

# Keeping track of a year of rescues



**KEEP on tracking: Martin, pictured above with the new monitoring device, is delighted with the public's response to the charity**

By Rachel Leslie

A WILDLIFE charity in Nether Alderley which has helped the plight of injured birds is to celebrate its first year.

South Manchester Wildlife Rescue (SMWR) became a registered charity in April, after operating as a voluntary group.

Since then a variety of birdlife have flown through the doors and been housed in the aviaries.

Martin Turner who runs SMWR said: "We've had numerous exotic species over the months, including 19 cockatiels, one green rosella [Australian parakeet], a cinnamon kakariki [parakeet from New Zealand], a ring-necked parakeet, a peacock, a guinea

fowl, a Hermann's tortoise and 15 ferrets.

"The tortoise was re-united with his owner and we've found homes for all of the exotics."

Earlier this year, Martin and his team helped the RSPCA with a new tracking device to monitor how a previously injured sparrowhawk rehabilitated into the wild.

Although the bird was found dead in a stream a couple of weeks later, Martin explained: "We thought it had starved but the post-mortem revealed it was of average weight and it had been feeding on mice.

"So the jury's out as to why it died and ended up in the brook.

"One of our goals for 2006 is to complete a large raptor aviary to house injured or

orphaned birds of prey until their eventual release back into the wild, as well as two new fox pens.

Martin added: "I've been overwhelmed at the success of the charity so far and would like to thank everyone who has been involved in helping

SMWR one way or another.

"I'm particularly grateful to the general public for their donations and sympathetic attitude to those creatures less fortunate than ourselves."

For further information on SMWR, contact Martin on 09570 867353.