probably the most well known is the Canada goose. Migrating Canada geese, in particular, can fly at altitudes and on flyways that could bring them into fatal contact with aircraft. When a flock or some mem-

bers of a flock get sucked into the powerful vortex of a jet engine, the encounter could endanger the aircraft and its passengers, and is always fatal for the geese themselves. These bird and aircraft collisions are often referred to as "bird strikes."

On the ground, another wild animal that can be a problem is the coyote. When they get onto an airfield, their simple presence can block the take-off or landing of planes. And in some instances, as mentioned in a recent story from Martin County, Florida, it was claimed that they may do damage to electrical wiring or other equipment. As human safety is the number one priority for airport officials, a variety of tactics have been undertaken in order to remove animals from their property. Consequently, many airports employ wildlife biologists to design and/or implement strategies that will protect their passengers.

At Portland International Airport, in Portland, Oregon, Nick Atwell is the Aviation Wildlife Manager. Atwell has been at the airport (acronym: PDX) for approximately ten years, starting out as an intern and working his way up to manager. He has degrees in Natural

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## RECOVERY EFFORTS SHOW PROMISE FOR THE ENDANGERED RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

BY HAZEL FREEMAN

On a quiet May morning, a small group of amateur birders stand amid the tall pine trees in the heart of Florida's Apalachicola National Forest (ANF). Alan Knothe, an education and training expert with the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (Alan is no longer with the ANERR) has led his small group of eager birders deep into the trees. Standing silently, we look, listen, and hope for a glimpse of a rare bird...the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW).

Sprawling across about six hundred thousand acres in the Florida panhandle, the ANF is the largest national forest in Florida. Located southwest of Tallahassee, the ANF was established

### WOODPECKER

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## God's Dog

*"Full of charm and tenacious inquisitiveness as the appealing animal she pleads is allowed to live."*

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*God's Dog :  
A Celebration  
of the North  
American  
Coyote  
by Hope Ryden*

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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Bird balls keep canadas and other waterfowl out of retention ponds

Resources and Organismal Wildlife Biology. He and his team of three Wildlife Technicians and one intern are under the aegis of the Environmental Department, and are employed by the Port of Portland, which is the parent entity that owns and operates the airport, as well as other transportation hubs in the area.

**Atwell explained that part of the reason that geese turn up near so many airports across the country is that airports are often built on land located on traditional bird migration routes – “flyways” – as well as on wetlands, a prime habitat for many birds. Airfields and associated undeveloped buffer properties also present literally hundreds and sometimes thousands of acres of relatively short grass habitat, highly attractive to Canada geese as well as other species of concern for aviation safety.** Atwell noted that different geographic regions have different animal populations to deal with. For example, Oregon does not have a laughing gull population, which has been alleged to be a safety hazard at JFK Airport in New York. Portland does have red-tailed hawks, however. PDX is on the Pacific Flyway for this bird, so

their wildlife team might trap and relocate as many as 100 or so hawks per year.

“Animal control issues are totally different from airport to airport,” Atwell told us. This means that what is done to cope with animal hazards at one airport may not work at another.

“Because every airport has its own unique issues, you can’t apply a cookie-cutter recipe to each one. They have to be addressed independently.”

At Portland International Airport, the wildlife team does its best to deal as humanely as possible with animal “intruders.” They began by forming a wildlife hazard working group, and bringing in a variety of experts to provide input so that a rational and efficient program could be devised. Experienced groups, including animal rights organizations, were consulted. The direction of the program was thus formulated by a collective voice, to



Fencing prevents digging

make sure that all available resources were used intelligently.

**The use of raptor trapping/relocation, pyro-technics, lasers, and cannons are other techniques employed by Atwell’s team to frighten away wildlife from the airfield environment. Regarding dissuasive methods in general, he said,**

**“Instead of being reactive, we prefer to be pro-active, such as putting in buried fencing so coyotes and other animals can’t dig**



Construction silt fencing breaks up the line of sight in large open areas. This decreases visibility for geese, when their visibility is limited, the geese sense a predator may be waiting beyond the obstruction.

**under the airfield fence.**

**We also use construction silt fencing to break up the line of sight in large open areas. This decreases visibility for the geese, and they feel a level of uncertainty when their visibility is limited. They know there may be a predator beyond the obstruction.”**

By using visual barriers the wildlife managers effectively take advantage of the birds’ own natural instincts for self-preservation. When they cannot see beyond a sufficient point, they feel uncomfortable with the space and will not likely congregate there.

