Baby Buzzard Gets a Second Chance

By Jan Harper, Interpreter

A young visitor to the park approached the front desk in the visitor center on a hot June afternoon, somewhat distressed. He had his camera in hand and quickly blurted out, “There’s a baby condor out there who’s hurt!” He then shoved the camera towards me to show me the photo of a young turkey vulture on the ground. Still sporting his downy fluff, he was much too young to be out there on his own. Somehow he had strayed from the nest and was apparently totally disoriented as well as injured.

Law Enforcement Park Ranger Patrick Madara-Yagla holds a shirt and arms in case the bird became aggressive (sometimes you just have to improvise). After carefully placing the bird in the box, Patrick and Janet hit the road with their young charge.

Meanwhile, we had contacted the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center in Phoenix concerning the young vulture. Someone on their staff met Patrick and Janet just outside the town of Superior, collected the bird, and rushed him back to their rescue center.

Animals at Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center are either rehabilitated and returned to the wild or used for educational purposes when their injuries are too severe and they would not be able to fend for themselves if returned to the wild. I called the center recently to check on our bird’s welfare and spoke to Director Sandy Cate at the facility.

Chief of Cultural Resources Roger Dorr carefully picks the young turkey vulture up and places him in a cardboard box for transport to the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. NPS Photo

“Tonto,” as the workers have dubbed the young vulture, has been lucky in that he will recover from his injuries and eventually be returned to his home here at the monument. Because he will be released as a wild bird, “Tonto” is not on display during his rehabilitation at the center. Sandy feels that it will be best if we wait to release the bird until this Spring when the rest of his social group returns from wintering in Mexico. He would probably not have had enough time to reintegrate with other turkey vultures here at the park before they migrated for the winter. The journey might also have proven to be too difficult for him so soon after his mishap. The plan is to release him during our Heritage Days weekend in March so that his chances for survival are maximized. Meanwhile, I’m told “Tonto” has a new roommate at the center. Another turkey vulture about the same age has joined "Tonto," as the workers have dubbed the young vulture, has been lucky in that he will recover from his injuries and eventually be returned to his home here at the monument. Because he will be released as a wild bird, “Tonto” is not on display during his rehabilitation at the center. Sandy feels that it will be best if we wait to release the bird until this Spring when the rest of his social group returns from wintering in Mexico. He would probably not have had enough time to reintegrate with other turkey vultures here at the park before they migrated for the winter. The journey might also have proven to be too difficult for him so soon after his mishap. The plan is to release him during our Heritage Days weekend in March so that his chances for survival are maximized. Meanwhile, I’m told “Tonto” has a new roommate at the center. Another turkey vulture about the same age has joined them and they will keep each other company while recuperating from their injuries.

Solar Viewing and Star Party!

Saturday March 10th
Windy Hill Amphitheatre at Roosevelt Lake
Solar Viewing Noon - 4 pm
Star Party 6:30-10 pm

Come to a fun-filled evening while enjoying the Arizona night sky! This program presented by National Park Service Volunteers in Parks Astronomers and the Astronomers of Verde Valley will include:

- Solar viewing from noon to 4 pm at the Night Sky Network Tent. Jupiter and Venus will also be visible during the day. Enjoy the displays and pick up some free educational handouts.
- A 30 minute presentation at 6:30 pm at the outdoor amphitheater about the moon, stars, planets and constellations.
- Telescope viewing of planets, star clusters, and galaxies from 7 to 10 pm.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this spectacular event!

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Join volunteers Rex and Peg Lavoie on a Photo Walk to the
Upper Cliff Dwelling catered to professional and serious
amateur photographers!

Slow Down and Enjoy the Scenery!

- The 25 mph maximum speed limit on the park road is intended to protect park wildlife.
- Desert wildlife can cross the road in front of you at any moment.
- Watch for javelina, deer, and rabbits grazing alongside the road.
- Reptiles frequently cross the road near the pumphouse as this is where Cave Creek crosses from one side of the road to the other.

