

Bird's eye View



The Recovery Wing, Inc.

Volume 4, Issue 1 Spring Edition 2008

A non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned, sick or injured songbirds, their return to the wild, and preservation of their habitat

2008 Fundraiser Sets Another Record!

The silent auction tables were busy and the delicious buffet items were enticing attendees to have second helpings as TRW's 2008 Third Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction set records in all categories!

More than 160 attendees enjoyed the afternoon and many bid on nearly 250 silent auction items. The event, held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on March 30, 2008, netted some \$24,600 for the organization.

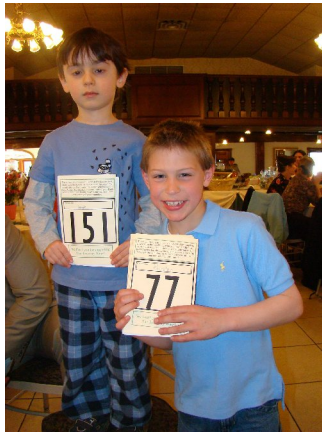
Jayne welcomed the attendees and presented a brief program covering chimney swifts, an aerial insect-eating species in decline in CT due to the loss of the unlined chimneys it requires for nesting. Videos of chimney swifts in action helped to illustrate the characteristics of this fascinating species.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees pored over a fabulous array of silent auction items, hoping to outbid the other competitors for their favorites. The items ranged from nature outings and art, to baskets of items for the kitchen and bathroom, to packages for back yard birds, to museum and performance tickets, to a hand-woven shawl of wolf and dog hair.

Ten winners went home with ten coveted raffle items which drew a lot of attention, including a Garmin Nuvi GPS, avian art, a hand-crafted

German stein, two gourmet food baskets, and others.

Emcee and auctioneer Eric Hummel of Hummel brothers in New Haven oversaw the animated bidding on 10 live auction items, including getaways to New Hampshire and Louisiana, a hot air balloon ride, an evening of wildlife watching, a hand-crafted Shaker-style side table, and a cartoon drawn by Guy Gilchrist of the Guy Gilchrist Cartoonist Academy in Simsbury specifically for this occasion.



Auction winners Jack Kealey Simon (left) and Eric Angelone will both "spend the day at TRW".

The bidding was especially lively for the hotly-contested "Spend the Day at TRW" by the two youngest fundraiser attendees, Eric Angelone and Jack Kealey Simon. Jayne

resolved the issue by happily agreeing to host both of these young TRW volunteers to an entertaining day at the TRW clinic.

Our gratitude goes out to all who supported this effort. Special thanks go to Eric Hummel who generously donated his time to emcee the event and conduct a professional auction. Our thanks also go to Board Member Kate Bryers of Berlin for her donation of the wonderful champagne toast, and to all the volunteers who helped plan and set up for the event and solicited donations of goods and services for auction.

A heartfelt thank you goes also to all of our major sponsors: Maher's Paint and Wallpaper in Avon, Representative Robert W. Megna of New Haven representing the 97th District, Dr. Rodger Foster

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

Dear Friends of The Recovery Wing –

As I write this article, the sounds of Spring surround me. A Warbling Vireo fills the morning with his rolling, warbling song. Baltimore Orioles can be heard chattering in the background, along with the melodic whistled notes of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (one of my favorite songs!)



We are looking forward to this coming 2008 season and the challenges it will bring. We hope it will include many successes that we can share with you. Please continue to check the website as Melissa will update it regularly through the summer with pictures and videos of birds we are caring for.

Already we have admitted 20 adult birds, all either car/window collisions or captured by cats, as well as 19 nestlings, 13 of which are eastern bluebirds! As we continue to develop more and more land, Connecticut's songbirds will increasingly come into contact with us and our possessions and require our intervention and support.

Yet, each year I am humbled and overwhelmed by the amount of support TRW is given to continue our mission. I cannot thank everyone enough for this monetary support and confidence in our abilities. As always I am so very grateful for all the volunteers who worked so hard on the benefit dinner and auction, and will now be coming weekly to TRW all summer long to help care for all the baby birds.

My hat is off to all of you!

Sincerely,

Jayne Amico
President

recoverywing@cox.net

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday March 29
2009 from
1:00—5:00 p.m.
at
The AquaTurf
for our 4th annual
dinner and auction!

Black-throated Green Warbler Successfully Rehabilitated

A Black-throated Green Warbler was brought into rehabilitation in October 2007 after being caught by a cat who was only allowed outside on a balcony. The unsuspecting warbler was foraging at the tips of an evergreen branch when the cat leaped up and grabbed it.



Day of release: our Black-throated Green Warbler in outside flight cage.

The warbler sustained a fracture and punctures to the right radius/ulna. The bird was splinted and put on antibiotics. Two weeks later, when the splint was removed, the bird began to use the injured wing. Happily, within another week's time, he was flying about the clinic!

