

WRNC



Sharing information and knowledge for the benefit of native wildlife.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 31 March 2008

A symbol under attack

Why would anyone shoot an eagle? "Shooting a bird is not a harmless experience or a rite of passage," writes WRNC President Elizabeth Hanrahan, who was recently called to care for an injured Bald Eagle.
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Towering achievement

The board awards three grants of \$300 each to establish chimney swift towers in North Carolina. Mosquitoes, look out!
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Shining a spotlight on our members

Meet Mary Ellen Rogers of the Seabiscuit Wildlife Center in Oak Island, N.C.
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All things avian
Cornell University's Home Study Course in Avian Biology tells you everything there is to know about birds.
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Symposium roundup

WRNC's 6th annual symposium was held for the first time at the Centennial Plaza Education Center in Raleigh on Jan. 25–27. We had 146 participants, 60 of them for the first time. About 40 people participated in the beginner track workshops.

It was a full weekend with more than 20 presentations and eight workshops and a variety of other activities. We had several unique sessions: digital photography, creating backyard habitats and preparing study skins. Some sessions were offered for the first time at this symposium, including endangered species, triage, establishing a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and expanding education opportunities.

Popular sessions were carried over from previous symposiums, including a session



Photo by Jennifer Gordon

Dr. Lauren Powers discusses avian diseases

on how to provide enrichment for the birds and animals in our care. We had

some of the workshops that have become standard at our symposium — physical exams, administering sub-q fluids and performing necropsies. We also introduced workshops in photography and editing digital photos. We had a full track of sessions for the beginner rehabilitator covering mammal care, squirrels, opossums and cottontails, a course on fawns, ethical case studies and sessions for the avian rehabilitator, including avian diseases, trophic feeding categories, seabirds and avian medications.

A tour of the Museum of Natural Science also was part of the symposium.

Visit the homepage of our website for a link to many photos of the participants and activities.

*Jean Chamberlain
Symposium Committee*

Who would shoot an Eagle?

The following is a letter WRNC President Elizabeth Hanrahan sent to the editor of the Bertie (North Carolina) Ledger. Hanrahan was called away from the WRNC Symposium in Raleigh to care for an injured Bald Eagle. Two weeks after the letter was published, Hanrahan received a tip about who may have been responsible. The information was passed on to authorities.

Feb. 4, 2008

Dear Bertie Ledger Friends,

Our national symbol is under attack. On Jan. 25, 2008, I received, into wildlife rehabilitation, a third-year bald eagle with an old, open, wing fracture. The bird was transported to me by a "Good Samaritan" who found the eagle on Sutton Road in Bertie County. A quick exam indicated that the bird may have been shot. The condition of the bird and the wound indicated that the bird had suffered for three to five days.

The eagle was immediately transferred to the Carolina Raptor Center in Charlotte and euthanized. Radiographs indicated that the bird had been shot; 5 shotgun pellets were lodged throughout the bird.

Because the bird was found to be shot, I was required to report the case and findings of the Carolina Raptor Center [staff] to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. All non-game birds are protected under state and federal law, as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act between the U.S., Canada, Mexico and South America. Killing a non-game bird without special permit is a federal offense.



Hanrahan provides gavage fluids to the Eagle.



The radiograph clearly shows the old fracture as well as shotgun pellets lodged throughout the bird's body.

The overwhelming question is "Why would anyone shoot an eagle?" Is it for sport, hunting, or simple meanness? Safe and appropriate firearm use is the responsibility of gun owners. Shooting a bird is not a harmless experience or a rite of passage; there are consequences, and the person who pulls the trigger needs to be taught and be mindful of these outcomes. Our beautiful national symbol and one of God's creatures, was needlessly killed not for game and not for the family table, but simply shot and left to die.

The only positive outcome of this needless shooting of this bald eagle is that the body will be sent to the National Eagle Repository for ceremonial use by native American Indians.

Please exercise the responsibilities of gun ownership and the responsibilities of stewardship of God's creatures, God's world, and the symbol of our nation.

Kindly,

*Elizabeth L. Hanrahan
Wildlife Rehabilitator
State & Federal Permits*

In the spotlight

Name: Mary Ellen Rogers

Organization: Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter
638 E. Beach Drive
Oak Island, N.C.

Q. *How did you get started in rehabbing?*

A. As a recent arrival from South Carolina in 2005, it was brought to my attention that there was no entity caring for the local shorebirds that get hooked or netted or otherwise injured or orphaned.

Q. *How long have you been rehabbing?*

A. I have volunteered at different facilities doing day-to-day routine chores since 1994. I got my state permit in 2006 and federal permit in 2007.

Q. *Who was your mentor or who is someone you admire?*

A. Linda Flanagan, who I worked with at the Birds of Prey Center in Awendaw, S.C. in the early 90's

Q. *What animals do you work with?*

A. Shorebirds, songbirds, raptors.

Q. *What type of set-up do you have?*

A. My small beach house was converted to a wildlife clinic downstairs while the upstairs remains my home. The backyard now holds two large wooden and plastic netted enclosures. The small one is 8 x 16 and is 8 feet high. It holds songbirds and gulls or birds needing a lot of privacy. The large enclosure is 12 x 30 and is 12 feet high to allow rehab animals to flight train and even hunt their own food prior to release. The Shelter is not open to the public in order to safeguard the animals from unnecessary disturbance and noise.

Q. *Any pets?*

A. No.

Q. *Any non-animal family members?*

A. Three grown children, five grandchildren.

Q. *What are your hobbies?*

A. I enjoy running a couple of miles every other day to stay in shape. I paint when I get time. I did a picture of a pelican and her chicks last year.



