

# NEWSLETTER FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Volume 4

March 2001

A quarterly newsletter produced by the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC). WRNC's mission is to share information and knowledge about wildlife rehabilitation for the benefit of native wildlife. For comments or questions, write to: WRNC, 2542 Weymoth Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MAILING ADDRESS!

## WRNC has its first elected Board!

The results of the election of the first board of directors by the membership were announced at the January meeting in Asheboro. All 12 nominees on the ballot, and one write-in candidate, were elected.

Following the general meeting, the new board members, who were present, met privately to discuss naming of officers. A slate of officers was nominated and shared with the 5 board members not present. All nominations were accepted. Here is the list of officers.

Nina Fischesser	President
Ed Weiss	Vice President
Carla Johnson	Secretary
Jean Chamberlain	Treasurer
Mark Ansley	
Lessie Davis	
Mathias Engelmann	
Elizabeth Hanrahan	
Gail Houston	
Mark Hufford	
Robert Schopler, DVM	
Barbara Tomlinson	
Susan Wilson	

Several WRNC members are traveling to Tahoe to attend the Annual symposium of the NWRA. We will have highlights in the next newsletter.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

If you know of a paying member that is not receiving their newsletter, please tell us about it. We need to correct our mailing address if it is incorrect, and sometimes, pieces of mail get lost.

## Next Board Meeting of WRNC:

**Where:** APS of Orange County

**When:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Please note that this meeting is restricted to board members. If you are not a board member and have any questions or concerns, please pass them on to a board member, before the above date, so they can be discussed. Thank You.

For directions, call Bobby Schopler at (919) 304-2337.

## Dear WRNC member

If you have not sent in your membership fee for 2001, please do so soon. If you know of anyone who has a lapsed membership, please remind him or her. WRNC's goal is to reach as many rehabilitators as possible. This quarterly newsletter is the primary method we rely upon to get news about the organization, upcoming events, and training opportunities to the members. So as always, let us know what you would like to see or better yet, submit an article or note for publication. Send to Carolina Raptor Center, Attn. Mathias Engelmann, P.O. Box 16443, Charlotte, NC 28297

## **Continuing Education**

CRC will offer two one-day classes for rehabilitators in April 2001:

A basic class on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001, will cover Raptor Identification, Handling Techniques, and Physical Examination. Minimum number of participants is 10, the maximum is 18. Cost is \$70 per person and does not include lunch. A \$30 deposit is due by April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

The advanced class on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001, will cover Hematology & Parasitology, Routine Treatments, and Bandaging Techniques. The minimum number of participants is 8, the maximum is 12. Cost is \$90 per person, not including lunch. A \$30 deposit is due by April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Call Mathias Engelman at (704)875-6521, extension 108 for details, or to register.

### **DATA COLLECTION REMINDER**

If you have not already done so and would like to participate, please submit your data for the year 2000 to Bobby Schopler, DVM or Carla Johnson. You can either mail the information to WRNC, 2542 Weymoth Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

Or e-mail Carla Johnson at [cmjohnso@wfubmc.edu](mailto:cmjohnso@wfubmc.edu)

If you keep your data on computer, submitting your data via e-mail as an excel file would be easiest.

### **WEST NILE VIRUS CONFERENCE**

State health officials and scientists gathered in Charlotte from 1-31-2001 through 2-4-2001. We are hoping to get copies of the papers presented, so we can pass relevant information on to you, the rehabilitators.

**Deadline for submissions for  
the next newsletter will be  
May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001.**

### **"Turtle time"**

by Bobby Schopler DVM, PhD

Ever notice how turtles simply take their time about everything? My patience was tried with a ~70 year old (17 lbs. growing an average of 0.25 lbs per year) snapping turtle that was hit by a car presented to the clinic with a scraped carapace and a fractured mandible. The mandible had me worried. I tried using an intramedullary pin to secure the fractured bone, but my efforts failed, and I only seemed to make things worse. The gap between the two ends of the broken bone widened. A few weeks later I tried option two: external fixation. Again I placed a pin through the mandible and a compression wire around the ends of the pin. This too failed.

