

# WRNC



*Sharing information and knowledge for the benefit of native wildlife.*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Issue 35 March 2009**

**A hot issue**

*Methane pipes at landfills are a hazard for raptors that perch on the tall pipes while searching for food.*

**Page 13**



**Sharpen your pencils**

*WRNC is holding a competition for a new T-shirt design. The winning design will be used on T-shirts that will be available at the 2010 Symposium.*

**Page 26**



**Read all about it.**

*Getting your story in the newspaper or on television can help promote your cause and educate the public.*

**Page 5**

## 2009 Symposium bigger than ever

They came from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida to attend WRNC's 7th annual symposium Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Raleigh.

In a time of economic turmoil when a lower turnout might have been expected, nearly 200 people — about 60 more than the previous year — attended the three-day conference.

Continuing education credits were offered to veterinarians and vet techs who took classes in trauma management for reptiles, birds and mammals. Our student liaisons spent hours making synthetic turtle shells for the shell repair class led by Sathya K. Chinnadurai, a veterinary resident at the N.C. Zoo.



*Photo by Catie Gordon*

**See SYMPOSIUM on Page 2**

*Symposium attendees participate in the avian physical exam workshop led by Betty O'Leary. For more photos from the symposium, go to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wrnc/>*

**A thank-you to our donors. Page 24.**

## WRNC elects board members

Two new members were elected to the WRNC board Jan. 31 at the general meeting.

Ann Rogers has been a licensed home rehabilitator of small mammals since 1988, and has held a federal permit since 1991. She is a founding member and volunteer with the Piedmont Wildlife Center in Durham. She volunteers in their clinic and helps with fundraising.



*Ann Rogers*

In her "other" life, she is retired from the National Center for Health Statistics as a software developer and has a husband, two grown sons, three Boston terriers and two parakeets.



*Brenda Hiles*

Brenda Hiles of Greensboro has been a member of WRNC since 2003. She volunteers with Wildlife Rehab Inc. in Winston-Salem and was a volunteer for six years at the Valerie Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at the N.C. Zoo.

In addition to editing WRNC's quarterly newsletter, she has been a journalist and writer for 28 years. She shares her home with her partner, David Hurt, and their six cats.

Beth Knapp-Tyner was elected president of the board at Sunday's meeting, replacing Elizabeth Hanrahan who has served for two years.

Jean Chamberlain was selected vice president, replacing Beth.

Carla Johnson will assume the treasurer's job at the end of the fiscal year in April, replacing Jean.

Brenda Hiles was elected secretary.

## Symposium

On Friday, 36 people attended a 7-hour session on fawn rehab conducted by rehabber Beth Knapp-Tyner and Kelly Douglass of the Wildlife Resources Commission. A beginner track was offered on mammals. Other courses included answering wildlife calls, handling mammals, avian vision, imprinting, zoonoses, and a discussion of the quality of life for raptors in education programs.

Andy Foshee offered tips on digital photography and how rehabbers can use their photos to further their cause.

Another session addressed the issues involved in starting a nonprofit.

Workshops covered avian bandaging techniques, fluid therapy, fecal exams, and physical exams for mammals and birds.

Elizabeth Hanrahan advised rehabbers on how to prepare for a natural disaster.

Daron Barnes of the Wildlife Resources Commission discussed state rules and regulations for rehabbers.

New this year were sessions on identifying turtles and songbirds. One session was devoted solely to ailments found in squirrels.

Many companies and individuals contributed to the raffle on Saturday, which raised more than \$1,000 for cage grants, chimney swift towers and disaster funds.

An ice-breaker kicked off the symposium Friday night in the banquet room of the Brownstown Inn. A banquet was held Saturday night, followed by the general meeting in which two new members were elected to the board.

In the coming months, we'd like to hear your ideas for sessions for next year's symposium. Thanks for making this year a success.

## 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](mailto:WRNC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

# 2009 Chimney Swift Tower Grant Awards: Votes Are In!



During the 2009 Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC) Symposium board meeting Feb. 1, the Chimney Swift Tower Grant applications were reviewed. After giving each application full consideration, the following selections were made:

- Ed Erkes, Butterfly Creek Drive Site, Seven Springs, N.C.
- Nina Fischesser, Lees-McRae College Site, Banner Elk, N.C.
- Krista Hansen, Allen Priest Road Site, Council, N.C.