Q.

If you're employed, what type of "day job" do you have?

A. I have a part-time job in a department store to help support my wildlife habit.

Q. *Tell us about an accomplishment of which you're proud.*

A. I am very proud to have worked at the S.C. Aquarium in Charleston and designed the volunteer program there. I also started the Island Turtle Team on Sullivans Island and Isle of Palms in the mid-90s, and I am proud of its superior sea turtle nest protection activities.

Q. *If you could have dinner with one person alive or no longer living, who would it be?*

A. At my fantasy dinner, I'd dine with Georgia O'Keef, the artist, Rod Stewart, the rock star and Jacques Cousteau, the oceanographer. When I finally retire, I want to be an artist.

Q. *What do you like about being a part of WRNC?*

A. The information sharing is wonderful. The dedication is apparent, and I haven't met anyone self serving yet.

Blog: <http://seabiscuitshelter.blogspot.com>



Photo by Brenda Hiles

STUDYING AT HOME

Last March, the Cornell University home study course for bird lovers landed on my doorstep.

The Handbook of Bird Biology weighs 10 pounds, has 1,000 pages, 10 chapters, a CD of bird songs and tests for each chapter. It costs \$300.

www.birds.cornell.edu/homestudy.com

For the next seven months I carried the book with me nearly every place I went. I marveled over the diagrams; I accosted near-strangers with bird facts (Hey, do you know what makes a blue jay blue?) I sweated over the tests, trying to remember the respiratory system of birds and the names of various parts of their anatomy. And every time I looked out the windows in my sunroom to see a cardinal at the feeder or a broad-winged hawk circling overhead, I saw them with new eyes.

The avian home study course was the idea of Olin Sewall Pettingill, who was director of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology from 1960 to 1973. The idea was to make ornithology accessible to nonprofessionals: students, homemakers, accountants, anyone who had ever looked at a bird and wondered about its identity.

Pettingill's idea wasn't particularly startling: Ornithologists have long relied on citizens to supplement their knowledge of bird populations and migration.

"It's part of a 150-year-old tradition," said Rick Bonney, director of program development and

Do you know.....

- Why birds evolved with their feet located back on their body?
- Why fledglings leave the nest before they can fly well?
- Why most birds are monogamous?
- Why migrating hawks are often seen along the shores of lakes?

evaluation for the Ornithology Lab. "There's no other way to get information about bird populations."

Since 1999, about 800 students have completed the course. Figures before that date are unreliable, Cornell officials say.

Studying birds is an easy way of studying the environment, Bonney says.

"People say they're not bird watchers, that they can name only three kinds of birds," he says. You can usually get them to name at least 10 birds they can identify. Then they realize it's really fun looking at birds."

Ornithologists and wildlife rehabbers hold different views of birds. Ornithologists look at populations. Rehabbers look at the injured bird in front of them.

"Some (ornithologists) look at rehab and say, why go to all that trouble for one bird when it won't affect populations," Bonney says.

Bonney himself subscribed to that view until he found a nest of orphaned swallows. He drove 10 miles to put them in another nest.

"It's hard not to do anything," he says. "There's something inhuman about not trying to help."

Rehabbers may not affect bird populations, but what they do have is a chance to educate the public. And those teachable moments – when a child comes in with an injured wren – can have a huge impact on both humans and birds.

Brenda Hiles

TRAINING

Basics of Wildlife Rehabilitation: Prepare for entry level and intern positions in nature centers, wildlife centers and animal sanctuaries and meet the requirement for specific training for the NC State Wildlife Permit. Students must be 16. 48 hours. Fee: \$60. **Coastal Carolina Community College.** 6 to 9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, March 10 to April 30. For more information: www.coastal.cc.nc.us , or call 910-938-6294

Advanced Wildlife Rehabilitation: Prepare for advanced level intern positions and staff positions in nature centers, wildlife centers and animal sanctuaries and work toward the 100-hour requirement to apply for the Federal Migratory Bird Permit. Students must be 16. Prerequisite: Basics of Wildlife Rehabilitation. 66 hours. Fee: \$60. **Coastal Carolina Community College.** 6 to 9 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, May 5 to July 21. For more information: www.coastal.cc.nc.us , or call 910-938-6294

Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Course: Provides basic training to those who would like to become a licensed NC Wildlife Rehabilitator. Course includes introduction to wildlife rehabilitation, laws, code of ethics, feeding, nutrition, wound management and bandaging. **Albemarle-Edenton/Chowan County.** 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays, March 27-May 1. For more information, call College of the Albermarle, Edenton/Chowan County at 252-482-7900

Husbandry and Training for Captive Raptors: Topics include routine health care, operant conditioning and training, basic handling techniques, enrichment, working with volunteers and education programming. April 26-27. Carolina Raptor Center. For more information, contact Alli Rogers, arogers@carolinaraptorcenter.org, 704-875-6521, Ext. 211.



Ask WRNC

Q: What can rehabilitators who work with songbirds do to make sure the young birds learn the appropriate songs so they can mate and defend their territory?