Give us a break!

Stargazing at Roosevelt Lake
Photo by Peg and Rex Lavoie, NPS Volunteers

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
Apache Camps at Roosevelt
By Jan Harper, Interpreter

In the late 19th century, the Apache way of life had been irrevocably changed. No longer able to migrate with the seasons and availability of resources, the people became dependent on the handouts offered by the Office of Indian Affairs. In 1902, food rationing on the San Carlos Reservation was abruptly discontinued. This policy was adopted at the same time that President Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act, ushering in the era of dam construction.

Before work could begin on Roosevelt Dam in 1903, a 62-mile road had to be built from the town of Mesa to transport heavy equipment and supplies to the dam site. The route chosen was originally a foot and horse trail along the Salt River that had been used by the Apaches as they migrated between their summer homes in the high country and their winter homes in the basin.

More than 1,500 Apache men and their families moved to the Roosevelt area to join the Reclamation Service workforce. Apache families living in the camps at Roosevelt rather than on the reservation at San Carlos, were able to return to a more traditional lifestyle. Almost anything discarded at the dam site as refuse was turned into something useful. The Apache people were very resourceful in modifying metal items, making cups with handles by bending back the lids of discarded tin cans and puncturing buckets with old nails to make strainers. They also wove old baling wire into grills to roast traditional ash breads over their campfires. Blasting powder cans were used as storage bins, and empty canvas cement bags were used as tarps to cover their wickiups.

While Apache crews worked on many of the jobs at Roosevelt including digging canals, quarrying stone, erecting power lines, and mixing cement, they are best known for their dry masonry and road-building skills. Despite the fact that State Route 88 has been named the ‘Apache Trail,’ few people realize that Apache laborers actually built the road.
NPS volunteers Rex and Peg Lavoie will offer their popular photo walks again this season! The tours provide a way for professional and serious amateur photographers to photograph along the Upper Cliff Dwelling trail and the ruin itself without disrupting the regular ranger-guided tours.

The photo walks allow participants the time to compose images and are timed to provide the best lighting conditions. Group size is limited to 5-7 people to make it easier to photograph in the dwelling without getting in each other’s way. Below are some samples of past participant’s work:

“Thanks again, Rex and Peg for the memorable experience and photo tips! You both made the trip a great one!” — Bob Rehder

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**Photo Walk Schedule for 2011-2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Walk Type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 17th</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1st &amp; 15th</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5th</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>Sunrise Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19th</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2nd &amp; 16th</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1st and 22nd</td>
<td>9 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12th &amp; 26th</td>
<td>9 am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All walks are on Thursdays

Call the monument to make your reservations!
(928) 467-2241 ext. 8450
Hi, I’m Sam!
By Christine Sterling, Facility Management Software Specialist

I want to share with you one of my favorite dog-friendly national park units, Tonto National Monument. Why is it dog-friendly? At Tonto, leashed pets are allowed on the Lower Cliff Dwelling Trail, the Cactus Patch Trail and in the picnic area. Well mannered pets are also allowed in the Visitor Center to cool off.

The rangers at Tonto do ask that you follow a few simple rules if bringing your canine buddy along. First of all, pets are not allowed on the Upper Cliff Dwelling Trail. This trail is open from November through April for ranger-guided tours. Pets are also not allowed in the Lower Cliff Dwelling. However, the view from under the shade tree just below the dwellings on the trail is great! I’ve hiked this trail several times with my people, and I never get tired of seeing the dwelling from there.

The rangers also ask that you do not leave your pet in the car. Temperatures can rise greatly in a parked vehicle, even with the windows open. As for me, I wouldn’t want to make this terrific drive all the way out here and then have to wait in the car! Take me with you!