I decided to hold the warbler over for the winter because the bird could not be expected to migrate successfully so soon after a fracture. Along with a pair of barn swallows, he was allowed free flight in the clinic daily.

He had access to bathing and drinking water (what an avid bather!) and all-you-can-eat mealworms and fruit flies. Offered waxworms as a treat, he soon learned to catch them in mid-air.

By winter's end the bird had molted into his handsome adult male

plumage and delighted in chasing the barn swallows around the clinic pecking at their undertail coverts (not capable of hurting them), much to their dismay!

A curious little guy, when I was working in the clinic he would hover for a few seconds over my shoulder to see what I was doing! But as Spring neared, this little warbler was getting more and more restless, ready to hit the road.

Once mid-April arrived, he and the barn swallows were moved to an outside flight cage to become acclimated once again to the outside world, waterproofed and aerobically fit. The heavy rains just beaded up on his perfect feather condition and he continued to delight in chasing the barn swallows.

This beautiful warbler practiced his song over and over again--the delightful ze ze ze zoo ze song we are so familiar with.

With much pleasure he was released on May 1st, 2008, SEVEN months after being admitted, banded with a silver bracelet on his right leg. He was last seen heading north. I admit I miss that little guy. He was a delight!

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

We extend our thanks and gratitude to all of you whose generous donations allow us to continue to help songbirds in distress! In addition, the Recovery Wing's success is due in large measure to the individuals and businesses who support us with their advice, services and products.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to **Dr. Theresa Cianciolo and staff** at Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital and to **Dr. Rodger Foster and staff** at Southington Veterinary Hospital, for their incredible support throughout the years with medical services and advice.

And again, we extend our appreciation to **Kelly Klein** of Madison for her ongoing computer software support and the design, editing, and layout of our publications, including this newsletter. Truly—thank you all,

Board of Directors

Jayne Amico, President
recoverywing@cox.net

Mary Claire Doyle, Vice President

Carole Donagher, Secretary

Melissa Baston, Treasurer

Lori Brown, Member

Kate Bryers, Member

Ann Winch, Member

(Continued from page 1)

of Southington Veterinary Associates, Hartford Audubon Club, Academy Printing in Berlin, and Wingscapes (which manufactures an automated digital/video birdcam and donated one for our silent auction).

The monies raised from this annual event represent the most significant fundraising activity of the year for TRW. Again, the success of this year's event helped to ensure that TRW can remain in operation for another year. This way, people who find songbirds in distress will have a rehabilitation center to care for them and return them back into the wild.

Adopt a Baby Songbird!

Cover the cost of raising one baby songbird by making a donation of \$100.00 or more. This donation will entitle you to a color photo of your adopted baby songbird and an invitation for you to be present at its release. Please fill out and return the form below. Pick your species! Choose a 1st & 2nd choice:

Name: _____	Baltimore Oriole (eye candy!) _____
Address: _____	Hairy Woodpecker (very vocal!) _____
_____	Chimney Swift (steal your heart!) _____
Phone (h): _____	Barn Swallow (they bring on smiles!) _____
Phone (w): _____	Eastern Bluebird (gotta love 'em!) _____
Phone (c): _____	OR let us pick one for you! _____
Email: _____	

Please mail the completed form with your check to: The Recovery Wing, 1024 Mount Vernon Rd., Southington, CT 06489, or (860) 276-8433.

Or, if you would prefer to make a contribution toward The Recovery Wing's summer operating costs, please use the enclosed card. All of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to the care, feeding and housing of orphaned, sick and injured songbirds.

Attracting Baltimore Orioles to Your Yard & Garden

By mid-April each Spring I am eagerly waiting for the first Baltimore Oriole to arrive. The brilliant orange, yellow and black plumage, accompanied by his loud musical notes and distinctive chattering, adds a beautiful and lively presence to any garden.



Handsome male Baltimore Oriole: hmm, jelly, mealworms, orange or suet!

Baltimore Orioles can be found in open forests, parks or well-planted yards with mature trees. They arrive in CT towards the end of April and can be seen until September or even later during migration.

I can expect their arrival to coincide with the blooming of our Flowering Quince shrubs. The plentiful orange-red flowers are filled with nectar and are frequented by newly-arrived Orioles. By the end of August I know it's time to say goodbye to my beautiful summer friends.

If you have the appropriate habitat you should be able to entice them to visit and maybe even take up residence.

If you would like to create better habitat for attracting them, remember this: Baltimore Orioles have a "sweet tooth"! They will visit flowering trees, shrubs, and flowers to feed on the nectar the blossoms produce. During early Spring, when weather is cool and rainy, they are much more dependent on this source of energy until insect activity grows.

Once fruit begins to develop, the Orioles will feed on that as well. Our Mulberry trees are a whirlwind of bird activity once

the fruit is ripe, with Orioles being constant visitors.

Orioles also eat large numbers of caterpillars which can be found on flowering plants, keeping your plants pest-free without chemicals!