A: *According to a research paper by Melissa B. Dolinsky, "Missing A Crucial Step," songbirds learn to sing their species specific songs in the first 60 days of life. It is recommended that recordings of the species' song be played OR adult males of the same species be used as "tutors" for young birds in rehab care. Please read Dolinsky's paper to learn more. It can be found online at <http://www.starlingtalk.com/BirdSong.htm>*

Send your questions to Beth Knapp-Tyner at WildatHeartRehab@aol.com

Test your diagnostic skills

You have a litter of 8-week old opossums that weigh 55 grams a piece and have their eyes open. The opossums came into your care about two weeks ago. They were thriving and gaining weight nicely for the first week. On the eighth day, several developed soft, sticky, lighter yellow stools. You have been tube feeding them between 3 cc's to 6 cc's every four hours throughout the day.

One opossum died on the ninth day. Two of the opossums developed forceful diarrhea on Day 10. All the other opossums are depressed and look "sick."



Photo by Elizabeth Hanrahan

Questions to consider:

- What has happened to the baby opossums?
- What is the FIRST thing you need to do?
- What is your treatment plan?

Answer on Page 9



Board members

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About Us

This is a quarterly newsletter produced by Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC). WRNC was organized in 1999 with a mission to share information and knowledge about wildlife rehabilitation.

The opinions, techniques and recommendations expressed in the articles of this newsletter are those of the authors and do not imply endorsement by WRNC.

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Beginner Basics

Using a little restraint

By Jean Chamberlain



Photo by Jean Chamberlain

It's hard to restrain adult wildlife.

Rehabilitators often need to restrain adult wildlife to examine them or treat them. It can be a challenge, especially for beginners, to do this safely, for both the rehabilitator and the animal. The animal will most likely try to escape or fight the restraint. You may need to cover and then wrap the animal in a towel or blanket to gain control. Wear adequate gloves to avoid being bitten.

Try to keep the stress on the animal to a minimum. Some good practices are to have all equipment ready before starting — gloves, towels, light, etc. — and to eliminate noise and talking as much as possible. Also, cover the surface on which the animal is placed with a cloth or towel because it may be cold or slippery.

For a beginner, it is necessary to have at least two people. One holds while the other does

the examination. Cover the animal's head. It is less stressful on the animal, and it is harder for them to bite what they can't see.

It is important to understand the behavior of the species to handle them safely. Don't underestimate how hard a squirrel can bite. Rodents have powerful jaws and can even bite through welders gloves. One helpful technique is to let them bite a dowel or to withdraw your fingertips and let them bite on the tips of the gloves.

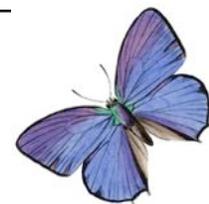
You can hold animals like opossums behind the head and by the base of the tail.

With cottontails, it is vital to prevent them from jumping. Support their hind legs. They can fracture their spine by trying to jump out of your hand or off a table.

The handler's confidence is important in controlling the animal. Practice with someone who is experienced to learn good technique and gain confidence.

Join us online!

WRNC has set up a listgroup on Yahoo! for members to share information, ask questions, network and get to know each other. To join, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WRNC/> or send an email to: WRNC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



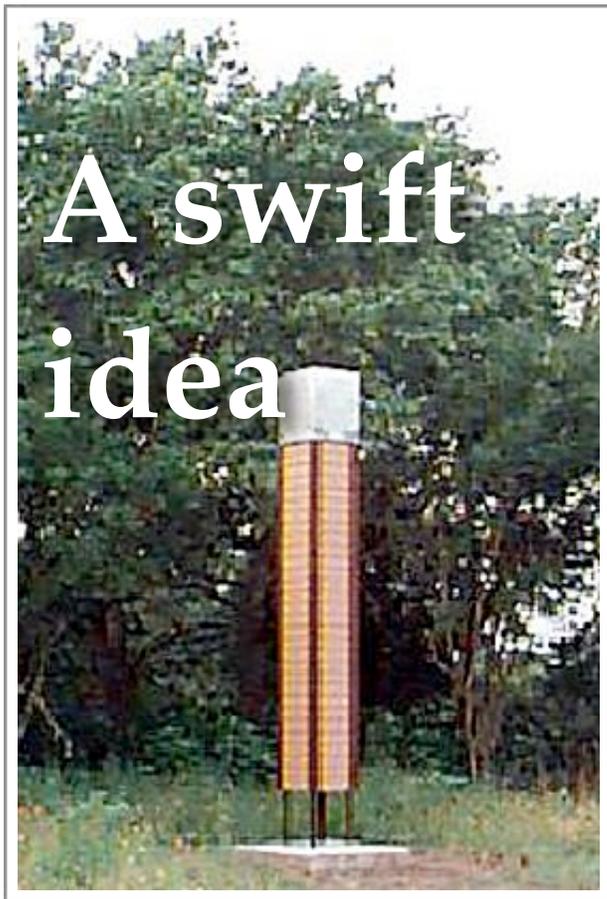
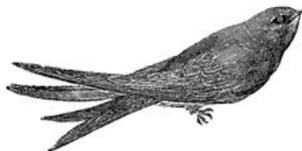


Photo submitted

During the 2008 Symposium WRNC Board Meeting, 14 Chimney Swift Tower Grant applications were reviewed and votes taken. Although all requests were educated, compassionate, keenly competitive and motivated, which rendered the selection process an arduous task, only three grants could be awarded.



After giving each application full consideration, the following selections were made:

- Patrick Crile, Central Piedmont Community College, Levine Site, Charlotte, N.C.
- Louie and Jackie Hough, Raft Swamp (Organic) Farms, Raeford, N.C.
- Trish Slape, Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter, Newport, N.C.

Congratulations to the selectees! Their awards of \$300 each and copies of "Chimney Swift Towers, New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds," are on the way. Now the real work begins!