The human-caused Horseshoe Two Fire started outside Chiricahua National Monument (NM) in early May of 2011 and quickly grew to 9,000 acres on the first day. The fire continued growing to the northwest, leading to the evacuation of several nearby communities. Chiricahua NM closed in early June and did not reopen until the first week of July, and then only partially reopened. The scenic drive is still closed above the campground. Entrance fees are currently being waived because visitors can’t access the main areas of the park by vehicle. The campground and all trails are open. The Horseshoe Two fire consumed a total of 223,000 acres and burned twenty-three structures, including nine homes. Fortunately, many green spaces and natural sources of water are still available for wildlife. The park will probably not return to its normal operational status until the end of 2011.

The human-caused Monument Fire started along the US/Mexico border inside Coronado National Memorial (NMem) in mid June and burned very quickly. The fire did most of its damage to the park in the first couple of days. The Monument Fire consumed a total of 30,300 acres and burned eighty-four structures, including 62 homes in nearby communities. Within the memorial, some split-rail fencing and several outdoor interpretive exhibits were lost, but there was no damage to structures. Everything at Coronado NMem is now open.

The National Park Service is committed to protecting all resources entrusted to its care, and will focus on preventing fires and minimizing the damage resulting from fires.
**Turkey Vulture Crossword Story Puzzle**

1. Read the following story to learn about turkey vultures.
2. Use the word list on the right to fill in the blanks of the story.
3. Use the grid location directions found in each blank of the story to fill in the crossword puzzle answers.

To help you get started, the first blank in the story has been done for you!

The turkey vulture spends most of its day soaring above the ground searching for food using its excellent **eyesight** (2 across) and well-developed sense of **smell** (1 down). Turkey vultures are **featherless**, feeding mainly on **scavengers** (16 across), or dead animals. Their **wingspan** (14 down) and **red** (3 down) heads are not suited to catch even the smallest of prey.

Juveniles, or young turkey vultures have **black** (5 across) heads; adults have **red** (17 down) heads. Their **outstretched** (19 across) heads prevent them from catching **carrion** (11 across) from the carcasses they eat.

All vultures spend time sunning themselves daily with **featherless** (4 down) wings and can have a **flapping** (8 down) wingspan of up to six feet! When flying, look for the two-toned black/white and V-shaped appearance of their wings. They are most graceful in flight and can soar for hours without **outstretched** (7 down) their wings.

Incapable of vocalization, turkey vultures mostly only **grunt** (15 across) but will **hiss** (10 across) when they feel threatened.

Turkey vultures usually have no nests, or minimal nests on **caves** (8 down) or in **ledges** (6 down). Both parents share the responsibilities of sitting on the eggs and caring for the young once they hatch.

When disturbed, this bird will regurgitate or **vomit** (9 across) its last meal. This surprise usually causes an assailant to lose interest because of the putrid smell!

Turkey vultures migrate to **Mexico** (13 across) during the cooler winter months, but return every **Spring** (12 across).

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**Word List:**

- featherless
- smell
- flapping
- scavengers
- ledges
- red
- wingspan
- Spring
- vomit
- diseases
- outstretched
- black
- beaks
- eyesight
- Mexico
- hiss
- grunt
- carrion
- caves
- talons
Plan Your Visit

Tonto National Monument is located 30 miles northwest of Globe on Highway 188. Driving time from Phoenix, Scottsdale or Mesa is approximately 2 to 2 1/2 hours; from Tucson or Flagstaff, 3 to 3 1/2 hours. The Visitor Center has a museum, bookstore, viewing deck, an 18 minute orientation video, and is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 8 am to 5 pm. The park also has a picnic area for your enjoyment with restrooms.

Self-Guided Lower Cliff Dwelling Trail

A paved trail winds its way through the Sonoran desert to the Lower Cliff Dwelling. You will climb 350 vertical feet, so be prepared for a steep climb. Signs along the trail provide information about the desert plants, geology of the area and lives of the ancient Salado. Sit on one of several benches along the path and enjoy the view of Roosevelt Lake. Once you arrive at the dwelling, walk through homes that were last occupied 700 years ago. On your return walk, the Cactus Patch Trail branches off the main trail and ends in the parking lot. Learn how desert plants have adapted to arid conditions and how the Salado used these plants to provide food, shelter, and clothing. Bring water, sunscreen and a hat with you. The one mile roundtrip walk takes about an hour to complete so plan to arrive at the park before 4 pm. Allow extra time to visit the museum, bookstore, and watch the video.

