

Wild At Heart's Seasonal Update (Spring 2015)



Welcome to Wild At Heart's first "Seasonal Update". We look forward to giving you a brief overview of the events, birds, and developments here at Wild At Heart.

'Tis the Season for Baby Owls and Hawks

Each spring and summer, we receive a sudden jump in the number of baby (nestling) owls and hawks in need of rescue. Last year, we rescued 220 babies and eggs which set a new record. We are already ahead of last year's record pace and still have the three busiest months yet to go (Apr, May, Jun). Each baby Great Horned Owl stays with us for at least 8-9 months, which translates into \$800 of food per bird. Parents normally tend to the young for 6-9 months which includes weeks of practice at hunting. Although innate, owls require longer periods of time to perfect this skill. The longer stay with WAH also insures the birds are released in late autumn when the heat is not as intense and there is a better supply of food and water.



One of the primary causes for so many orphaned nestlings is the **trimming of palm trees** that occurs at the worst possible time: Spring and summer. The older palm fronds provide critical nesting platforms for no less than three species of owls in our Phoenix community plus several hawks. An even greater number of songbirds rely on these trees for nesting sites. When those palm trees are trimmed, more than just fronds come crashing to the ground.

You can help reduce the number of rescues by trimming palm trees before February 01 and after September 01. Of course, some HOAs have a few rules in place that may make this difficult. This is where WAH would like to become more active with the HOAs to help create a mutually beneficial alignment of when trimming occurs.

If you have a direct connection with your HOA management or board members, we would love to have an introduction to begin a conversation with them. Please contact Jack Holloway by e-mail (Jack@WildAtHeartOwls.org) or at his cell phone: 602-524-9698 if you can help.

How Many Have Been Rescued this Year?



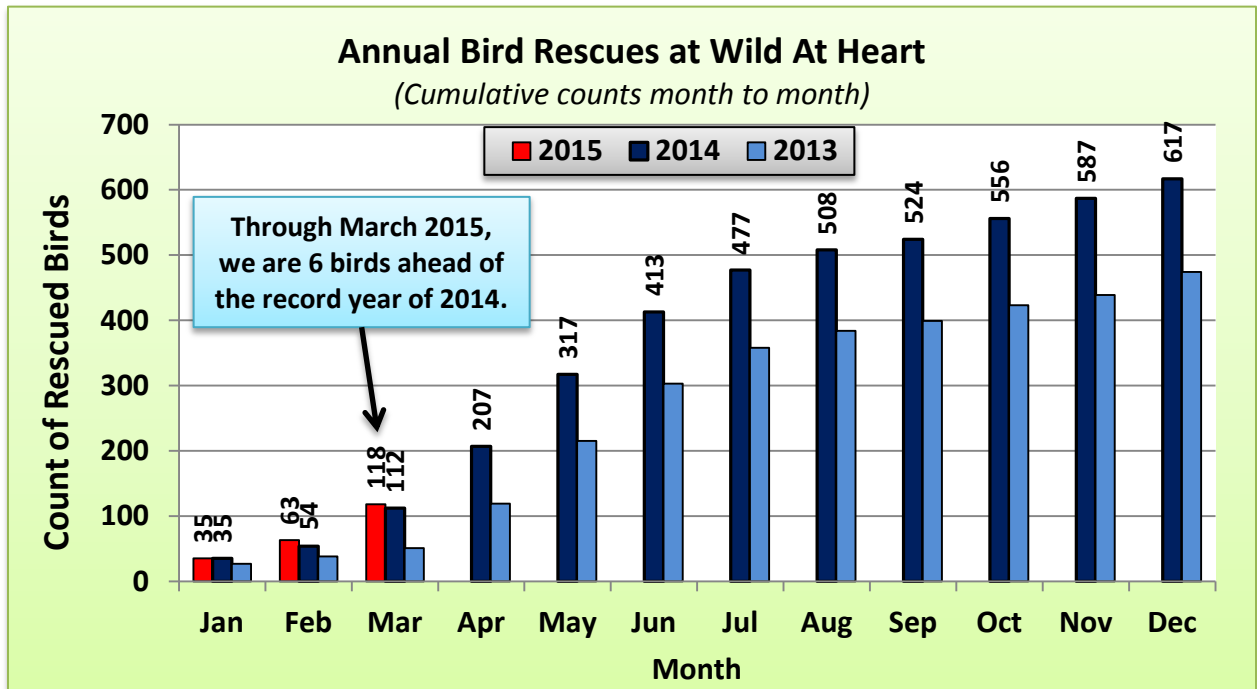
Photo by Carl Anderson

This 2015 year has begun at a record pace. We have already rescued 118 birds in the first three months of this year which is just ahead of the same time period from last year. As you can see by the chart below, we still have a long climb this year if we maintain this pace of rescues.

We would like to think the rising number of rescues each year is not due to more birds being injured but, due to more people who know there is a reliable place that can tend to these birds.

If you are interested in helping us with rescues, please contact us at [480-595-5047](tel:480-595-5047). Aiding in a rescue (aka, being a transporter) can be as simple as picking up a baby owl in a box and bringing it to Wild At Heart.

Or, if you would like to support us in other ways, volunteering with us is easy and there are many things one can do. A typical volunteer will visit us once a week for to do a particular activity for 2 - 4 hours. For more information, see our volunteer page on our website at this link... <http://wildatheartaptors.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



Have you Recently Seen WAH in the News?



The increased awareness of Wild At Heart and its mission to rescue Arizona's birds of prey has garnered some wonderful attention from both the television stations and the newspapers. With each new piece of media coverage, more awareness and support is created for our non-profit and its birds.

Our work has even caught the attention of the International Owl Festival. This organization handed out just five awards around the world this year. The awards went to owl programs in The Netherlands, Italy, Japan and two in the USA. We are happy to say [one of those awards](#) was to our very own Wild At Heart for its work with relocating Burrowing Owls across Arizona and, for its unique breeding program for the endangered Cactus Ferruginous Pgyomy-Owls.

If you are not familiar with our widely recognized and signature program with the Burrowing Owls, you can quickly learn about it on our website. You can even become directly involved with one of the many weekend activities. That link is the following: <http://wildatheartaptors.org/recovery-programs/>

If you missed any of the television airings or newspaper articles, you can see them on our website at the news page found at this link... <http://wildatheartaptors.org/news/>



Wild At Heart in the Tropics

Lastly, Wild At Heart just completed its first foray of hosting a tropical nature adventure. This week-long trip was made possible by a fundraising raffle that not only helped support our birds but, allowed a happy group to see a whole new world in the Andes of Ecuador. From March 21-27, we toured the east and the west sides of the Andes to observe birds, wildlife, and the various ecosystems of the country. The small guided group stayed in comfortable eco-lodges where a wide array of bird species was watched as they visited the feeders. As an example of the biodiversity, no less than 25 different species of hummingbirds were observed with minimal effort. For mammals, one of our group was remarkably fortunate enough to photograph the rarely seen [Mountain Tapir](#) while comfortably resting at the lodge. Below are a few sample photos of some hummingbirds. Many more photos of the trip will be posted to Wild At Heart's web page in the next week.

