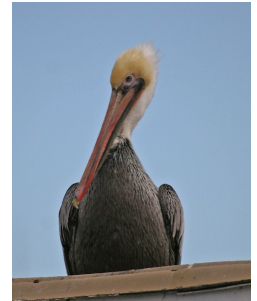
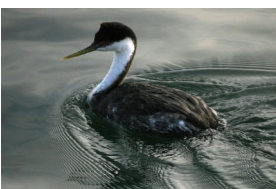
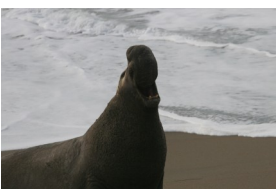


Drawn to Nature Newsletter

Eva Stanley Drawn to Nature Studio Bloomington, Indiana • Loveland, Colorado DrawnToNature@gmail.com www.EvasWildlifeArt.com
970-590-5465

Hello, and welcome to another issue from *Drawn To Nature Studio!*



As has been true for so many people in the U.S., for me, this past year has been about making decisions and life changes, plus connections with new friends and old friends. In late November 2009, I placed most of my belongings and car into storage in Colorado, and taking only the necessities and as many art supplies and sculpture as I could cram into the camper and little trailer, cat, Quinn, and I began an odyssey that took me across much of the country. I wanted to share with you what is really just the tip of the iceberg of my photographic journal from those amazing travels, plus some newer work you may not have seen yet, as well as an update about what new things are taking place in the studio these days .

California, Here I come.....

I headed out into the world again, leaving bitterly cold Colorado and heading for sunny southern California. I spent Thanksgiving '09 with my son and daughter-in-law in L.A., before striking out northward for San Simeon, CA, with a goal to photograph northern elephant seals, and whatever else would present itself along the way. I was joined by a dear friend who invited me to come stay in Aptos. And, since a visit to California would not be complete without a stop in my old stomping grounds of Monterey Bay, I continued north to visit friends in the Santa Cruz area. I was able to spend a portion of that time doing wildlife photography around Moss Landing and Monterey, photographing western grebes, sea otters, whimbrels, California sea lions, etc, etc.

When I turned back toward San Simeon again, I timed it for the beginning of the elephant seal birthing season, and was lucky enough to actually witness 2 births on the beach (as well as a heartbreaking pup abduction by a very aggressive determined female), and some of the general mayhem that comes with the mixing of 6,000 lb. bulls and 1,900 lb. cows on the beach at this yearly migration stop-over point. As always with my travels and photography, I continue to learn more and more fascinating facts about the amazing lives, interconnections, and needs of our nation's wildlife.



In this issue:

Page

2009/2010 In Review	1
Getting Started—California Photos	1
Arizona Photos	2
Continuing Ed	2
Texas and Florida Exploits	3
FL, SC, VA, and VT Photos,	4
Studio News and Views	5

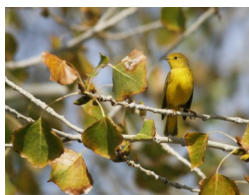
Onward, to Arizona.....

Although the length and location of most of my stays along the way were of my own choosing, I was timing dates and areas to coincide with: an art workshop in Arizona; my gallery's opening reception in Texas; wintering birds along the gulf coast; an art competition in Maryland; and the opening of the annual "Art and the Animal Kingdom" in Vermont. So, it was now time to hit the road again. I passed back through Los Angeles, having dinner with my son, before pushing east to Arizona and the wonderful Sonoran Desert.



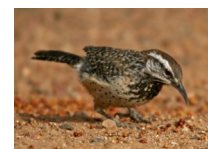
Life in the Desert.....

I am continually surprised by the great abundance of life found in the Sonoran Desert, and the silent sentinels of the saguaros are always a favorite of mine. This time around, I was able to spend a considerable time around the Phoenix and Tucson areas. I certainly appreciated being farther south than my usual winter haunts, and though not "hot", I was grateful for the warmer days of Arizona. When the weather cooperated, I branched out into the many habitats found in that portion of Arizona to do desert wildlife photography. I took advantage of some of that warmth to do wildlife photography around the cities' water reclamation ponds – Gilbert Water Ranch near Phoenix, and Sweetwater in Tucson. It is surprising how many waterfowl and wading birds winter there in the desert. The mountains around Tucson actually saw some snow while I was there, as well as record rain down in the lower areas. How I wished I could have stayed for another 2 weeks to witness the wildflowers that surely followed this bonanza of water.



Continuing Education.....

As part of an earlier prize package from American Women Artists, I took a bird sculpture workshop from Sandy Scott in Scottsdale (Phoenix area), which was both educational and interesting. I was really interested in understanding the mechanics of the wing in both flight and at rest, and now feel like I will be able to translate what I learned into sculpture with greater accuracy.