Ranger-Guided Upper Cliff Dwelling Tours

Early Bird tours of the Upper Cliff Dwelling are offered on some Saturdays at 8:15 am in October and May. During the winter season (November through April), rangers give guided tours to the Upper Cliff Dwelling. Tours are offered every weekend. Additional weekday tours are added as visitation increases. This 3 mile roundtrip backcountry trail travels through a riparian area by way of a creekbed, then gains 600 feet in elevation via switchbacks and numerous steps. The tour lasts 3-3 1/2 hours. Full moon hikes to the Upper Cliff Dwelling for experienced hikers are offered in the winter months only. Reservations are required for all Upper Cliff Dwelling tours. See page 7 for a schedule of additional Ranger Programs.

Heritage Days

This year’s Heritage Days event will be held on March 17th and 18th. The Upper Cliff Dwelling will be open to visitors to tour on their own without a guide, for an entire weekend. Uphill travel on the trail is allowed between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm. Be sure to bring the family for a fun filled FEE FREE weekend!

If you visit the ramada area during our Heritage Days weekend, you can watch Native American basketmakers, potters, and flintknappers at work. Be sure to visit the raptors and other animals from the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center as well.
### Early Bird Upper Cliff Dwelling Tours

Early Bird tours of the Upper Cliff Dwelling are offered on some Saturdays in October and May. Because of the heat, we stop less often and hike a little faster. See the description of the trail (on page 6) under Ranger-Guided Upper Cliff Dwelling tours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Center</td>
<td>Tours leave at 8:15 am</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
<td>Saturdays: October 29th, May 5th &amp; 12th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Meddler Point Platform Mound Tours

Excavations at the Meddler Point Platform Mound revealed a complex construction sequence. The mound and other structures within a large enclosing wall are believed to have been the ceremonial center of a local community that included migrant groups from areas northeast of the Tonto Basin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call the park for directions to the site: (928) 467-2241 ext. 8450</td>
<td>Tours leave at 11:00 am</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturdays:</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19th</td>
<td>November 19th</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>January 4th</td>
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</table>

### Wildflower Walks

Wildflower walks along the Upper Cliff Dwelling trail are offered on some Wednesdays in March and April. The walk will include a tour of the Upper Cliff Dwelling as well! See the description of the trail (on page 6) under Ranger-Guided Upper Cliff Dwelling tours.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Center</td>
<td>Tours leave at 10:00 am</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays:</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7th, 14th, &amp; 28th</td>
<td>April 4th &amp; 11th</td>
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### Cline Terrace Platform Mound Tours

The Cline Terrace Platform Mound site is similar to other sites along the Salt River but it also has several distinct characteristics. There is a massive compound wall around the complex, and many walls are faced with white gypsum. Why? This site must have been quite impressive in the moonlight!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call the park for directions to the site: (928) 467-2241 ext. 8450</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Approx. 2 hours</td>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays:</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26th</td>
<td>January 14th</td>
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### Schoolhouse Platform Mound Tours

The Schoolhouse Platform Mound site is unique in that it was occupied for over 100 years while most other settlements in the basin were smaller and were occupied only briefly. People from neighboring villages apparently moved to the Schoolhouse Platform Mound. Why?

<table>
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<tr>
<td>November 19th</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>February 4th</td>
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### Photo Walks

Photo walks along the Upper Cliff Dwelling trail as well as at the ruin itself are offered to small groups of professional and serious amateur photographers. These tours allow plenty of time for composing photos and are timed to provide the best lighting conditions. The tours are led by volunteers Rex and Peg Lavoie, retired professional photographers.

See Page 3 for more information.