I waited a while longer and fashioned a methyl methacrylate chin strap and pinned that into the mandible. There was still movement at the fracture site! For months this process went on. We forced mice down this poor turtles throat, and stuck various pins into the fractured mandible. He maintained his weight through the winter. I made friends with an oral surgeon, and planned to try a bone graft. Perhaps I could take some bone from the carapace and place it into the gap in the turtle's mandible. I was feeling a bit desperate. Super Bowl Sunday brought the opportunity for me to get the oral surgeon to come to the clinic and evaluate the turtle. I brought him to the bathtub and pulled out the "snapless" turtle. To my great surprise, despite all my tinkering and disruptive therapy, the mandible had healed. There was solid bone bridging the gap! There had been times I thought I should give up and end the turtles suffering. Slowly and steadily, the turtle had been healing on his own. The snap had returned to his life and he is ready to be released this spring. If I learned anything from this encounter, it was take your time when you're dealing with turtles. You just can't



## Visit Our Web Site

W  
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C

For wildlife news

For a list of members

For a list of local  
organizations & centers

For information on  
becoming a member

For information on training  
& courses being offered

<http://ncwildliferehab.org>

### MEETING OF WESTERN NC REHABILITATORS

All rehabilitators in western NC are invited to a meeting in Candler, NC on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2 pm. The address is 17 Saint Bernard Lane, the home of Ed & Mary Weiss. Phone number is (828)-665-8625. Directions are as follows: Traveling west in I-40, take exit 44 and bear right onto W 19-23. Go under I-40. Continue on 19-23 for 3 ½ miles. Turn left onto Hwy 151 (Pisgah Highway) at a Shell Gas station (Boone's Corner). Go 6 ½ miles on Hwy 151. Just past the Upper Hominay Volunteer Fire Department on the right, turn right onto Pisgah View Dr at Harvest Community Church. Go to the fork in the road and take the left fork. Go up approx.. 1 mile, bear left at the Satellite Dish and you will see the home above you.

### MEETING OF CENTRAL REGION REHABILITATORS

was on Sat, March 10, 2001, in Winston-Salem. We will have a report in the next issue.

### MEETING OF EASTERN NC REHABILITATORS

Twenty-two wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and board members in the WRNC Eastern Region met for lunch at Ryan's Steak house on Saturday, March 3, in Greenville. Many were members of Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina. Several non-members expressed interest in joining the group. Dr. John Bradfield and Dale Aycock provided a short program on Critical Care injuries. Dr. Bradfield said that the chance of release is reduced when trauma is increased. Areas of trauma include not only the injury, but the treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation processes. Time and efficiency are the keys to successful critical care. Fluid replacement and nutrition are also vital for proper emergency care.

Dr. Aycock and Dr. Keel spoke on Zoonoses. There was much discussion of rabies vector species and their status in North Carolina. The meeting was a time for wildlife rehabilitators in the east to meet each other, network and share information and stories. Many in attendance expressed interest in a series of Continuing Education Workshops in the future.

**Disclaimer** The opinions, techniques, and recommendations expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not imply endorsement by WRNC.

*The Raptor Center MN  
www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/*

#### Wildlife Web Sites

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota includes the "Highway to the Tropics" site where you can follow Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and other species of hawks via satellite throughout the year. Don't miss this one! [www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/](http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/)

Wildlife Rescue League - Northern Virginia  
[www.wildliferescueleague.org/professi.htm](http://www.wildliferescueleague.org/professi.htm)

The Illinois Raptor Center: [www.ilinoisraptorcenter.org](http://www.ilinoisraptorcenter.org)

South Carolina Center for Birds of Prey: [www.charleston.net/org/sccbp/](http://www.charleston.net/org/sccbp/)

WildARC - The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of East Carolina in New Bern, NC - [www.wildarc.org](http://www.wildarc.org)

Cornell Raptor Program: [www.ansci.cornell.edu/raptor/](http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/raptor/)

Rehabitat-A Rehabilitation Center in Dillsburg, PA.: [www.rehabitat.org/](http://www.rehabitat.org/)

Raptor Rehab of Kentucky: [www.raptorrehab.org/](http://www.raptorrehab.org/)

Raptor Recovery of Nebraska: [www.raptorrecoveryne.org](http://www.raptorrecoveryne.org).