WRNC thanks all the proactive naturalists who took the time and effort to submit a Chimney Swift Tower Grant application and considers them all "winners" because each recognized a need and benefit to wildlife and the communities they support. We encourage those not selected to persevere and see their Chimney Swift Tower projects through any way they can. They are also welcome to reapply for a tower grant any time throughout the year for consideration during WRNC Symposium 2009 in January.

North Carolina mosquitoes – WATCH OUT!!! Chimney Swift crews will be patrolling the skies where you live, very, very soon.

*Linda Bergman
WRNC Board Member and
Chimney Swift Tower Grant Coordinator*

Missing watch

A wrist watch was lost during a necropsy lab at the symposium. If you saw the watch, please send an e-mail to Linda Benner at Bennerclan2@aol.com. The watch has sentimental value.

Pearls of Wisdom

When building an aviary, keep in mind “zinc poisoning” or “new wire disease.” If using galvanized wire, it must be old and weathered, or it should be scrubbed with a bristle brush and vinegar and then rinsed. It should be high-quality wire, with no obvious drips of galvanized zinc. I've seen quite a few cockatiels with zinc poisoning from climbing on new, low quality hardware cloth.

– Dr. Lauren Powers

Do you have a tip that makes your job easier? Send your favorites to Toni O'Neil at oneil9734@yahoo.com

Festival for Wildlife

The Piedmont Wildlife Center's Festival for Wildlife is Saturday, May 3, at Leigh Farm Park in Durham. The festival includes live music, food, games, educational tours and talks.

The center also is looking for volunteers to help organize the event. Volunteers are needed to make phone calls, prepare trails and coordinate activities.

If you'd like to help, send an e-mail to bobby@piedmontwildlifecenter.org or al@piedmontwildlifecenter.org

Diagnostic skills: Were you right?

Discussion Points:

1. The little opossums have been overfed. Opossums with their eyes open should be fed 4 times per day. They should be encouraged to lap when they reach a weight of 50 grams. Overfeeding will result in diarrhea. It is better to underfeed than to overfeed. Overfeeding can occur when juveniles are fed too much or too frequently. Ideally, they should have time to digest most of their previous meal before being fed again. Sticky, soft, light yellow stools are a good indicator of overfeeding. Accurate determination of stomach capacity is critical when tube feeding any animal.
2. The first thing to do is to eliminate the formula and give the opossums a rehydrating solution such as Lactated Ringers Solution.
3. Discontinue the tube feeding and rehydrate. When stools return to normal, introduce a dilute (50-50) formula of milk replacer and water. Work up to milk replacer over three to four days. Encourage the opossums to begin eating on their own.

Code of Ethics

1. *A wildlife rehabilitator should strive to achieve high standards of animal care through knowledge and an understanding of the field. Continuing efforts must be made to keep informed of current rehabilitation information, methods, and regulations.*
2. *A rehabilitator's attitude should be responsible, conscientious, and dedicated: continuously working toward improving the quality of care given to wild animals undergoing rehabilitation.*
3. *A rehabilitator must abide by local, state, and federal laws concerning wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation.*
4. *A rehabilitator should establish good and safe work habits and conditions, abiding by current health and safety practices at all times.*
5. *Rehabilitators should acknowledge their limitations and enlist the assistance of a veterinarian when appropriate.*
6. *As a means of preventing further wildlife loss and abuse, a rehabilitator should encourage community support and involvement through volunteer training and public education.*
7. *Rehabilitators should respect other rehabilitators, sharing skills and knowledge with each other, and working toward a common goal: a responsible concern for living beings and the welfare of the environment.*
8. *A rehabilitator should work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics and an attitude of stewardship.*
9. *A rehabilitator should acknowledge that a non-releasable animal, inappropriate for education, foster-parenting or captive breeding, has a right to euthanasia.*
10. *A rehabilitator should strive to maintain all animals in a wild condition and release them as soon as appropriate.*
11. *A wildlife rehabilitator should conduct all business and activities in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, compassion, and commitment, realizing that an individual's conduct reflects on the entire field of wildlife rehabilitation.*

Deciding right from wrong

*By Elizabeth Hanarahan
WRNC president*

The concept of ethics is always, or can become, a personal matter. Personal ethics, as well as ethics in wildlife rehabilitation, are often based on partial or dissimilar goods. Is it good to try one more round of meds or provide the animal with a good death? Should we treat house finch conjunctivitis or release a non-symptomatic bird to possible spread it to other house finches and other finch populations? Set it free to live and reproduce in the wild?

The National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council joined together and developed a Wildlife Rehabilitator's Code of Ethics. This document provides a template, or starting point, for self evaluation of our conduct. Not everyone will agree in all situations. It is safe to disagree. Sharing experiences allows us the luxury of learning from others' successes and mistakes. Developing the habit of thinking our way through crises prevents emotional reactions and allows for true and ethical action. Talking about experiences with different audiences allows us to evaluate our choices and actions. Listening carefully to other wildlife rehabilitators and non-rehabilitators can give us an intellectual benchmark to prepare for the future.

Ethics has been defined as:

1. A system of moral principles. (Stein and Su 1978)
2. A principle of right or good conduct. (Morris 1971)
3. Rules or standards governing the conduct of the members of a profession. (Morris 1971)
4. The set of principles that governs people's views of right and wrong, good and bad, fair and unfair, just and unjust. (Rollin 1999)

Ethics are not static. They change as we grow as individuals, learn, and as the profession of wildlife rehabilitation changes. They change as society changes.