Occasionally, a coyote will find his or her way onto the airfield. One of the non-lethal methods used at PDX since 2002 is the “herding” of coyotes. Staff members will open the gate nearest to them and then drive a vehicle slowly, guiding the coyotes along the fence until they reach the open gate and leave the airfield. It is important not to panic the coyotes into running the wrong way. Coyotes are smart, though, and sometimes they will head for the gate as soon as a vehicle approaches. Such a measure may seem simple, but Atwell stresses that it might not be appropriate for other airports with different topography and wildlife populations. “Every airport has to adapt to their own changing environments and be pro-active.”

**As for long-term animal strategy, Atwell said, “We want to get down to root causes so we can exclude them from the airfield in the first place.” To this end, they implement “specific landscape standards throughout the property.” There are spacing requirements between trees, and they do not plant any attractive vegetation or trees that encourage roosting or foraging. Even grasses are carefully considered. A great deal of scientific know-how is involved.**

“There is a specific species planting list that we use,” Atwell stated. “We screen plants in relation to birds that are of concern to aviation safety. We know the birds’ life history requirements, making sure there are no direct associations between birds and plants which might

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# April 7 is International Beaver Day

## *Why Celebrate This Keystone Species?*

BY SHARON T. BROWN



Photo: Beavers Wetlands & Wildlife

Beavers are more than intriguing animals with flat tails and lustrous fur. American Indians called this species the land's "sacred center" because beaver damming creates such rich wetland habitat – a half-mile-long dam in Alberta, Canada can be seen from space. Today we know that beavers provide many essential services. Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife, an educational nonprofit, has designated April 7 as International Beaver Day to spread the word that nature's engineer is our ally in combating major modern environmental problems.

The fur trade had nearly extirpated beavers in the U.S. by the early 1900s, when conservationists raised an alarm about the decline in many wild species due to the massive loss of watery habitat. Because beavers build their stick-and-mud dams in streams flowing through shallow valleys, the flooded area becomes wetlands — cradles of life with biodiversity that rivals tropical rain forests. It was not immediately obvious that people had lost equally vital, but hidden, beaver benefits until houses began floating downstream.

**Leaky dams, such as beavers build, naturally moderate downstream flooding and droughts by releasing water slowly – instead of water flowing off the land in**

**hours, it can take weeks. That long retention time allows the clearing of toxins, such as the pesticide atrazine, and excess nutrients, such as phosphorous, from fertilized croplands. Plus filtering by dams can remove 90% of the silt so that the flow downstream needs much less treatment at drinking water plants.**

When beavers were wiped out, most of the nation's wetlands were drained for cropland. Back then, no one understood that freshwater wetlands provide more natural services than any other terrestrial ecosystem. Today, manmade (mitigation) wetlands cost from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per acre to build, while each New York beaver family creates an average of 15 wetlands acres on average—at no charge to taxpayers.

Today *Castor canadensis* has rebounded from the edge of extinction, though we have only 10%, or less, of the original beaver population prior to European colonization. State wildlife agencies remain more philosophically oriented toward "harvesting the resource" than to providing wetlands benefits, and manage beavers to keep their populations low to avoid complaints. Luckily, modern economical methods now exist to solve common beaver problems. For example, a beaver-flooded road no longer means that a community must choose between an expensive project to raise the road and an endless cycle of trapping. Installing a beaver flow device can save money and the ecology; when these were used at the Virginia Dept of Transportation's worst beaver road sites, each \$1 spent saved \$8.37.

**As climate change brings more regional floods and droughts, we have a flat-tailed partner who'll work for free to alleviate the damage. People benefit greatly as when beaver wetlands cleanse the water, slow erosion, raise water tables, and slow the flow of streams. No wonder scientists say**

**that learning to live with beavers could alleviate today's major environmental problems — such as rising extinction, water pollution and extreme weather events from climate change.**

More information, including videos, beaver brochures, studies and reports, is available at [www.BeaversWW.org](http://www.BeaversWW.org). Those who'd like to celebrate International Beaver Day, Thursday, April 7 with a program for their club, class or community can receive a free "Coexisting with Beavers, Teachers' Edition" DVD while supplies last. Tell us your plans and send a check for \$4.95 to cover shipping and handling to BWW, 146 Van Dyke Rd., Dolgeville, NY 13329, or call 518/568-2077 for a credit card order. This DVD contains a half-hour video with exciting action footage of beaver pond wildlife, plus two short ones: an introduction to beavers and BWW, and a bit about the "Beaver Woman" Dorothy Richards.