Congratulations to the grant selectees! Their awards of \$300 each and copies of "Chimney Swift Towers, New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds," are on the way. Let the building begin to meet the needs of returning Chimney Swifts in the spring!

WRNC thanks the proactive naturalists who took the time and effort to submit a Chimney Swift Tower Grant application. Each recognized a need and benefit to wildlife and the communities they support. We encourage and welcome others to apply for a 2010 Chimney Swift Tower grant to increase the presence of Chimney Swifts in our state. Refer to the application information on our website:

[www.ncwildliferehab.org](http://www.ncwildliferehab.org) to ensure your proposed location meets the needs and requirements for Chimney Swift habitat.

Pesky North Carolina insects, WATCH OUT! More Chimney Swift crews will be patrolling and vacuuming the skies where you live, very, very soon.

*Linda Bergman, WRNC Board Member,  
Chimney Swift Tower Grant Committee Chair*



The tower built by Krista Hansen's husband and father-in-law is ready for the return of Chimney Swifts this spring.



REHAB CENTERS IN THE NEWS

## PWC reopens

Piedmont Wildlife Center in Durham has been issued a state permit and is accepting small mammals and reptiles again. The center will also begin accepting birds once its federal permit application is approved. Meanwhile, Creative Learning About Wildlife Species (CLAWS) is accepting birds in need of rehab. The center stopped accepting animals briefly

**Hospital operations are being restructured, and the center is trying to recruit more volunteers.**

in December after the resignation of its full-time veterinarian who held the state and federal permits in her name.

The center is in the process of hiring an animal care technician and a part-time

veterinarian. Applications are still being accepted for the vet position.

Staff and volunteers are answering wildlife questions at (919) 572-9453.

Hospital operations are also being restructured to better serve wildlife and the community. The center is looking for adults 18 years or older to volunteer at the hospital, as well as youth and adults that would like to help with education, administration and other areas. To volunteer, Contact Lisa McCartney at [volunteer@piedmontwildlifecenter.org](mailto:volunteer@piedmontwildlifecenter.org).

The center is also partnering with Wildlife Welfare, CLAWS and rehabilitator Randy Atkinson to offer home mammal rehabilitator classes this spring. Trainees will be paired with experienced rehabilitators to get hands-on training and mentoring. The center hopes to train new home rehabilitators that are willing and have time to care for baby squirrels, cottontail rabbits and opossums until they can be released back into the wild. To find out more, send an e-mail to: [volunteer@piedmontwildlifecenter.org](mailto:volunteer@piedmontwildlifecenter.org).

About 200 people attended an open house March 1 to tour the hospital and meet the center's education animals. Rehabber Randy Atkinson also was on hand to talk to the people about becoming home rehabbers.

Once the federal permit is issued and the new staff is in place, the center will be sending updates through its website, e-mail and press releases.

## Cutbacks at Raptor Center

The economic downturn has forced layoffs at the Carolina Raptor Center and delayed a planned expansion.

The center is facing a \$145,000 budget gap over the next six months, CEO Joy Braunstein said. Visitors, sales and donations began to slow in September, and by October officials realized the seriousness of the problem, Braunstein said in an e-mail. Corporate donations dropped by 60 percent and visitors were down by 15 percent.

The staff was cut from 27 to 22.5, and remaining workers have been asked to take a 10-day furlough.

Carolina Raptor Center cares for between 600 and 800 injured and orphaned birds each year with the help of about 300 volunteers. It has an annual budget of almost \$1.5 million.

Voters in Mecklenburg County approved a bond referendum Nov. 4 that includes \$7.8 million for a new education complex and nature center to be built in partnership with the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department. But because of the recession, the county is delaying the sale of bonds or breaking ground on any capital projects, postponing the expansion.

With the expansion, the center plans to emphasize environmental education, using its facilities and programs to become a teaching center. The center also plans to engage in more research, Braunstein said.

Carolina Raptor Center already offers internships and practicum courses for students from the College of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University in Raleigh, and this year is expanding that teaching program to vets and students around the country through its MERLIN and Raptor Vet programs.

**Mecklenburg County delays the sale of bonds to pay for an expansion at the center.**

# News you can use

*Getting your story in a newspaper or on TV helps educate the public about wildlife issues*

By Thomas Taylor

Despite the nail in its neck, this goose was elusive.

Wildlife rehabbers had been out several times trying to capture the bird. On this day, they worked for 20 minutes, wearing hip boots and sloshing around the injured bird, trying to herd it to the edge of the pond.