When we rehabilitate wildlife we need to take a look at the reasons. Did we become involved because of humane reasons; to save every living thing? After all, most animals admitted into wildlife rehabilitation are the negative result of human intervention. Were our interests related to environmental issues? Loss of habitat has impacted many species of wildlife. Did we choose to

use wildlife rehabilitation as a tool for environmental education or to educate each person who brings an animal for treatment, or to educate ourselves and volunteers with each new case seen? Have we chosen wildlife rehabilitation as a scientific tool to get and give information about the biology, ecology and bio-medical needs of the animals we work with? Or, did we choose a career in wildlife rehabilitation for egotistical reasons; to shine in the reflective glory of our own self-image?

These are all ethical issues that the wildlife rehabilitator should examine.

❖ When looking at the reasons we rehabilitate wildlife, we need to focus on the ethics of those for whom we advocate. We have certain obligations that go with the decisions we make. These include obligations to:



- ❖ The finder who entrusted the animal to us,
- ❖ Our peers as a reflection of the profession of wildlife rehabilitation,
- ❖ Society's expectations that we will care for the animal,
- ❖ Wildlife populations in general or specific wildlife populations,
- ❖ The animals, because we are responsible for their care,
- ❖ Ourselves, because we have to live with the decisions we make,

As we go about our work, we need to keep the code of ethics in mind and remember the mission of wildlife rehabilitation: *The treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced indigenous wildlife and the subsequent release of healthy animals into appropriate habitats.*

Case 1

The wildlife rehabilitator just received his state permit. He establishes a rehabilitation center in his home to care for mammals and begins working with a federally licensed rehabilitator to get his federal permit.

Six months after opening his wildlife rehabilitation center, in the middle of the fall baby squirrel season, he is notified by the local zoning board he is in violation of local ordinances. He can not have "wild animals" or a "home business" in the neighborhood.

- ❖ Which code(s) might apply.
- ❖ How can this be resolved?
- ❖ Other questions/issues?

Case 2

The wildlife rehabilitator receives an injured blue jay. No fracture is felt on palpation. She suspects the jay has a dislocation at the scapula and humerus. She attempts to reset and splint the joint. After several weeks in wildlife rehabilitation the injury has not healed and the animal is nonreleasable.



- ❖ Which code(s) might apply.
- ❖ How can this be resolved?
- ❖ Other questions/issues?

Send your answers to the ethics cases to: bhiles919@earthlink.net by May. 12. Put "ethics" in the subject line. The best answers will be printed in the next newsletter.

New board members

Elaine Corvidae

Corvidae joined Carolina Raptor Center as a rehabilitation volunteer in 1996. After putting in over 900 hours of volunteer time, she was hired to the staff of Carolina Raptor Center as a Rehabilitation Assistant. Corvidae received her bachelor's of science in biology from UNC-Charlotte and completed her undergraduate honors research on the hunting ability of one-eyed Eastern Screech Owls. She received her master's of science degree at UNC-Charlotte in 2005 with a study comparing the wing musculature of Ospreys, Red-tailed Hawks and Coopers Hawks. Corvidae is also a published author and is working on her 12th novel.



Laurel Degernes, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ABVP

Laurel Degernes is an associate professor of avian medicine and epidemiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University. She also is a veterinary adviser to Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Center. Dr. Degernes began her animal health career in 1981 as a mixed animal veterinary associate in a private practice. She has worked exclusively with birds since 1985, starting with five years at a raptor rehabilitation center at the University of Minnesota. Since 1990, she has taught and practiced avian medicine at North Carolina State University. Although she enjoys working with all species of birds, Dr. Degernes has a special interest in wild avian medicine, particularly raptors and waterfowl. Her research interests include wildlife epidemiology and avian critical care topics. Dr. Degernes has published more 80 papers and book chapters on topics in wildlife epidemiology, avian critical care medicine, orthopedic surgery and toxicology. She has also presented more than 85 scientific and continuing education presentations to state, national, and international audiences.



Lauren Powers, DVM, Dipl. ABVP (Avian)

Dr. Powers graduated from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1994 and completed a two-year residency in avian medicine and surgery at North Carolina State University in 1997, becoming board-certified in avian medicine later that year. She recertified in avian medicine in 2006. She is a member of the Association of Avian Vets, the Association of Exotic Mammal Vets, the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Vets, and the American Association of Zoo Vets, among others. She is a regular speaker at national and local veterinary conferences and has written many scientific articles in journals, magazines, and books. She is service head for the Avian & Exotic Pet Service at Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Huntersville, NC.



Shannon Westbrook



Westbrook is a Lead Child Support Enforcement Agent on the Performance, Monitoring, and Improvement Team for the State of North Carolina. She has a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in management from the UNC-Pembroke. Westbrook has been rehabilitating small mammals for two years, and particularly loves working with squirrels and cottontails. She lives in Fayetteville and works closely with Second Chance Wildlife Rescue, where she benefits from the knowledge and expertise of experienced rehabilitators. Shannon believes a good state-wide mentoring system is vital for recruiting and maintaining new wildlife rehabilitators.

Board news

WRNC Board met Jan. 27 and Feb. 17. Board minutes are available at:

<http://ncwildliferehab.org/admin/board-meeting-minutes/BOD-meeting-012708.pdf>

Issues discussed by the board include:

● Rabies-Vector Species

Proposal – The proposal to allow rehabilitators to accept rabies-vector species animals is on hold until a new commissioner is named to the Wildlife Resources Commission. The committee has put together a program outline and a teaching mechanism is in place.