Consider helping your community learn about these amazing animals on International Beaver Day, April 7<sup>th</sup>. It's a good time to hike to a beaver pond, arrange a display of beaver books in your library, or have a program about this amazing animal.

**Sharon and Owen Brown** are the Founders and Directors of Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife (BWW)  
<http://www.beaversww.org/>



Sharon Brown and her friend.

## WOODPECKER

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in 1936, and began its life as a depleted and abused piece of Mother Earth. Detrimental timber and turpentine producing practices rendered the land in poor shape. But the earth is a great healer if given a chance, and once designated a national forest, the ANF began its recovery. The ANF is now a vibrant, healthy, productive forest that boasts the largest population in the world of the red-cockaded woodpecker.

With his trained birding eyes and ears, Alan hears the call, and spots a quick flash of movement through the tall pines. "There's one," he says quietly, as he points towards the top of a tree. We crane our necks, shield our eyes from the sun, and search the mottled tree trunks for the elusive woodpecker. Unlike the pileated and the red-headed woodpecker, the red-cockaded is smaller, and much less dramatic in its appearance. Without a discerning bird-er's eye you might easily mistake the red-cockaded for the much more common downy woodpecker.

Once numbering in the millions, and common in Florida's vast acres of mature pine forests, the red-cockaded numbers had dwindled to around ten thousand individuals. By the time it was federally listed as an endangered species in 1970, the bird was moving quickly towards extinction. It is the only other woodpecker, besides the famed ivory-billed, to be protected under the Endangered Species Act. The woodpecker's prime habitat, the longleaf pine ecosystem, once covering some ninety million acres in Florida, has been reduced to about 3% of its former acreage, making it one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America.

Similar to the spotted owl in the northwest, this inconspicuous woodpecker relies on mature forest for its habitat. With the red-cockaded woodpeckers' numbers dependent on this mature forest habitat, it becomes an effective indicator as to whether the longleaf pine ecosystem is healthy. To satisfy the needs of the woodpeckers, a mature pine forest must have trees ranging in age from about eighty to one-hundred twenty years, or older, a rare occurrence in today's world. In



A red-cockaded hole with the pine resin coating the tree

addition to the spread of development and agriculture, Florida's commercial pine forests are harvested when trees are between twenty and forty years old, leaving little hope that trees will be allowed to mature enough to support woodpecker populations.

At only seven to eight inches in length, the red-cockaded woodpecker is on the smaller end of the woodpecker scale and only slightly larger than a bluebird. The red cockades on the heads of the male birds are usually not visible unless he is excited or upset. Large white cheek patches are one of the distinguishing features to look for when spotting the bird, along with the black and white bars on the back.

While you can find many species of woodpeckers in pine forests, the red-cockaded has some unusual characteristics that separate it from other woodpeckers. It is the only woodpecker that excavates roosting and nesting cavities in the living part of the pine tree. In an effort to protect the nest cavities from one of their main predators, rat snakes, that can easily maneuver up tree trunks, the woodpeckers drill small holes around the nest opening called resin wells. Once drilled, the small

holes ooze the sticky, flowing pine resin that runs down the trunk, which coats the tree, and discourages intruders.

"Looking for this waxy build up on the trees around an entrance hole is one way to spot active nest cavities," says Alan. As we walked through the tall pines he pointed out trees with cavities and the long trails of sticky ooze that surround each opening. Once you know what you're looking for, the holes are fairly easy to spot.

While other woodpeckers sometimes compete with the red-cockaded for ownership of active cavities, abandoned cavities provide important shelter for many other animals such as bluebirds, other woodpeckers and birds, honeybees, and flying squirrels. Pileated woodpeckers can easily ruin a red-cockaded cavity by enlarging the opening, which causes the smaller woodpeckers to abandon the cavity. Once enlarged, larger woodpeckers, raccoons, small owls, or wood ducks might use the cavity.

The other unusual characteristic these woodpeckers exhibit is their advanced social system, living in groups that can number from just two, to as many as nine or more birds. The colony consists of a cluster of trees where a number of cavities have been excavated for the groups use for nesting as well as roosting. Each woodpecker roosts in its own cavity, if enough cavities are available. If not, some birds may roost out in the open until its cavity is finished.