(OWL) Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, BC: [www.realm.ca/owl/](http://www.realm.ca/owl/) (store)

Cascades Raptor Center: [www.efn.org/~raptors/](http://www.efn.org/~raptors/)

Auburn's Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center: [www.vetmed.auburn.edu/raptor](http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/raptor)

Alabama Wildlife Rehab Center: [www.alawildliferehab.org/](http://www.alawildliferehab.org/)

University of Illinois Wildlife Medical Clinic: [www.cvm.uiuc.edu/wmc/wmc.htm](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/wmc/wmc.htm)

The Hawk Conservancy, UK: [www.hawk-conservancy.org](http://www.hawk-conservancy.org)

Last Chance Forever, Inc., TX: [www.lastchanceforever.org/](http://www.lastchanceforever.org/)

The Lindsay Museum Wildlife Hospital: [www.wildlife-museum.org/whospital.htm](http://www.wildlife-museum.org/whospital.htm) (store)

Marion Wildlife Sanctuary, PA: [www.fieldtrip.com/pa/07492379.htm](http://www.fieldtrip.com/pa/07492379.htm)

Mouse Hole Wild Bird Hospital and Sanctuary, UK:  
[www.chycor.co.uk/mousehole-sanctuary/](http://www.chycor.co.uk/mousehole-sanctuary/)

OLSS Wildlife Rescue and Rehab: [www.angelfire.com/nm/rehab/](http://www.angelfire.com/nm/rehab/)

Raptor Center, CA: [www.vetnet.ucdavis.edu/ars/raptor.htm](http://www.vetnet.ucdavis.edu/ars/raptor.htm)

McBride Raptor Center-University of Iowa:  
[www.ai-design.com/stargig/raptor/ia/main.html](http://www.ai-design.com/stargig/raptor/ia/main.html)

Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center: [www.vetmed.auburn.edu/raptor/](http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/raptor/)

3 Rivers Avian Center, WV: [www.trrc.org](http://www.trrc.org)

Carolina Raptor Center: [www.birdsofprey.org](http://www.birdsofprey.org)

Raptor Rehab-Oklahoma: <http://members.aol.com/bmsnell/rehab.html>

Raptor Rehab, WV: [www.wvu.edu/~raptor/index.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/~raptor/index.htm)

Rocky Mountain Colorado Raptor Program:  
<http://holly.colostate.edu/~sharonh/rmrp/>

Raptor Trust, UK: [www.theoldbutchery.demon.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.theoldbutchery.demon.co.uk/index.htm) (store)

Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, FL: [www.webcoast.com/seabird/](http://www.webcoast.com/seabird/)

The Swan Sanctuary, UK: [www.egham.co.uk/groups/swan.html](http://www.egham.co.uk/groups/swan.html)

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Information Center: [www.cc.ndsu.nodak.edu](http://www.cc.ndsu.nodak.edu)

Wild Bird Rehab Center: [www.geocities.com/rainforest/vines/7677/rehab.html](http://www.geocities.com/rainforest/vines/7677/rehab.html)

Birds of Prey in Oklahoma: [www.tulsawalk.com/birding/](http://www.tulsawalk.com/birding/)

Falcons, Hawks, and Eagles of Northern Arizona: [www.lakepowell.net/~gnealon/](http://www.lakepowell.net/~gnealon/)

Peregrine Fund (World Center for Birds of Prey): [www.peregrinefund.org/](http://www.peregrinefund.org/)

Raptor's Aerie: <http://greyhawkes.com/fun/raptor.html>

FICUS: Florida Audubon: Birds of Prey Center:



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[www.ficus.usf.edu/orgs/Audubon/birds.htm](http://www.ficus.usf.edu/orgs/Audubon/birds.htm)

Birds of Prey Center:

[www.insidecentralflorida.com/entertainment/attractions/birdsofprey.html](http://www.insidecentralflorida.com/entertainment/attractions/birdsofprey.html)

The International Osprey Foundation, based in Sanibel, Florida

[www.sancap.com/osprey/tiof.htm](http://www.sancap.com/osprey/tiof.htm)

The Bald Eagle Information Site - dedicated to, you guessed it, the Bald Eagle.