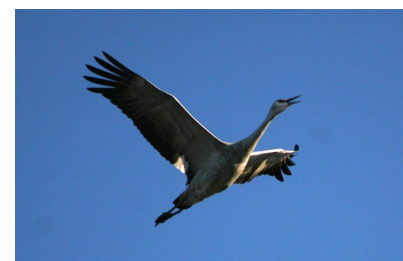
Back To Work.....

I pulled together a one-woman wildlife art show in the Tucson area, featuring my sculpture, painting, and wildlife photography. And I also used some of that Arizona time to begin painting again. I am currently in the process of finishing several works inspired by California's elephant seals and whimbrels, as well as Arizona's sandhill cranes.



Moving East, then South.....

I went east to see the winter stopover of sandhill cranes at Arizona's Whitewater Draw. Many cranes had been forced to move on to winter in Arizona last year, due to crop failures at New Mexico's Bosque Del Apache. And though cold that day, the sight and calls from the masses of cranes highlighted in the darkening sky with the glow of late afternoon light was picturesque. The birds return to the water to roost for the night, and come in from all directions. They spend their day away, foraging for food in the local area. And I laid on my back on the ground, taking photos of them as they passed overhead.

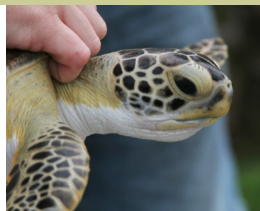
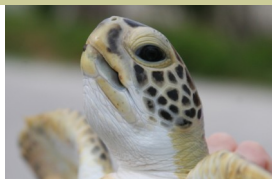


Having never been there before, I stopped in Tombstone, which has a pretty fascinating history. The "living history" aspects were fun, as well. Unknown to most, Tombstone (and most of Arizona for that matter), was not "western", as in cowboys, but was actually a bawdy mining town multiple mines, tremendous money flowing out of the ground, few women, hard men, gunmen, gamblers, and thieves! Historically very colorful.



From there, I went on further south, to the Nogales on the U.S./Mexican border, landing at Patagonia State Park which gets a pretty amazing variety of migratory birds. I was able to photograph an elegant trogon, who makes rare winter visits into the southeastern corner of Arizona from Mexico.





Texas, or Bust.....

Florida Fun.....



I moved east through Texas, taking in rodeos in both San Angelo and Houston. And I arrived in Port Aransas in time for an opening reception for artists at my gallery, Port A Gallery. The Texas coast is a mecca for winter birdlife, and I spent some wonderful time in both Port Aransas and Port Lavaca. As with Florida, the wading and shorebird life is spectacular. I spent a morning in Port Aransas witnessing the release of green sea turtles back into the wild, after spending months in rehab. Being that close to these green sea turtles was truly phenomenal. They were all recovering from "cold shock" (hypothermia) brought on by the extreme cold snap which killed countless sea turtles, manatees, and sub-tropical fish all along the gulf coast in early 2010. The problem was brought on by the fact that these animals were forced to continually return to the surface to breathe, thus taking them repeatedly through the layer of cold water. (When I arrived in Florida, I learned that their state had suffered the same problems.) The rehab hospital, ARK, in Port Aransas picked up approx. 90 turtles (all ages/sizes, and mostly all green sea turtles), and the overflow they could not house were then distributed to zoos, aquariums, rehab centers, etc. across the state to save as many as they could. (Sadly for the manatees, it is slightly easier to put a 450 lb. sea turtle some place than a 1200 lb. manatee!)



My time traveling along the gulf coast was just prior to the start of the oil spill which gripped the nation's attention for so much of this past year. And I wondered just what the effects were, and will continue to be, on all of the wildlife that I had seen. I traveled on through Florida, ending both my southward and eastward travels in the Everglades. As you can see, that portion of the year was full of egrets and herons, ibis and storks, alligators and osprey, manatees and gopher tortoises!



All Points North.....



From there, there was nowhere to go but north! So, it was on to South Carolina's Brookgreen Gardens for its amazing sculpture and botanical works; a visit with my daughter in Virginia; competing at the World Carving Championships in Ocean City, Maryland; and then on to Vermont to participate in the opening festivities at the Bennington Center for the Arts' prestigious annual show of "Art and the Animal Kingdom". I photographed along Lake Champlain, looked for moose (but didn't find any), and spent a magical night in Vermont's Island Pond region, listening to 6 loons constantly calling back and forth across the lake to each other under the full moon.



Indiana, Colorado, Indiana again.....