Only one breeding pair heads up the social hierarchy while young birds and

## WOODPECKER

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## 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 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**

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## WOODPECKER

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adult males from previous years remain with the group as helpers. Juvenile females usually disperse in search of mates in a new nesting area. Nesting begins in late April when a clutch of two to five eggs is laid. The non-breeding family members may help incubate the eggs for ten to twelve days, as well as feed the young once they're hatched. After the young birds fledge, work continues on excavating cavities under construction.

Woodpeckers spend years working on cavity trees. The birds need trees mature enough that the size of the center heartwood, once excavated, allows for a cavity large enough for the bird, but remains free of any sap or resin. The birds prefer trees affected by the red heart fungus, a fungus that softens the heartwood, making it easier for the woodpeckers to excavate their cavities. Once excavated, these clusters of cavities may be used by generation after generation of birds.

Some recovery efforts of the Apalachicola National Forest include timber thinning to open up the forest, installing artificial cavities, and the translocation of juvenile woodpeckers to other areas," says Fitzgerald. "We've been the primary donor of juvenile birds and have given them to many other private and public lands involved in the recovery project. Our relocated birds have rescued many smaller populations of birds in other areas. We move about forty birds a year," adds Fitzgerald.



A long leaf pine forest in Apalachicola National Forest, Florida (ANF)

The other big advance in the recovery program has been the development and placement of artificial cavities in clusters to encourage new populations of birds. A similar effort was used in the 1940s to provide nesting boxes for wood ducks. That effort has been a great success and is still in practice today. If trees in favorable habitat are large enough, artificial holes can be drilled into trees. If trees aren't quite big enough to drill artificial cavities, boxes (called inserts) are installed in trees. Both methods provide immediate nesting and roosting cavities that woodpeckers can use.

"We're happy to say that today Apalachicola National Forest is home to about 650 clusters of woodpeckers and about 1,200 birds," says Fitzgerald. Total numbers for birds across eleven states is estimated at around 14,000 birds in 5,600 active clusters. Although population numbers are slowly creeping up, experts indicate that there are small groups of woodpeckers still in danger of disappearing and the recovery is a very slow process. It will take decades for the woodpecker's numbers to increase to a point where they may no longer be considered endangered. I'm hopeful that day will come.

Standing amid the tall pines hearing the red-cockaded call, watching as the small, inconspicuous little woodpecker flits through the trees, I think about how close it came to completely disappearing. The red-cockaded and the long leaf pine ecosystem, like so many other species/habitat balancing acts, are tightly entwined; if one disappears so goes the other. Some might wonder if all the effort is worth it. In my mind, mankind and nature are all one big tapestry. When one thread begins to unravel, it's only a matter of time before it all unravels.

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**Hazel Freeman** is a freelance writer from Ohio. With a life-long love of nature and the out-of-doors her writing reflects her deep passion, respect, and concern for the natural world in which we live.

For more info on **Apalachicola National Forest** visit:

<http://www.stateparks.com/apalachicola.html>

## EYE ON THE NEWS

### A RESOUNDING "NO" TO LION TACOS

#### *The Power of Your Voice*



Taking the notion of animal eating to a new low, a restaurant in Tucson, Arizona, was until recently offering African "lion tacos" on its menu. Fortunately, the owner received so many negative comments that he removed this shocking culinary option.

Brian Mazon, owner of Boca Tacos and Tequila, said his other "exotic" meats have included alligator, rattlesnake, and frogs. Mazon said he takes "pride in offering creative and unique menu items." He claimed he had received over

100 pre-orders for the lion tacos. What a sad commentary.

However, after what Mazon estimated as hundreds of angry comments came in, he dropped the idea of lion tacos.

That the majesty and independent spirit of the African lion could be reduced in some people's eyes to mere taco filling is abhorrent. We are grateful that many spoke out, and the lions are as well.

Full story at:

[http://azstarnet.com/business/local/article\\_07bd07e4-6472-513e-9524-8a7f8125db02.html](http://azstarnet.com/business/local/article_07bd07e4-6472-513e-9524-8a7f8125db02.html)

# 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, DNRs or police are called, they normally recommend killing or letting the animals die; and most veterinarians cannot take time from their busy schedules.

## WINGS OF HOPE A Private Domestic Waterfowl Sanctuary Marydel, DE

BY ANNE MULLER

So, what is the connection between the domestic geese at the **State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz, Wings of Hope in Delaware, Sunnyskies Bird and Animal Sanctuary** in Middletown, NY, and **Wildlife Watch**?

It's what's called TEAMWORK!

