Rescued sparrow becomes house pet

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

If a baby sparrow falls from the nest, does anyone care?

Sharon Herron of Deer Creek does. She found a tiny house sparrow, less than a week old, in her front yard in July. She said she looked around for a nest but didn't see one. Sharon took the bird into her house, nurtured and cared for it, and now it is thriving.

"I didn't know if she'd survive, but I had to try," Sharon said. "I had to give it my best shot."

Sharon said the sparrow could have fallen or it might have been pushed out of the nest since it is smaller than normal and has a crippled leg.

At first the sparrow had only pinfeathers to keep it warm, so Sharon put it in a shoebox lined with cotton balls.

Guided by instinct and the Internet, Sharon fed the bird cornmeal mixed with water, and applesauce, using the end of a coffee stir. She also used the stir to give it water. Next, she added cut-up mealworms to the diet.

Sharon fed the sparrow every two hours at first. Now the bird eats three or four times a day and can eat the worms on its own. Knowing that birds eat bugs, Sharon also gives her little pet a couple flies a day.

She would like to switch the sparrow to birdseed, but she said it can't master that yet.

This is not the first time Sharon has cared for a bird. She said she had parakeets as a child.

"I love birds and nature," she said.

Sharon works at the Animal Hospital of Logansport as a pet groomer. She took the sparrow to the veterinarian there, and he said she must be doing everything right because the little bird looks healthy.

"I'd like her to go back into the wild," Sharon said, "but she's used to being served food whenever she's hungry. She starts getting really loud when she's hungry. I don't know if she could survive on her own."

At night Sharon takes the bird out on the deck and offers it freedom.

"She flies to a tree, but then comes back to me," Sharon said.

The bird perches on Sharon's shoulder and nestles in her cupped hand.

"She thinks I'm her mother," Sharon said.

Sharon and her husband, Dave, live next door to the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church, where Dave is pastor.

Sharon took the bird to the church's vacation Bible school this summer. The theme was "God's Big Back Yard."

She said the kids loved the bird, and it became the Bible school mascot.

The bird stays in a cage at the Herron house, but when Sharon is home, she lets it out for some play time.

"Sometimes she's hard to put in her cage," Sharon said. "She doesn't want to go. She's having too much fun."

The Herrons' two children are out on their own, but the Herron home is far from an empty nest. Two dogs are part of the family, as well as an outside cat. A bird may seem like a questionable creature to add to the mix, but Sharon says everyone is getting along OK so far.

All pets have names, and the Herrons' sparrow is no different. Their daughter came up with the name – Kiwi.

Dave said when his wife comes into the house, the sparrow chirps loudly and flutters.

"She's got a lot of personality for a little tiny bird," Sharon said. "She's very outgoing and friendly and likes to be around people. She's not afraid of anything. She's also stubborn and determined, and a little bossy. She flutters around till she gets what she wants. That's probably why she survived."

She cares for even the sparrow

Sharon Herron of Deer Creek rescued this baby sparrow from her front yard, and under her care, it survived. The sparrow is now living quite comfortably in the Herron household. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Bonding

Sharon Herron interacts with her pet sparrow, Kiwi. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Internet
Unlimited Hours, No Contracts!
$9.95/mo. No Credit Card Required!
• Instant Messaging - Keep your buddy list!
• 10 e-mail addresses with Webmail!
• FREE Technical Support
• Custom Start Page - News, Weather & more!
Express Surf up to 6X faster! just $3 more
Sign Up Online! www.LocalNet.com
Call Today & Save!
LocalNet (765)564-6861
Reliable Internet Access Since 1994

GENERAL OPTOMETRY & CONTACT LENSES
Dr. D.J. Harmon Optometrist
103 S. Howard St., Flora
(next to Video Express)
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 9am - 5pm
Tues. - 10am - 7pm • Sat. - 9am - 1pm
574-967-4221
Now a Davis Vision Provider accepting Chrysler patients