**CALL THE MONUMENT TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, (928) 467-2241 ext. 8450**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Location</th>
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<td>Wednesdays:</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday:</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7th, 14th, &amp; 28th</td>
<td>April 4th &amp; 11th</td>
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**Program may be canceled due to foul weather or flooding.**

**No dogs allowed; don’t leave pets in your vehicle!**

**High clearance vehicle needed to get to the site.**

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**Children must be accompanied by an adult on all programs.**
The WNPA Nonprofit Bookstore at Tonto National Monument provides educational and interpretive materials through an active publishing program. Proceeds from retail sales are used to support educational, research and interpretive programs at Tonto National Monument as well as at other National Park Service units.

Help Us Help Tonto National Monument!

Your annual $25 membership entitles you to a 15% discount on purchases in the WNPA Bookstore (20% discount for Seniors). Discounts are honored at many other cooperative association bookstores in National Park Visitor Centers. Your membership contribution directly supports research and educational programs at Tonto National Monument.

To order by phone, call our bookstore manager Sherrie Brooks (928) 467-2241 ext. 8451
To order online visit: www.wnpa.org

You’ll find the items shown here and many other fine educational materials for sale in our bookstore!

### Astronomy
- **Night Sky: A Field Guide to the Constellations** $14.95
- **Planisphere (displays the positions of the stars)** $5.95
- **Night Sky Pocket Naturalist Guide** $5.95

### Children’s Section
- **Bird Bingo** $15.95
- **The Kid’s Campfire Book** $16.95
- **National Park Animals for Kids DVD** $14.95
- **“Rangerland” National Park Puzzle** $14.95
- **Junior Ranger Flashlight** $7.95
- **Junior Ranger T-Shirts** $14.99

### Cookbooks
- **Quesadillas** $14.99
- **Salsa Lover’s Cookbook** $9.95
- **Southwest Slow Cooking** $16.95
- **Vegetarian Southwest** $14.95

### Gifts
- **Agave Washcloth** $7.95
- **Earthsongs Candle Covers** $15.95-$25.95
- **Earthsongs Coaster Sets** $25.80
- **Tonto National Monument Mousepad** $6.99
- **EK Clip-on Water Bottle Holders** $8.99

### Grandparents Arizona Style
Take an active role in your grandchildren’s lives. Show them the best of Arizona. Teach the valuable lessons you’ve learned throughout the years. *Grandparents Arizona Style* is filled with insights and advice to help you along the way! $14.95

### New Arrivals!
- **Natural Remedies for Bites and Stings** $7.00
- **National Park Service Trail System Map** $1.75
- **Sonoran Desert Food Plants** $8.95
- **Sonoran Desert Life (2nd Edition)** $27.95
- **Headlamps** $14.99

### Local History
- **Lost Mines and Buried Treasures** $23.95
- **Silent Winds of the West** $20.00
- **So Much To Be Done ... Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier** $19.95
- **Images of America Superior and Queen Valley** $21.99

### Quick Reference Guides
- **Birds of Southeast Arizona** $7.95
- **Butterflies of Southeast Arizona** $7.95
- **Snakes of Southeast Arizona** $7.95
- **Wildflowers of Southeast Arizona** $7.95

Be sure and look for specialty items in our bookstore including: Calendars, CD’s, DVD’s, Patches, Pins, Postcards, Replica Miniature Pottery, T-shirts, and much more!

### Spice Mixes and Teas
- **Chunky Avocado Dip Mix** $3.00
- **Cool Saguaro Dip Mix** $3.00
- **Green Chile Salsa Mix** $3.00
- **Southwestern Grill and Marinade** $3.00
- **Maya Pomegranate Mojito Tea** $9.99
- **Maya Prickly Pear Tea** $9.99
- **Maya Relaxing Mint Tea** $9.99

### The Cliff Dwellings Speak
A treasured companion for people interested in exploring cliff dwellings!

### Archaeology
- **Ancient Ruins of the Southwest** $15.95
- **The Archaeology of Ancient Arizona** $17.95
- **The Cliff Dwellings Speak** $24.95

The bookstore is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 8 am to 5 pm.