When Wildlife Watch first heard a rumor that there was a possibility of Canada geese being killed at the SUNY Campus, we wished to become involved in trying to prevent that from happening. Fortunately, **Mike Malloy**, Director of Environmental Health and Safety at SUNY also wanted to ensure that not a feather on anyone's head was ruffled. That included the students' feathers as well.

Wildlife Watch had a meeting with Mike who said he was planning to get a border collie to herd the geese off the grounds of the campus. He added that he needed to remove the domestic geese so that they would not be harassed by the new border collie.

Wildlife Watch's assignment was to facilitate the removal and placement of the domestic geese to a sanctuary or sanctuaries. Our primary concern was not breaking up bonded groups of geese. We never anticipated being able to place all 25 geese in one location.

After outreach to our various contacts, we received a welcome e-mail from **Nancy Pikulik** who has a privately owned sanctuary for waterfowl in Marydel, Delaware called Wings of



The geese playing follow the leader in one of SUNY's creeks in October.

Hope. Nancy was willing to take ALL of the geese who needed to be removed! We were thrilled that they would not have to be separated from each other, as it would have been difficult to determine their attachments to one another. So that we would feel confident in her ability to handle all of the geese, Nancy told us her amazing background:

*I have taken the Cornell University Ornithology course, taken numerous courses put on by the International & National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, studied homeopathy for wildlife and have worked as a volunteer with Tri-State Wild Bird Rescue for 12+ years. I have a Bachelors in Nursing and have been working with birds for over 15 years. This gives me the skills to handle most issues before they turn critical.*

*I did have one goose who developed subcutaneous emphysema this past summer and I'm happy to say it resolved with my every other day taping of the subcutaneous air pockets. In order to make this diagnosis, I took many photos and got an x-ray of his neck and emailed them to Erica Miller, the main vet at Tri-State who was heading the Gulf oil spill clean-up at the time. Apparently, many of the rescued pelicans were demonstrating similar symptoms and she gave her recommendations on what to do for him. He's just fine now and frequent-*

*ly comes over to show his appreciation. I address each and every animal on my property at least twice a day and study their daily routines - this close observation allows me to pick up on small changes in behavior which might be a precursor of a more serious problem.*

*I feel like I'm interviewing for the 'job of a lifetime' but I just want to relieve you all of any concerns that you may have that your geese will be taken for granted or left to fend for themselves. My critters probably eat better than we do and they certainly have their needs met before I worry about myself.*

Now that we had found the absolute best place for the guys, our next step was to find transportation for 25 large geese down to Delaware from upstate NY in the middle of a freezing cold, icy January. To accomplish that no mean feat, we called our friends at Sunnyskies Bird and Animal Sanctuary as we knew they had trailers and other vehicles for large animal transportation. Sure enough, they had just bought the *perfect* vehicle whose floor they covered with lots of cozy hay.

**Bill Swearer** of Sunnyskies <http://www.sunnyskiesbirdsanctuary.org/> did a miraculous repair on his new horse trailer the day before the trip so



Bill and Mike about to discharge their charges.

**R.O.C.K.**

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## R.O.C.K.

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it would be up and running flawlessly for the long journey to Marydel.

Yes, we had an amazingly sensitive team of people who only wanted the geese to be safe and happy in their new home. Yet, you can still imagine their fear, perhaps their sense of loss at losing the environment and home that had sustained them and their ancestors for generations.

After their arrival at Marydel, we waited with bated breath to hear about the initial meeting between the newcomers and the established flock. Fortunately both the sound and the video were recorded. Their greetings were deafening; the Delaware geese welcomed the NY geese with open arms that translated into outstretched wings and necks.

**Please visit [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) to see the meeting of what happened when the NY geese met the Delaware geese for the first time.**

Nancy reported that although they still choose to sleep in separate areas of the barn, they are beginning to mingle with each other during the day, no doubt



Here they are shortly after their arrival to MaryDel. The whites are the NY geese and the greys are the Delaware geese.

sharing war stories of how they each arrived at Marydel, and praising their new home. They may by now understand that what happened is a blessing.

**If you would like to contribute to the construction of a larger pond for the geese in Marydel, please let us know. Your contributions can be dedicated to a**



Nancy's Delaware geese taken months before the arrival of the NY geese.

**"Pond for the NY SUNY Geese"**  
**Please visit our website at [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) to see their new home and to witness their exciting arrival meeting.**

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Anne Muller is president of Wildlife Watch.