Homecare By Design
BETTERING THE WORLD, ONE LIFE AT A TIME
HOME CARE SERVICES
2 TO 24 HOURS A DAY
365 DAYS A YEAR
NURSES • CAREGIVERS AND MORE
Cascada Business Park
955 Mezzanine Drive, Suite A, Lafayette
homecarebydesign.net
765-446-8080
Toll Free 877-760-8080
Traci Goudy, RN, Owner

IGA
LABOR DAY SAVINGS!
USDA Choice Beef T-Bone Steak 5.89 lb
US Inspected, Family Pack Western Style Bone-In Pork Ribs 1.69 lb
USDA Choice Beef Porterhouse Steak 5.99 lb
Kangaroo Brat Pockets 2/3
19.7-20 oz pkg. Selected Varieties Johnsonville Brats, Italian Sausage or Heat & Serve 2/6
16 oz pkg. Selected Varieties Oscar Mayer Meat Wieners or Turkey Franks 3/5
Cut Watermelon 59¢ lb
Whole Seedless Watermelon 3.98 ea
In the Husk Yellow, White or Bi-Color Corn 3/1
4 qt pail, Selected Varieties Prairie Farms Ice Cream 2/7
59-64 oz ctn, Selected Varieties Minute Maid or Simply Orange Juice 2/4
Deli Fresh Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad or Cole Slaw 99¢ lb
Post Cereal 5/10
60-50 Loads Per Btl, Selected Varieties Xtra Liquid Laundry Detergent or Nice'n Fluffy Fabric Softener 5/10
12 pk/12 oz cans Coke Products 3/10
gallon Prairie Farms Chocolate Milk 3.19
PRICES EFFECTIVE MON., AUGUST 25 - SUN., AUGUST 31, 2008
AUTHORIZED RETAILER WIC 100% GUARANTEE everyday 7 am-10 pm WE ALSO SELL money orders gift certificates postage stamps
NOW AVAILABLE US POSTAL STAMPS
Stephan's IGA FLORA, IN
Ship where you shop

It's Not About the Car ...

It's about the precious cargo it carries.
As a local independent agent, we can design an insurance program that's just right for you and your family. Give the people you love Safe.Sound.Secure.® protection from Auto-Owners Insurance Company.
Auto-Owners Insurance
RME Insurance
45 S. Center St. - Flora
574-967-4547 • 800-441-5143
Bring in any competitors auto & home policies to quote and
Get a FREE Gas Card

YOUTH™
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.
ATTENTION PARENTS: LOOKING FOR AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR YOUR CHILD?
The Carroll County YMCA is offering an **After School Program for children K-6th** Monday-Friday until 6:00p.m. We also will be providing care in accordance with the Carroll School Calendar for the 08-09 school year **providing care for early dismissal days and school breaks.** Assistance with homework, snacks, and activities will be provided. Registration forms will be available at the Y. **Please call the YMCA at 574-967-4449 for more information and rates.**

Business Brief

Sheagley

RAY SHEAGLEY has been hired as director of the Lafayette-West Lafayette Employers Health Forum, an employers' group founded in 2005 to address local health care cost issues.

Sheagley of Flora, has 35 years' experience in human resources, most recently at Wabash National Corp., where he was director of compensation and benefits before retiring in June. Earlier, he worked in human resources at TRW Commercial Steering Systems Division and Purdue University. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Purdue University and earned a master's degree in political science from the University of North Dakota.

He is a former president of the Lafayette Personnel Managers Association and has been a volunteer for United Way, Junior Achievement, and the Community and Family Resource Center.

Headquartered in the Swezey Commerce Center, 337 Columbia St., Lafayette, the Lafayette-West Lafayette Development Corp. was founded in 2006 through a merger of six business-interest nonprofits.

Channel 2

Programming for Aug. 27-31 is listed below:

Wed., Aug. 27 – 7 p.m. Delphi City Council meeting (taped 8/4).

Sun., Aug. 31 – 9 a.m., Taped worship service (church to be announced).

Mon., Sept. 1 – Labor Day, not on the air.

Wed., Sept. 3, 7 p.m., Worship service from Camden Baptist Church (taped 8/31); followed by Carroll County Old Settlers meeting (taped 8/9).