



TWRA NEWS

CONTACT: Dave Gabbard
200 Lowell Thomas Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
1-731-423-5724
1-800-372-3928
1-731-423-6483 (fax)
E-Mail: Dave.Gabbard@state.tn.us
Hearing Impaired TDD # 615-781-6691
Website at: www.tnwildlife.org

“STOP POACHING” 1-800-831-1173

DATE: April 22, 2008

TIME FOR HUMMING BIRD FEEDERS

HELP WILD ANIMAL BABIES – LEAVE THEM ALONE

TURKEY HUNTERS CAN SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

TIME FOR HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Tennessee’s smallest birds are now returning from their wintering grounds in South America and you can help them by putting out a hummingbird feeder. With an inexpensive feeder, hummingbirds can be attracted to just outside your window, even in urban areas.

Hummingbirds feed on the nectar of flowers, so feeders are filled with sugar water with mineral supplements added. The feeders have an imitation flower that attracts the little birds and provides them with a place to feed.

The ruby-throated hummingbird, which spends its summers in the eastern United States, has been timed at speeds up to sixty miles per hour with wing beats of more than 75 strokes per second. Not only do they hover, fly backward, and shift sideways, but they can also fly straight up and down. In summer, males establish feeding territories from which they chase, very aggressively, not only their own kind, but even bumblebees which come to feed. Males guard their feeding territories by spectacular, swinging, pendulum-like flights, or intimidation displays.

Hummingbirds must feed almost continuously all day to remain alive. Besides flower nectar, hummingbirds get the protein they need by eating small beetles, weevils, bugs, mosquitoes, aphids and spiders.

Hummingbird feeders may be hung anywhere in a conspicuous place. Once the feeders have been erected, it may take a week or two for the hummingbirds to find the feeders. Be sure to change the nectar solution weekly and clean the feeder often to prevent the growth of bacteria. Bacterial growth can harm hummingbirds if it is ingested.

For a more natural food supply, plant domestic flowers such as azalea, begonia, gladiolus, geranium, snapdragon, petunia, nasturtium and others with tubular red or orange flowers. Some native flowers that can be transplanted include jewelweed, cardinal flower and phlox. Other flowering plants and trees preferred by hummingbirds include honeysuckle and mimosa.

HELP WILD ANIMAL BABIES – LEAVE THEM ALONE

What is the best way to help wild animal babies? By **NOT** helping them. Every spring and early summer, wildlife agencies across the country are deluged by calls from well meaning people who have picked up what they think are “orphaned” baby animals. According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the best way to help young wildlife is to **NOT** help young wildlife.

Many types of wild animals leave their young in a protected area while the adults go off to feed and drink. Unless the adults have died, the young are not orphaned or abandoned at all. If humans pick up an animal, it may be rejected by the parent due to the human scent left on the baby. In addition, it is against state law to take animals from the wild and keep them in captivity in Tennessee.

If a baby bird or mammal is found outside of a nest, concerned individuals can help by returning it to the nest. It may be accepted back by the parent.

Although it may seem cruel, in nature the most hazardous time of life is adolescence. Young animals die at a very high rate. The best help you can provide for a young animal is to leave it alone. If its parents are temporarily away, they will return. If it has been abandoned, nature needs to take its course.

TURKEY HUNTERS CAN SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

Experienced wild turkey hunters are encouraged to share the excitement of their sport with new hunters, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

The increase and distribution of the state's wild turkey population has caused hunters, who have not hunted turkeys before, to become interested in the sport. Giving these new hunters a few pointers can make their first experiences more enjoyable and they are more likely to continue to be a turkey hunter.

Regulations passed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) allow a licensed turkey hunter who has filled his bag limit to accompany another turkey hunter and assist him in calling. The hunter who has filled his bag limit may not possess a gun or bow. Remember that callers must have appropriate hunting licenses.

A complete list of all rules and regulations covering the hunting of wild turkeys may be found in the 2007 Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide. This guide is available anywhere hunting licenses are sold, at all TWRA Regional Offices or on line at www.tnwildlife.org