On the bank a photographer snapped away at all the splashing and honking. A reporter stood by scribbling notes.

In a few minutes they had a caged goose ready for a vet's attention. The next day a photo and an article about Carolina Waterfowl Rescue's goose chase appeared on the front of the local section of the newspaper. And within a couple of weeks the group noticed an uptick in the usual number of rescue calls.

Media coverage lets rehabbers get their message out to thousands of people at once, giving them the chance to tell the public about wildlife rescue and explain what people can do to help.

So how do you get the media to tell your story for you?

## Build relationships

It's often a personal thing. Get to know the key people in your local media. Find out the names of the assignment editors, feature editors, and environmental reporters at the local TV stations and newspapers. Call them up and introduce yourself. Tell them about your organization, and that you or members of your group are available to be a source for wildlife articles.

This gives you a head start in finding the right person fast when a news-worthy event crops up, such as the episode with the goose. Essentially, you are offering your help.

It's a good idea to prepare a press kit, and offer to mail it to your media contact – or better yet,



drop it by and meet face-to-face. Include plenty of contact info: e-mail addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, your website, blogs by your members. If you have photos of your activities, put them in as well. Include a brief history of your organization and examples of its work – anything that could spark a story idea with an editor.

Compile a list of media names, numbers and e-mail addresses. Keep your contact information on file so you can be ready to call when a newsworthy event comes up.

Then be ready to follow-up with e-mail or a fax. Reporters get a lot

more public relations material than they can hang onto. There's a good chance they'll read yours and toss it. Don't let that hurt your feelings. Just contact them again. And again.

To make it easier for reporters to get in touch with you, include your contact information and websites on your e-mail signature.

### **What's in it for them?**

An editor's job is to ask the question: Why would my readers or viewers care about this?

Your job is to answer that for them.

Fortunately, animal rescue stories are inherently interesting, and they are versatile in the ways they can be told.

Breaking news stories generally have an element of urgency. An opossum needs to be rescued immediately. Authorities are responding that day to a stable full of starving horses. A fish kill has struck a nearby stream or lake. This is where your contact network can pay off with a quick response.

Feature stories are typically more in-depth



articles about your organization or an individual. They may cover the overall mission of your group, its accomplishments over time, the personalities of your members or your techniques. Features can be built around a breaking news event – something that can serve as a “hook” for the story.

Visuals are essential. Again, this gives you an advantage. Rescue stories should be easy to illustrate and images of wildlife are compelling. Television is hugely dependent on video to support its content. Even newspapers are increasingly using video clips on their Web sites.

A photo doesn't have to have an article to go along with it. If something is going on that would make a compelling picture but there is no reporter available, you can suggest a photographer get a stand-alone photo. You can help provide the information for the caption.

Also, you or one of your members can shoot photos and contribute them. Don't forget about smaller papers and weekly papers – they might appreciate the free labor. Larger papers may turn up their noses at the work of amateurs – but they may have a community section where your shots can get into print.

### **Make it easy**

In your role as a media liaison, you want to make things as convenient as possible for the reporters and photographers you deal with. You can even do some of their work for them. They'll like that.

**Be prepared to sell your story.** A story about trying to capture an injured goose is about more than that one goose. It can be the basis for an in-depth trend story about development, loss of habitat and impact on wildlife – an individual case can illustrate



a bigger problem.

Once you have a reporter or editor on the line you want to tell them why your story is important. Make yourself some notes so you can explain your story in a clear and concise manner.

**Provide background information.** Try to think of details the average person wouldn't know, but that they would find interesting and put it in a fact sheet. Articles often have a short accompanying story called a sidebar, or a list of information in a facts box. For example, a brief explanation of migratory patterns or a few details

about reproduction cycles can be interesting.

**Use statistics.** They make a story more concrete and credible. Statistics can be used to shock, draw emotion, and help form opinion. They can even provide the hook a journalist can build a story around. Statistics can make great soundbites and headlines. People remember and believe numbers.

But remember not to go overboard; an editor or reporter will tune out information if there's an overwhelming amount of it or if it begins to sound like a textbook.

**Spell it out.** Give a list of the

names of your members who are involved in the event to the reporter. You'd be surprised how much confusion occurs in newsrooms over getting names right.

Remember your bottom line: clear communication. Troubleshoot any information that might need clarifying.

For example, for an article that mentioned Pekin ducks, a source with a heavy accent sounded like he was saying "Peking duck." Or a barred owl becomes a bard owl in print.

