

## ***THE BIRD***



Did you ever take a picture looking down into a bucket of a bird sitting on the side of a small dish? Well this is what it looks like. I know, you are asking yourself right now, why do I have a bird sitting in one of my feed buckets anyway. Good Question. And I have an answer, somewhere.

O.K. So yesterday, Saturday, the girls had actually gotten to my house by 8am so we could ride all day! To start the day and wait for it to be light enough, we were down in the barn cleaning. They were over on the north side and I was cleaning the south side when suddenly I caught movement on the ground hopping and chirping towards me. I instantly jump back, wondering why something about 2 inches in height was hopping towards me, thinking it was a mouse at first but mice don't normally hop! It was this little bird. All fluffed up as if it was really cold and wanting something. The girls of course wanted to see what had made me jump so much and when I said a Bird, they rushed over to see.

At first we weren't too sure what to do with it. They of course wanted to catch it, take it to the house and save it. I was a little more hesitant for I don't know what was causing it to act that way and of course all the cats are in the house. Saving wild birds isn't a specialty of my. Well, the bird kept hopping around and right under Libby's feet. The girls panic, one pushes on Libby's butt, maybe stumbling a little and landed on Libby, but Libby wasn't impressed, another girl gets down on the ground to try and rescue the bird from under Libby's hooves. Libby is really not impressed and reached down wide mouth as if to say "get away from my feet! I don't know what's going on but I don't like it". I was standing next to Libby's side so I push her mouth away and yell at her to knock it off. She moves, slowly, at least managed not to step, bit or kick anybody or anything. She wasn't trying to hurt us, just tell us she was eating hay and didn't like what we were doing around her.

The bird was in our hands at this time and it seems perfectly happy to be there. It almost acted like it was just down right cold and was looking for a warm spot to warm up. Maybe it knew we would warm it up but wouldn't eat it. So I told the girls I thought we could take it somewhere safe, warm it up, and see if it would make it. Of course the girls were all for this! Instantly, all manure folks, racks and wheel barrows were dropped (at my feet) and all 3 girls were off to the save the bird. They got a bucket, some bird feed and some water. Then decided to take the bird and bucket up to the house and put it in the garage. The bird seemed perfectly happy to sit in the bucket. So we went riding. We left on our first ride at 9:15.





After our ride, we rushed back up to the house. The bird was alert, eating feed and sitting on its water dish. It appeared to be feeling better and was even perched on a piece of hay. We got some sticks for it to sit on and about this time it flew up to the edge of the bucket. It seems much better so we decided maybe it was time to take it back outside.

Making sure all the cats were locked inside. We put the bird in my bird-barn bird-feeder with the hay and grain. After about 15 minutes, it was gone. We checked all around but found no signs so I think it flew away. Hopefully it just wanted a free lunch and

a place to warm up for a while.

We then proceeded to Ride, Ride, Ride and had 3 or 4 wonderful rides. None where fast, but all were fun. The last ride was over at the indoor arena. We finished with our last ride and taking care of the horses at 8:45pm.