● **Disaster Fund** – Money has been set aside for discretionary financial aid, but fortunately has not been needed to date because there were no natural disasters in North Carolina last year.

● **Federal Bird Permits** – The Training Sessions Committee has been renamed the Education and Training Classes Committee. Alicia Caulfield and Jennifer Gordon have been reassigned from the Federal Bird Permit Committee to the new committee.

● **Vet Student Liaison Position:** Jenessa Gjeltema and Austin Duncan will serve as liaisons to veterinary students at N.C. State.

*Respectfully submitted,
Toni O'Neil, Secretary
Feb. 10, 2008*

Briefly noted

Changes to hunting regulations

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has approved 83 changes to state hunting, fishing and trapping laws.

The Wildlife Commission holds hearings on proposed changes to the law every January. They vote in March.

The Commission rejected three proposed regulations: moving Cleveland and Rutherford counties into the Northwestern deer season; allowing falconry on Sundays; and reducing the buck bag limit in the Eastern Deer Season from four to two.

Hunting laws are of particular interest to rehabilitators who may see animals shot out of season.

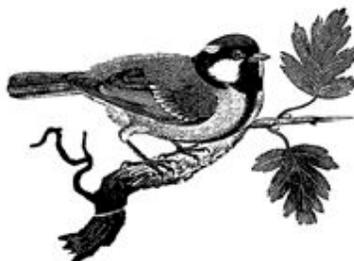
The full text of changes to regulations is available on the WRC website: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/>

Volunteer opportunities

The Wildlife Resources Commission needs volunteers for several projects across the state:

- monitor frog and toad populations through the North Carolina Calling Amphibian Survey Program (<http://www.ncparc.org/casp/casp.htm>);
- survey songbird populations by joining the [Breeding Bird Survey](#);
- [monitor sea turtle nesting and stranding](#) along the coast; report reptile and amphibian observations;
- monitor bog turtle, peregrine falcon, green salamanders in the mountains.

For more information on these opportunities, go to: <http://www.ncwildlife.org>



WRNC T-Shirts Hot Tickets!

T-Shirt sales sizzled at the 2008 WRNC Symposium in Raleigh in January, and some attendees asked how to order T-shirts later when they had more money or when gift time rolls around.

The attractive steel-green WRNC T-shirt, with Wanda Burton's award winning design, may be purchased for \$15 each – the sale price of \$12 plus \$3 for shipping.

Please print your name, shipping address, size desired (S, M, L, XL or XXL) and send your payment to:

% WRNC T-Shirt
Linda Bergman
130 Aldersgate Road
Jacksonville, NC 28546

You can expect your T-shirts within 3-4 days after receipt of payment. Hope to see you and your WRNC T-Shirt somewhere soon!



Photo by
Linda Bergman



A Meadowlark Sanctuary in Greensboro

The Piedmont Land Conservancy is creating a Meadowlark Sanctuary at Price Park in Greensboro. The area, near the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, also will be used to reintroduce other grassland animals and plants.

The Eastern Meadowlark population has declined steadily during the past 50 years, largely due to changes in farming that have destroyed its habitat.

Several groups are involved in making the sanctuary a reality, including the Carolina Butterfly Society; the National Audubon Society; T. Gilbert Pearson Chapter; The NC Native Plant Society; and the Piedmont Bird Club. Emily Nekl, a professor at High Point University, will be rearing plants in the university greenhouse for the site.

Member's Corner

Each morning I put out at my bird feeder, besides bird seed, a few pieces of suet or chicken for the crows. There are four crows that think it's their duty to patrol the area and run off the red-shouldered hawks that have babies in my front yard every year. These are the same hawks that were grateful last year when I cut a dead squirrel in half so they could carry it back to the two babies awaiting lunch last year.

On a Saturday morning after I put out the meat, I walked to the creek to throw out corn for the ducks. The crows were sitting in the trees awaiting, and as I walked back to the house I noticed two hawks sitting in a tree. I assumed they were watching the birds, and naturally, I had to stand a second and talk to them. They sat and watched me. They're not skittish. I went inside and watched from the window. Within a few seconds, one hawk flew to the bowl of suet and chicken and picked up a piece. Then the other flew in and grabbed the bowl in his talons and flew across the creek, dropping meat along the way.

Now don't ya know when he got to the other side and put the bowl down, he said: "DRAT!- where the heck is all the food I saw in this thing a second ago!"

I learned my lesson. Now I put food out without a bowl.

— Karen Brown

Have a story you'd like to share?
Send it to: bhiles919@earthlink.net.
Put member's corner in the subject line.



Photo by Jean Chamberlain

Enrichment tips

To provide enrichment for mammals such as opossums, bury carrots partially in the ground. It encourages them to forage for their food, as they do in the wild, and it will make life more interesting while they're being rehabilitated.

Need money for a cage?

Apply here

One of the advantages of being a member of WRNC is the opportunity to apply for a WRNC grant to build a new pre-release cage or for needed repairs to an existing cage. Please look for details on the WRNC web site along with the application form and directions. Take advantage of your membership! Two \$300 grants are available for 2008.

Thank you

About 145 items were donated for the raffle. With about 150 people in attendance, odds of winning were good. The raffle raised \$600 this year. The money will go into the Cage Grant Fund.

Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary

1 iron turtle box for garden; 2 iron eagle ground sundials; 2 iron frog ground sundials; 1 resin "Home Sweet Home" wall ornament

Lone Star Safety & Supply

(donation made in honor of Mr. James Coale); 11 pairs Blue Beast welding gloves; 11 pairs Kodiak welding gloves

Steiner Industries

1 pair standard foam-lined welding gloves; 1 pair 18" cuff foam-lined welding gloves; 1 pair 23" cuff foam-lined welding gloves; 5 catalogs for displaying with gloves

Lab Safety Supply, Inc.