A great site. [www.baldeagleinfo.com/](http://www.baldeagleinfo.com/)

The Raptor Research Foundation - Publishes the quarterly Journal of Raptor Research. The clearing house for researchers studying birds of prey:

[biology.boisestate.edu/raptor/](http://biology.boisestate.edu/raptor/)

Ninepipes Center for Wildlife Research and Education, home of the

Owl Research Institute. Headquarters in the Mission Valley of

Montana: [www.owlinstitute.org](http://www.owlinstitute.org)

Raptor Information System - a remarkable bibliographic resource!:

[//nighthawk.boisestate.edu/ris/](http://nighthawk.boisestate.edu/ris/)

Raptor Resource Project - a non-profit dedicated to the restoration of Midwest

Peregrines and other raptors. [www.salamander.com/~rrp/](http://www.salamander.com/~rrp/)

The North Carolina Falconers' Guild - if you have questions about the venerable and ancient sport of hunting with birds of prey, visit this site:

[www.mindspring.com/~goshawk/ncfg.htm](http://www.mindspring.com/~goshawk/ncfg.htm)

The Peregrine Foundation of Canada - really fascinating site that lets you follow migrating Peregrines via satellite and, come spring, will let you peak in on nesting Peregrines. [www.peregrine-foundation.ca/](http://www.peregrine-foundation.ca/)

The Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network - This group is based in Japan

#### Tail Wraps by Mathias Engelmann

Birds of prey recovering in indoor cages tend to ruin their tail feathers (called retrices). Sometimes this can be avoided by housing birds in isolated quiet areas of a rehabilitation facility, or by moving them into appropriate outdoor cages as soon as they are ready. If they have to be kept indoors, applying a protective tail cover may save a lot of time, money, and stress on the bird. Here are two methods - your imagination is the limit:

A. Use 2-3" wide gummed brown packaging tape, which will require moisture to become sticky. Cut several strips, each a little longer than twice the width of the tail. To estimate the proper length, push tail feathers together so that all shafts run parallel, without bending or damaging the feathers. Wet each strip of paper with water and fold it around the tail. Overlap successive strips. You may need to reinforce the entire wrap by including a tongue depressor of the proper length (not too long or it may touch and injure the tissue at the base of the tail feathers). Use one strip of paper twice the length of the tail to wrap the underside of the tail from the base to the tips, around the tip to the upper side and back to the base. To remove this wrap, soak or spray the wrap with warm water for about one minute, and it should slide off easily. NOTE: this method cannot be used if any tail feathers are actively growing.

B. Make a sleeve for the entire folded tail using thin cardboard or similar lightweight material. Slide the sleeve onto the tail and fasten it to some of the fluffy covert feathers at the base of the tail. Use masking tape and MAKE SURE the vent is not blocked, otherwise your bird will not be able to eliminate waste. If the bird is very active, it may have to be re-attached every few days.

Whatever method you use to protect tail feathers, don't damage the feathers and keep the materials as lightweight and unobtrusive as possible.

### **NOTICE TO REHABILITATORS**

Do you want to rehabilitate rabies vector species (RVS) legally in North Carolina? It could happen, but we desperately need your help. Maryland has recently legalized it, which leaves North Carolina as the only state in the Eastern Time zone in which rehabilitators cannot handle RVS. Laura Simon of the Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and Fund for Animals has been a key force in changing the laws in several states. She has agreed to help us do the same in NC, but we need a lot of help. We need letters from licensed rehabilitators stating that they would be willing to get pre-exposure rabies shots, comply with caging and quarantine requirements, and attend a training class to be specially authorized to handle RVS. In addition, we need letters from veterinarians stating that they think the current system is inappropriate and that there is an increased public health risk under the current system. Statistics on the numbers of RVS calls you (and/or your center) have handled this year and last year and the disposition of those calls, if known, are going to be vital. If you are willing to help, please email or phone Jean & Bob Chamberlain or Carla Johnson ASAP. We will be sending more information and a questionnaire to everybody that responds. We have to start now to have any chance of changing this rule by next spring. Thanks so much. Jean & Bob Chamberlain at (336) 922-9469 or [jean.chamberlain@mindspring.com](mailto:jean.chamberlain@mindspring.com) and Carla Johnson at (336) 765-0858 or [cmjohnso@wfubmc.edu](mailto:cmjohnso@wfubmc.edu)

