



Kindred Kingdoms

Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.

211 Sutton Road Pennellville, NY 13132

Newsletter 2007

On July 9, Joe and Valerie Hutchinson called from Oswego to tell me that they had experienced a severe wind storm the night before. In the morning they heard squawking coming from their fireplace. Upon investigating, they found three tiny dark colored baby birds next to the fallen nest all covered in soot and very hungry. I knew immediately from the way they described the nest, they must be chimney swifts. Upon arrival the nestlings did not have their eyes open yet and were just starting to get little pin feathers. Estimating their age to be around seven to eight days, I warmed them on a heating pad and administered hydration fluids. Since swifts are insectivores that eat on the wing (in flight), I knew that throughout their entire stay with us they would have to be hand fed. Every fifteen to twenty minutes I found myself stuffing their little mouths with meal worms, crickets, and any other tasty insect I trapped outside. They loved tiny droplets of water with their meals as well as their absorbable calcium daily. Since swifts cling to the inside of a chimney, they are accustomed to always being in a vertical position. Therefore, I had to hang cotton handtowels inside their habitat for them to hang from.



By August, they had grown many times their original size and their flight feathers had all grown in. I transferred them to a large aviary with a sheet draped over a clothes line for them to cling to. Soon they were ready for release. My friend, Joe Brin, who is an avid bird watcher, told me that he always sees swifts behind Baker High School in Baldwinsville. There are many old chimneys in the area for them to roost in at night. We drove them to the release site and bid them farewell. As they spread their wings and took flight for the first time, we noticed that suddenly out of nowhere four others that were apparent residents of the area, joined them. We watched them soar for at least twenty minutes until they became little dots in the evening sky. In September, I had an opportunity to speak with Mark Penhollow, a biology teacher at Baker High, about the swifts and my concern for them since they are such a declining species. The new chimneys today are either being constructed of metal or terra cotta. These materials are much too slippery for the nests to adhere to. Also, chimneys are being capped, denying chimney swifts access to them. I told him how fortunate they were to have swifts right in the back yard of their school.

Since these little birds eat thousands of insects, many of which may be disease carrying, the swifts are very beneficial to the human and pet population of the area. He said that he and his sister-in-law, who also teaches at Baker, were looking for a class project for their students. I was soon able to provide them with the blueprints for free standing chimney swift towers. They were delighted and eager to get their students started. Hopefully, by the next release season the swifts in the area will have a new home.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

John Muir

We're Almost There...

For the past fourteen months Kindred Kingdoms has been actively engaged in a capital campaign to raise funds for a new eighty foot bear cub enclosure. After the arduous task of grant writing, phone calling, and engaging in many meetings, we are about to see the project's fruition. We heartily thank the following

contributors: Lockheed Martin Corp., Skyworks Corp., Nixon Gear Inc., Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Northern Concrete Block Inc. The Paul Schoeck Trust Fund, The H.C. & Arlene Jones Foundation, as well as numerous private donors. As this newsletter goes to press, the habitat is being completed. The cubs that come to us in the spring of 2008 will be able to call it home.



Release Site:

If you own land with open fields and woodlots, and you would be willing to allow us to release rehabilitated animals on your property, please call us at (315) 695-6418.

What's New in 2007

Each year Kindred Kingdoms likes to keep track of the new species that come in that we have never had before.

This year we added to our list a golden crowned kinglet, a brown creeper, a fisher, an evening grosbeak and a red-necked grebe.

www.kindredkingdoms.com

Visit us on the Web!!!



Black, White
and Shades of Gray...

Yes, "Gray" Squirrels do come in all colors. Even though genetically they are grays, we often get in black squirrels and on occasion, pie balds that are a creamy white... such as this little guy.

Over time his coat did darken somewhat but he was still distinguishable from his cage mates.

Suet Cupcakes

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. suet in small pieces
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup mixed wild bird seed
- 1 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1 cup sunflower seed
- 1 cup rolled oats

Directions:

Melt suet over a low flame until fried. Add other ingredients into the fat until completely blended. Pour mixture into paper cupcake cups in muffin pans. Chill until hardened. Remove paper and place in your wire basket.

Thanks to Our Veterinarians

A hearty thank you to:
Dr. Marla Lender,
Dr. Rachel Goldfarb,
Dr. John Davis,
Dr. Thea Wallace,
Dr. Kevin Hammerschmidt,
and all the vets at
Cornell University Wildlife
Clinic who have helped us in
the diagnosis and treatment of
the injured animals that have
come to us this year.

How you can help!

igive.com

If you shop on-line, shop through iGive.com. Log in that you are shopping for Kindred Kingdoms. Through iGive, you may shop at over six hundred stores. At NO expense to you, a portion of your sales will be sent to Kindred Kingdoms. This is surely a win-win situation for you and the animals.

goodsearch.com

Designate us as your charity and each time you search the web you generate revenue in our name to help us care for all the injured wildlife that has come to us in need of help. It's an easy way to help and it doesn't cost a thing!!!

Donate Cars/boats/ATV

Do you have an old car, boat, snowmobile or ATV you would like to get rid of? You can donate it to Kindred Kingdoms. If you have a car you would like to donate, please call Jean at (315) 695-6418.

This will greatly help us continue to care for our furred and feathered friends.

United Way

If you are contributing to the United Way, and you would like to designate your contribution to Kindred Kingdoms. Call Jean at (315) 695-6418 and we will direct you to the correct contact for your county.

If you share our passion for wildlife, please consider donating in memory of a loved one or leaving a legacy in your will to Kindred Kingdoms. Bequests will allow us to continue the care we give for the ever-increasing number of animals we receive each year.

Can you help us?



Animal care is labor intensive and very costly. We do not receive any state or federal aid and are supported by your donations, our fundraisers and ourselves.

YES! Here is my donation of \$ _____

Making a donation in someone's name to Kindred Kingdom is the perfect gift for the animal lovers on your list.

YES! I would like to donate \$ _____ as a gift.

Please send a certificate to _____

Please mail to: Kindred Kingdoms Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.
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Thanks