1 pair welding gloves #135891L (two tone); 1 pair welding gloves #39167; 1 pair welding gloves #39170

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

2 Complimentary Gold Cards (free meal coupons)

Grubco

5 Coupons for 1,000 Mealworms (each) (value \$125 total)

Mike DuPuy Hawk Food

1 coupon for free half-case (400) Frozen Day Old Cockerels (value \$110); business cards

Nature's Way

3 gift certificates for 5,000 mealworms and free shipping (each); Rehabilitators 2008 Brochures

Outdoor Bird Co.

1 wood hanging fly-through bird feeder (value \$69.95); business cards

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Wildlife Rehabilitation (symposium proceedings); 2 copies of Vol. 2, 1983; 2 copies of Vol. 5, 1986; 2 copies of Vol. 7, 1988; 2 copies of Vol. 8, 1990; 2 copies of Vol. 9, 1991 2 packets of NWRA notecards; 1 Wild Again tape (audio); 1 Wild Again cassette DVD; 1 Wild Again cassette tape; 1 copy of NWRA Principles; 1 copy of Topics in Wildlife Medicine, Emergency and Critical Care, Vol. 2

Rosalind Porter

1 grapevine handle basket with painting, china figurines, ironwood carving; brass crane doorknocker; pewter book mark; 1 basket with brass deer; antique iron squirrel; bird plate; china figurines; decorated chickadee birdhouse; 1 grapevine wreath with fluffy baby birds

Fox Valley Animal Nutrition, Inc.

One Snuggle Safe warmer; 2 1-lb. packages of 25/30 formula (opossum 45 gms. to weaning); 2 1-lb. packages of 20/50 formula (squirrels 3 weeks and older); 2 packages of Day One LA 200 (lactobacillus acidophilus); 2 packages of Day One Electro Stat (electrolytes); 2 packages of Day One Dia Stat (normalize stool consistency); 3 1-lb. packages of 32/40 formula (rabbit, squirrel, opossum neonates); 3 1-lb. packages of 40/25 formula (raccoons); product brochures for distributing to attendees

Elizabeth Hanrahan

3-4 day Weekend Get Away at her vacation home in Ocracoke, N.C. At Jackson Dunes through Blue Heron Realty Co.

Carolina Raptor Center

1 framed picture of Great Horned Owl

Carolina Waterfowl Rescue

2 canisters of baby bird diet; 2 sets of loon salt and pepper shakers

Maria and Luis Luques

7 hand towels; 2 hand mixers for formula; 4 sets of prints, unframed; 1 set of prints, framed; Avon Products: decorated baskets; 1 bubble bath; 2 sets bubble bath and lotion; 1 cologne set; 1 night shirt; 1 pair of house shoes; 1 FootWork with house shoes

Mazuri Feed Solutions, Land O'Lakes Purina Feed

2 gift certificates



Photo by Jennifer Gordon



Photo by Jennifer Gordon

All About Pets store

3 small cages (9X6 in) called: "take me home."

Osprey Inc.

1 Frog Log (www.froglog.us)

National Humane Society

A Save-the-Seals pack with plush seals, T-shirts, calendars, magnets, stickers and notebooks.

Kay Raade

Café Press store items: 1 wild rehab owl tile coaster \$7.50; 1 songbird rehab mug, \$13.99; 1 wildlife rehab mug, \$13.99; 1 license plate frame, \$12.99; 2 wildlife rehab bumper stickers \$7.98; Shipping charges, \$9; total value, \$60.45

Squirrel Store - Michelle (Misty) Wiedow

8 \$25-gift certificates; supplies list and price list; magnets

Doctors Foster and Smith

1 \$25-gift certificate; **\$5 off and catalog for all attendees who place an order.** Call Janine Fuchs, executive administrative assistant, (715) 369-3305

Chris's Squirrels and More, LLC

2 \$35-gift certificates; 2 squirrel tote bags; total value: \$119

Rescue Pet Store

1 Pet Couch, \$34.95; 1 Red Barn Combo Feeder, \$18.95; 1 Deluxe Suet Cage; \$ 8.95; 1 Suet Never Melt Peanut, \$1.75; 1 Suet Never Melt Berry, \$1.75; 1 Suet Never Melt Insect \$1.75; total value: \$68.10

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

Brochures to distribute to the attendees; 1 lanyard; 1 canvas tote bag; 1 Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation 1AB Notebook; 3 Journals of Wildlife Rehabilitation: Vol. 28, 1, 2, and 3

Starbucks at 3800 Lake Boone Trail, Raleigh

Coffee for the entire weekend; 5-gallon urn both days; creamer; sweeteners; stirrers; 100 cups each day; extra coffee grinds.