I finished in Vermont in mid-June, and made a bee-line for Indiana, and birth family, who welcomed me with open arms. And it is here I have been, mostly, ever since. I say “mostly” because my daughter came through in August on her way moving west to Colorado, and I hitched a ride with her to retrieve a few more necessities from storage. We made a detour in Missouri to visit the 2 homes of Laura Ingalls Wilder, who wrote the “Little House on the Prairie” books. We had spent many hours as a family, snuggled up on cold winter nights around the wood stove at the trout farm in the mountains of western North Carolina, reading the “Little House” books aloud. And it was special for both of us to see where Laura, encouraged by her daughter, Rose, finally sat down at age 65, and put pen to paper to recall her memories of growing up in pioneer times.



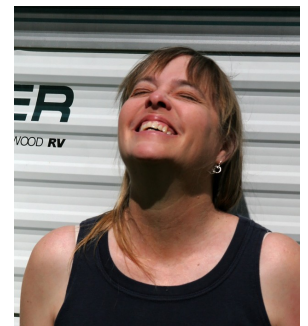
Once in Colorado, I rented a small U-haul trailer, and filled it and the car with as much as they would hold, retrieved my plants, musical instruments, and tarantula, “Ember”, from my various wonderful Colorado friends who had agreed back in Nov. to babysit them through the winter for me, and I headed back to Indiana.



In September, I moved in to the first floor of my mother's house (she and her caregiver staff live on the basement level), and continued the job hunting process. I help out with my mom's needs, her shopping, and Dr's appointments, and have finally found a ¾ time job doing kitchen design (and a ton of other more menial stuff) through Menards (a 13-state midwestern version of Lowe's and Home Depot). But so far, it is not too bad. It involves a fair amount of somewhat complicated computer learning, and the time seems to go fairly fast most days. I am not very patient with myself, so I will be glad when I finally get past the part of not knowing the answers to people's questions.



And, I am, as always, trying to get organized, and also accomplishing some art. My sculpture, “Checking out the Competition” (red-breasted merganser), took first place, sculpture division, at the annual Indiana Wildlife Artists' show in October, and I was pleased about that. Other recent shows have included the Society of Animal Artists' year-long tour of the 2009 show across the country which included one of my pieces, plus the SAA's 2010 special 50th anniversary show at the Nat. Hist. Mus. (San Diego, CA)/ Wildlife Experience Mus. (Parker, CO); the late '09 American Women Artists' annual show (Easton, MD); plus 2 juried online “virtual” shows this year - the National Sculpture Society's “Recent Works” show; and the Artists For Conservation Foundation's annual show, of which I was proud to be one of only 6 sculptors selected to exhibit 2 pieces for the show! With the economy being what it is, competition among artists for selection to juried shows has been particularly fierce this year, so I am happy with the progress my work has made.



While this seems long winded, it really is just a small fraction of the photos, experiences, and friendships encountered along the way. It was hard to narrow down the beauty that I have witnessed over this past year, and it has been a long time since I managed to put out a new newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed what you have seen here. And now, the studio update.....

Studio News



As far as 2010 studio news, I am working on several new sculpture works begun in clay and/ or wax. I now have a 3rd baby alligator piece (life-size, climbing up onto a lily pad); a life-size Harris' hawk (taking off); a life-size bufflehead duck (taking off); and a life-size purple gallinule (hunting among the lily pads). These works "in process" are showing lots of promise.

Also, now that I have gotten back into painting this year, I have completed a painting of two tri-colored herons, and am still working on a few others – two whimbrels (catching little crabs); an elephant seal bull (on the beach); and an elephant seal cow and newborn pup (faces). Also, in the 2-dimensional realm, I have started marketing some limited edition giclée prints, available on both paper and canvas, done from my original scratchboards and acrylics. I am also finally marketing artist reference photo materials, as well as collectible wildlife photography. Never a dull moment!



** To View Sculptures and Paintings in better format : **

I have updated my web page on the Artists For Conservation website for both 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional work. For those who are interested, the 2010 annual "virtual" show this year will only continue through December 31st. To view this show of works from so many wonderful talented artists in the forefront of wildlife art, follow these steps:

<http://www.natureartists.com>

- 1) Click on "See the Exhibit"
- 2) Click on "View Exhibit", which will give you a drop-down box, and select "Sculpture Gallery". (For some reason, they set the sculpture up separate from the 2-D work.)

If you are interested in seeing all of my work, you would go from the home page of:

<http://www.natureartists.com>

- 1) On the left side of the page, you will see a box for "Artist Quick Jump"
- 2) Click for the drop-down box and scroll down, and select "Stanley, E", and "Go"

This will take you to my site page.

- 3) Click on "Artwork", and it will show you my three categories of work.
- 4) Click on "View Artwork", and click on any piece you would like to enlarge and see information about!

Sounds complicated, but it really isn't!

Well, that pretty much brings everyone up to the present, so I will end here. Though my e-mail address is still the same, please note my "new" phone number, if you need to reach me.

I wish each of you and yours a healthy and happy New Year!

Eva



"Monday Morning Blues" - Tri-colored Herons