**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**  
<http://wildwatch.org/join/join.htm>

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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increase overall attractiveness to the area. You can match up birds and what plants they depend on. The phenology of the plant is important: when does it fruit, leaf, etc. In general, it is best to decrease any seed-bearing or fruit-bearing plants. Implementing effective landscaping standards decreases the threat to aviation by not attracting as many birds to the airport."

We at Wildlife Watch applaud such intelligent measures. Using plants that do not bear seeds is a practical and harmless way to discourage birds and other animals from hanging around airfields. Contrary to some airport authorities who advocate poisoning or shooting wildlife, we feel this is the progressive way to go.

The Mission Statement of the PDX Wildlife Program is to "control aviation wildlife hazards by implementing non-lethal means whenever possible to ensure aviation safety." However, if it is

deemed necessary for public safety, lethal methods are occasionally utilized.

Commercial and civilian airports are required to have a wildlife program in place. As with any entity, some plans are more effective and well-thought-out than others. Each "Wildlife Hazard Assessment" team should look at all the resources at their disposal – whether it's hazing, relocation, unpalatable plantings, use of dogs, etc. – and add as many useful tools as possible. Atwell reiterated that being pro-active is preferable to being merely reactive.

"Effective long-term strategy is habitat modification," Atwell added. "And going through appropriate permitting to mitigate off site."

The Wildlife Management Program at PDX is based on "Four Pillars."

I – Short-term Operational Strategy: Day-to-day, sunup-to-sunset, hazing, trapping, relocation. These are the more reactionary methods.

II – Long-term Management Strategy: Implementing compatible land-use planning and habitat modification.

III – Research and Development (R&D): Prey-based studies, deterrent tests, figuring out and testing current strategies to see if they warrant continuing or modifying. R & D informs both Short-term and Long-term management strategies.

IV – Information and Education: Talking to all stakeholders, attending bird strike committees, and exchanging information with other airports – to learn and improve strategies.

With airport safety as with other issues that have an impact on the public, there are usually a variety of ways to handle any problem. Portland International Airport's Wildlife Management Department is using an enlightened and humane approach that sets a good example. Doubtless, other airports have some sensible policies in place, as well. We will be revisiting this issue in future as we learn of other humane methods that protect both human and animal lives.

[http://www.portofportland.com/PDX\\_WildLife\\_Mngmnt.htm](http://www.portofportland.com/PDX_WildLife_Mngmnt.htm)

Photo credits : The Port of Portland.



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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](http://www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm)

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

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Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box  
562, New Paltz, NY 12561

## EGYPT'S ANIMALS SHOULD REVOLT AS WELL!



Egyptian TV anchor Mona Khalil, also a leader of the Egyptian animal rights movement, was making her way through a hail of rubber bullets and tear gas during recent demonstrations in Cairo when she saw a sad sight: "I saw cats running, running, running, and trying to get into houses or staircases or buildings and some of them were really gasping." She managed to save two kittens, but countless other animals were killed in the melée. Khalil said it was "the first slap in the face that, oh my God, those streets are filled with cats and dogs."

No animals are safe during violent human disturbances – and it doesn't matter if the cause of the disturbance is just. Animals are left out of the equation; they're neglected, run over, or willfully killed whenever a mob scene occurs.

Although world news has focussed attention on the freedom fight in Cairo, little has been said about the suffering

of the capital's pets and working animals. They have been left to fend for themselves as tourists and locals have fled danger. Zoo and pet shop animals have sometimes been left to starve. As Treasurer of The Egyptian Society for Mercy to Animals (ESMA), Khalil said, "It's very common to see stray cats and dogs on the street, but not for us to see [abandoned] Persians and Siamese."

Kristen Stilt, of ESMA, says of Egyptians, "They want a better future for their country, and they think that just like in [other] countries, animal welfare is an important issue." ESMA was founded in 2007 in response to the government's policy of shooting stray dogs as a method of population control. Islamic law calls for protection of animals, but, "It has become normal to see young boys running after a small dog or pitiful cat and throwing rocks at the poor creature, or tying up the puppy and dragging him by the rope." Likewise, emaciated donkeys, mules, or horses are forced to pull terribly overloaded carts, and beaten mercilessly. To learn more about Egypt's animals, visit: <http://www.esmaegypt.org/>

Author Gwen Cooper: "A couple of people have asked me why they should care about animals all the way in Egypt. My response has been to say that animals aren't citizens of countries. They're citizens of our hearts, and our hearts have no borders."

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2048792,00.html?hpt=T1>