Backyard Wild

2 Doo Darlings; 4 pewter pins; 1 sundial; 1 bird picture; 1 hat; 2 bottles "Feeder Fresh;" 2 large candles; 1 door knocker; 1 rain gauge

Kathy Lillard

3 CDs; 1 water globe; 1 squirrel ornament; 1 clock radio; 1 set of his and her watches; 1 T-shirt; 1 floating candle glass bowl; 1-(4pc) mind teaser puzzle

Jim and Pat Isaacs

4 framed raccoon pictures; 1 ARC calendar

Carol Kaczmarek

2 T-shirts; 1 NWF Backpack; 2 bird tiles; 1 Beanie Baby

Karen Brown

4 hand-made wooden bird houses and directions

Carrie and Bob Kiger

1 small wire mammal cage; 1 roll fleece; 3 lbs. pecans

Anna's Variety-Exotic Bird Breeder Supplies

1 large bird cage; 1 water bottle and food dish; 1 pet carrier; 1 bulb for reptiles; 1 stuffed animal

Linda Bergman and John Althouse

1 large framed photograph of a deer; 1 large gift basket

This newsletter is your tool for reaching everyone in WRNC. Submit comments, corrections and announcements to editor Brenda Hiles at bhiles919@earthlink.net, or by phone at 336-420-5581. The next editorial deadline is May 12.

About the newsletter: We have a new look. This edition of the newsletter was put together on an iMac using the Pages software program. If you have any problems accessing the newsletter, please contact Brenda Hiles.



Photos by Jennifer Gordon

Becky Desjardins displays an Albatross at the Museum of Natural Science.

A lesson in preservation

I attended a very unique session at the symposium. Becky Desjardins demonstrated the technique of preparing a study skin. She used a grackle (deceased). She proficiently removed the inner soft tissue from the bird, leaving the bones and skin. The bird was then stuffed with cotton to preserve its natural form. The whole procedure was done in about an hour. This is the technique, related to taxidermy, that staff at the Museum of Natural Science has used to prepare more than 20,000 specimens for education and study. I learned that several of our members provide salvage specimens of birds to the museum.

Earlier on Saturday I went on the behind-the-scenes tour of the museum. I saw the area where the study skins are prepared and the collection area where the specimens are stored. The study skin session and the tour gave me a glimpse into the museum's role in the search for knowledge about wildlife.



Jean Chamberlain

Creature Feature: Chuck-will's widow – *Caprimulgus carolinensis*

Adults

Description: Chuck-will's widows, at 12 inches, are the largest nightjars found in the United States. They are mottled buff-brown overall, have a buff-brown throat and white "necklace" above a dark breast. The tail is long and rounded. Feathers are soft and easily damaged. The mouth is covered with insect-trapping bristles and opens to 2 inches in silent flight. The male's tail has white outer rectrices with buff tips. This shy species will usually "flush" when disturbed.

Weight Range: 120 grams

Range: Common. It breeds in much of North Carolina, except the mountains, and west to central Texas.

Natural History: Chuck-will's widows breed in deciduous forests, pine-oak and live-oak woodlands.

No nest is built; eggs are laid on leaves or pine needles on open ground under trees. Chuck-will's widows are nocturnal. It usually roosts in the same place each day, perching motionless on the ground or lengthwise on a branch.

Adult Diet: Chuck-will's widows are insectivores, with 100 percent of their diet coming from insects, including moths. During migration, they occasionally eat small birds, swallowed whole. In wildlife rehabilitation, they may be fed gut loaded mealworms, waxworms or crickets supplemented with avian vitamin/minerals. Rehabilitators should also provide powdered oyster shell or cuttlebone scrapings. They must be fed every 60 minutes for several hours each morning and evening while in rehabilitation. These birds will eat the equivalent of 100 mealworms per day.

Nestlings: Semi-precocial with long, soft, tawny-brown down. The down is brown on the back and yellow-buff on the head and underside; paler on the throat and belly. The bill and gape are gray. Their eyes are open at hatching but kept half shut during the day. They are active and take short hops soon after hatching. They are cared for by the female and can fly by Day 17 post hatch.

Fledglings: They hop around nesting areas soon after hatching. Juvenile plumage emerges. They continue to be fed by a parent and must be hand fed in rehabilitation. They should be given opportunities to develop insect/food catching skills.

Juveniles: Chuck-will's widow juveniles can fly 50 to 150 feet by Day 17. Flight skills are quickly perfected.



Juveniles begin to learn to catch insects "on the wing," but, are supplemented by the parent. In rehabilitation they require hand feeding. Provide opportunities for these birds to perfect insect food catching skills. These birds, as well as all nightjars, must be able to "catch food on the wing" before release.

Rehabilitation Notes: Activity aviary requirement: 8' x 16' x 8'. Provide flat surfaces and large horizontally placed logs for perching. They are easily stressed, so provide a quiet environment.

Common Problems: All nightjars feed "on the wing," exclusively, and must be hand fed every 60 minutes for several hours each morning and evening. Feed on a flat surface with a cupped hand over the bird.

Rehabbers can move a cupped hand over the bird or gently touch the

bristles to encourage it to gape. Chuck-will's widows and other nightjars can be "conditioned" to gape for larger prey such as crickets while in rehabilitation. Some rehabilitators also supplement with hand feeding formulas based on good quality dry kitten food, dried insects, chicken baby food and avian-insectivore vitamins and minerals. These formulas are blended and fed with a syringe. Be sure to keep the face clean. The bird **must** have clean, intact face bristles when released.

Chuck-will's widows and other nightjars are frequently found during the day. Because they rest and sleep during the day, they are presumed by the finder to be sick or injured.

Chuck-will's widows and other goatsuckers often rest on quiet roads just after sunset or before sunrise. Their eyes reflect light and can be seen from a distance. Finders will assume that the bird is injured and "rescue" it.

Chuck-will's and other nightjars have a large cecum. About every other day they will empty the cecum. Though alarming, the droppings will be black and "tar-like." This is normal. Other droppings will look normal.

Species with similar requirements breeding in North Carolina include: Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk. These birds are often referred to as "Goatsuckers" or "Nightjars."