

## Remembering Lorna

By Mitzi Brabb



Lorna Swiggers and Friend

When I first moved to Arizona six years ago, I barely knew anyone but found solace in a hobby I had acquired back home in California. Though I enjoyed wildlife rehabbing, I was still lonely. Fortunately, I was soon introduced to a talented photographer by the name of Lorna Swiggers to inquire about using some of her wildlife prints for a writing project I was working on. She was also a rehabber, and during our first phone conversation we spoke for hours. It was as if we had known each other our whole lives. Lorna quickly became my new best friend. Of course, Lorna was everybody's best friend.

Only a week after our first conversation I had a crisis with a little domestic bunny that had stopped breathing. I couldn't think of anyone in the world to call for advice that wouldn't think me utterly ridiculous for applying CPR on a critter that was smaller than my fist. Then I thought of Lorna. I prayed that she would answer the phone, and when she did she dropped everything she was doing and walked me through as best she could. When I

lost the little bunny I cried like a child... and Lorna cried along with me. I hadn't even met this amazing woman in person yet!

When I finally did meet Lorna some weeks later, it was a unique reunion of souls. From then on I called to seek bunny advice, to report any good news in my life, and for counseling on any personal kinks that needed working out. It didn't matter what the issue or question was, Lorna always had an answer. It didn't even have to be a logical answer, or even really make sense at all. Yet somehow she always offered soothing advice that left me feeling like I had just spoken to my big sister, or sometimes even to my mother.

As everyone who knew her could tell you, Lorna had exceptional stories to tell and she expressed them with such enthusiasm that they never grew dull. Even when grumbling over her chronic back pain, she always enjoyed telling of how it had developed, which was by playing a little too rough with the lions during her workdays at Out of Africa animal park! She could be in the worst of pain, yet always able to make you feel envious of her experience with those big cats anyway.

Lorna was a wonderful mother, wife, rehabber, photographer and friend. She had an incredible personality. Sadly, she passed away this October, 2007. For those of us who were blessed to have had Lorna in our lives... she was someone who deeply touched all of our hearts, and will always be lovingly remembered.

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" This tribute was submitted by Mitzi Brabb, an  
" EVW member and former editor of *Bird Tracks*.  
" Mitzi and her family currently make their home in  
" Payson, where they continue to care for wildlife.  
" Our thanks to Mitzi for the tribute and to Lorna's  
" husband for the photo.  
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