Orioles will come to feeders filled with orange halves, grape jelly, sugar water, mealworms, hulled sunflower and suet. Here at TRW we have oriole feeders that have a place to spike orange halves and 4 dishes that can hold jelly, mealworms, suet or sunflower.

We have found other species of birds also enjoy these offerings. So don't be surprised if you attract Gray Catbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks or Red-bellied Woodpeckers and more.

Be patient when attempting to attract Orioles. It took several years of food offerings to have them consistently returning each Spring. One hint is to make sure you have oranges and other offerings out by mid-April, before they arrive.

Place your feeder near shrubs or trees that provide cover for the brightly-colored birds to dive into when feeling threatened. Moving water is very attractive to them and they visit our shallow waterfall regularly all summer long to drink and bathe.

Again, make sure there is plenty of cover near your water source so that the birds feel secure enough to approach. Your reward will be a yard full of color and song!

Special thanks to our dedicated and hard-working pavilion construction crew: Wayne Amico, Adrian Baston, Pat Corbett, Dave Ireland, Justin Keim and Jody Osher!

TRW Builds Pavilion for Swifts and Swallows!

In April we began construction on a very exciting project! A chimney swift /barn swallow pavilion was built in hopes of providing a nesting site for these species, two incredibly wonderful and fascinating birds in which we specialize. Having lost our unlined house chimney to a devastating house fire in January 2007, the TRW property no longer had an appropriate nesting area for swifts.

The pavilion, modeled after one nearby that is currently being used by nesting barn swallows, measures 24' x 24' square. At one end is a chimney constructed of brick and mortar, 25' high, and 30" x 30" inside.

Chimney Swift and Barn Swallow populations are declining in Connecticut. Chimney Swifts use chimneys to raise their young and roost at night, but the loss of suitable chimneys to raise young in have affected the population, as more and more aged chimneys are being torn down, or are capped and lined. Similarly, Barn Swallows have been impacted by the loss of farmland and barns to nest in.

Funding for this project was helped by a special appeal at our 3rd annual benefit dinner in March. Generous donations from that appeal during our live auction, and a "swift raffle" with a 19" flat screen



TRW's new pavilion is ready to host nesting swifts and swallows!

TV as the prize resulted in \$4,400 to help with costs. Total expenses for the project have come to \$10,500 for land clearing, materials and labor.

We are currently still trying to raise the remaining funds for this project. Individuals contributing to this project will have their names engraved on a plaque to be mounted on the pavilion at its dedication day (to be determined). All donors will be invited. If you wish to donate towards this project, please make a donation of \$50 or more and specify that the money is to be used for the swift/ swallow pavilion.

Bird's eye View



The Recovery Wing, Inc.

In 2007, Admissions Totaled 327 Birds of 46 Species. We Released 218 of Them (67%) Back into the Wild!

American Robin	42	Tufted Titmouse	5	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
Eastern Bluebird	37	Baltimore Oriole	4	Eastern Kingbird	1
Chimney Swift	36	Chipping Sparrow	4	European Starling	1
Barn Swallow	26	Common Yellowthroat	4	Great Crested Flycatcher	1
Northern Flicker	16	Northern Mockingbird	4	House Sparrow	1
Northern Cardinal	15	White-breasted Nuthatch	4	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Cedar Waxwing	11	White-throated Sparrow	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Downy Woodpecker	10	American Woodcock	3	Scarlet Tanager	1
Eastern Phoebe	10	Common Grackle	3	Song Sparrow	1
Gray Catbird	10	Hairy Woodpecker	3	Spotted Sandpiper	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	10	Killdeer	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Carolina Wren	9	Wood Thrush	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	House Finch	2	Total	327
House Wren	8	Red-eyed Vireo	2		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	Bank Swallow	1		
American Goldfinch	5	Black-billed Cuckoo	1		
Mourning Dove	5	Black-throated Green Warbler	1		

The Recovery Wing, Inc.

1024 Mount Vernon Road ~ Southington, CT 06489
(860) 276-8433

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHINGTON, CT
PERMIT NO. 81

Fun Facts about Baltimore Orioles

Did you know that:

- Orioles are members of the blackbird family?
- Orioles will come to feeders that have sugar water, suet, orange halves, grape jelly, mealworms or hulled (shell-less) sunflower?
- Orioles weave a wonderful, pendant-shaped nest that resembles a stuffed sock? These nests can be easily seen hanging from the tips of branches once the leaves have fallen in autumn.
- Female orioles like to use strands of milkweed to weave their nests? Remember when cutting back garden plants to leave your dead milkweed stalks standing!
- Orioles will visit garden flowers such as honeysuckle, fuchsia, abutilon and more?
- Orioles eat lots of caterpillars including those pesky tent caterpillars!
- They have a unique foraging technique called "gaping," in which they use their bill to pry open curled leaves searching for insects.

Keep up to date with the latest happenings at The Recovery Wing by visiting us at www.therecoverywing.org. If you prefer to receive your newsletter online in color & save postage, please email us @ jayne@therecoverywing.org.