#### **How to avoid imprinting raptors on humans by Mathias Engelmann**

Imprinting is a natural process that young raptors, and all birds for that matter, go through in order to learn who they are. Birds apparently not only imprint on their species, but also on the nest site and surrounding area. Young birds also learn certain skills by observing their parents.

Problems arise when humans are substituted for adult birds as their caretakers, and the young associate food with humans and begin to socialize with humans. Imprinted raptors can be aggressive towards humans and should not be released into the wild. Often human or inappropriate imprinting is irreversible.

#### **Take them back**

Ideally, all orphaned raptors received by a rehabilitator should be returned to their nest. This assumes the birds are not injured and the nest can be located. If the original nest cannot be located, consider using wild pairs as foster parents. With the help of biologists, bird watchers and students, wild nests can be located and monitored to determine the age of the young and, if conditions are right, whether more babies can be added to the nest. Adult birds cannot count and should accept the newcomer(s) as their own.

#### **Using foster parent in captivity**

Many non-releasable birds will accept or at least tolerate young birds introduced to them. Groups of young birds can be housed within a larger enclosure, to allow visual and audio contact, but prevent direct physical contact if the possibility of conflict exists. If the adult bird is an experienced foster parent, young birds can simply be added to the cage, and the adult will take over care of the bird. This eliminates much of the contact with humans. The goal is to provide them with as much "normal" contact as possible.

#### **Babies like to huddle**

Young raptors should never be housed by themselves for any length of time. Complete isolation and the lack of all social contact will do as much harm as improper contact. Young birds learn from older siblings. Transfer the bird to another rehabilitator, if needed.

*Continued on page 7*



*Continued from page 6*

**Human Contact is detrimental**

- Reduce and eliminate handling as much as possible
- Disguise yourself when handling birds
- Do not talk to the birds
- House young birds in a quiet area away from the daily activity of your center or rehabilitation area
- Use food hatches to deliver food and peepholes to observe

(This article has been modified from an earlier version printed in Raptor Rehabilitation, No. 3)

**Did You Know? By Mathias Engelmann**

Barn owls can nest year-round and may have two or even three clutches of eggs in a single year. Over the past 20 years, CRC has received orphaned Barn owls during every month of the

**ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

Researchers at Appalachian State University are investigating a curious behavior they have observed in ground squirrels, some chipmunks, and grasshopper mice. When these rodents come across snake odors (from shed skins or feces), they act like cats on catnip, anointing themselves feverishly with the odor. The researchers want to know what other rodents might exhibit this curious behavior. If you are rehabilitating or have non-releasable chipmunks, gray squirrels, red squirrels, or any other rodents, and wouldn't mind having them being filmed when presented with a snake skin or two, please contact Dr Matthew Rowe at ASU via phone at (828) 262-2676 or email at rowemp@appstate.edu

**If you have interesting cases, innovative techniques or any other tips you would like to share with the readers, please send us the information.**

**All submissions will be edited for clarity and contents, and suggested revisions will be sent to the author for approval prior to printing.**

**Important Phone numbers**

**USFWS Atlanta**

Permits	Carmen Simonton	(404) 679-7049
	Michelle Outlaw	(404) 679-7055
	Francis Randall	(404) 679-7051

**Necropsies (especially Endangered species)**

USFWS Health Lab	
Kathy	(608) 270-2445
Kim	(608) 270-2448

**To report violations**

Sandra Allred	(919) 856-4786
Ted Curtis	(828) 258-2084

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission**

Permits	Randy Wilson	(919) 773-2881 x313
To report violations		1-800-662-7137

**Disposition of Raptor and other bird carcasses**

NC Museum of Natural Sciences	John Gerwin	(919) 715-2600
Nat'l Eagle & Wildlife Repository	Dennis	(303) 287-2110 x228