When in doubt, spell it out.

*Thomas Taylor is a freelance writer who lives in Sophia.*

**Earth Day  
Piedmont Earth  
Day Fair  
April 18  
Wake Forest  
University  
Campus**

The Piedmont Environmental Alliance sponsors the annual event that offers exhibits on a wide range of environmental topics. The fair includes a panel discussion and a "green" job fair. The fair is held rain or shine. For more information, go to: <http://www.peanc.org/earth-day-fair>

## The gift of WRNC

Membership in WRNC makes a thoughtful gift for the rehabber in your life.

Members have a link to wildlife rehabilitators across the state. They can access past newsletters as well as up-to-date news on our web site.

The annual membership fee is \$15.

For an application, go to: <http://ncwildliferehab.org/howeare.cfm>

### *Pearls of Wisdom*

Wear welding gloves around the house to get used to the feel before using them to handle raptors.

— *Overheard at the WRNC symposium*

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

# PREPARING FOR THE WORST

By Elizabeth Hanrahan

Litters of baby squirrels blown from trees by the winds of a hurricane. Animals stranded by flood or attempting to outrun fire. Opossums wandering the neighborhood so desperate for food they refuse to retreat from people. All of these scenes could play out when a natural disaster strikes. The effect on wildlife will depend on the type of disaster, its size and where it strikes, but it is reasonable to assume wildlife and rehabilitators will feel the effects.

It is vital that wildlife rehabilitators and wildlife rehabilitation facilities prepare for disasters. A lack of planning can significantly increase the magnitude of the disaster for humans as well as wildlife. Advanced planning and preparation allows the wildlife rehabilitator or wildlife rehabilitation organization to reduce damage. Planning and preparation for a variety of disasters helps to assess the impact of each on wildlife and helps determine the potential duration of each type of disaster.

This series of articles will present:

- An outline of a disaster and examples of various disasters.
- Ideas on the development of a wildlife rehabilitation disaster plan.
- How to quickly respond to and recover from the disaster.
- How the wildlife rehabilitator can become a vital part of the local disaster planning/emergency management team within the community.

Photo by Anthony Conti

## Quick Check Outline of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Disaster Plan

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>I. Evaluation of the rehabilitation facility</p> <p>a. Known dangers to the facility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Structure fire</li> <li>ii. Hurricane</li> <li>iii. Flood</li> <li>iv. Hazardous material spill</li> <li>v. Wildfire</li> <li>vi. Heat emergencies and blizzard, ice or winter storms</li> <li>vii. Earthquakes</li> <li>viii. Tornado</li> <li>ix. Civil disturbances</li> <li>x. Other disasters possible in your area</li> </ol> <p>b. Dangers to structure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Condition of building</li> <li>ii. Caging:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indoor caging</li> <li>2. Outdoor caging</li> <li>3. Portable caging</li> </ol> </li> <li>iii. Interior "safe" areas</li> <li>iv. Access to water and electricity during/ following emergency</li> </ol> | <p>v. Drainage around structures and caging</p> <p>vi. Trees, equipment around structure and caging</p> <p>vii. Security of expensive equipment, food, and materials</p> <p>viii. Supplies and access to supplies: rehab supplies, radio, batteries, flashlights, etc.</p> <p>ix. Hazardous materials</p> <p>II. Long term preparations when a disaster is anticipated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Order extra medicines, food, supplies</li> <li>b. Plan possible evacuation routes</li> <li>c. Network with other wildlife rehabilitators for transfer of animals or assistance</li> <li>d. Notify state and national animal/wildlife rehab organizations that you may need help.</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

Photo by Rick Craig

- III. Insurance
    - i. Check annually for adequacy
    - ii. Where is the facility on the floodplain map
    - iii. House/facility inventory with photos or video
    - iv. Inventory and photo storage
    - v. Valuable papers/insurance storage
  
  - IV. Specific preparations
    - a. Secure and label all hazardous materials
    - b. Secure and close valves of outside tanks
    - c. Inventory and separate incompatible chemicals
    - d. Back up computer and make copies of records
    - e. Copies of computer and rehabilitation records stored at \_\_\_\_\_
    - f. Outside cleared of loose objects
    - g. Refrigerated/freezer inventory protected
    - h. Movable inventory packed and protected
    - i. Vehicles fueled and protected
    - j. Freezer emptied of carcasses
    - k. Flammable materials removed
  
  - V. Evacuation:
    - a. Evacuation plan for family/staff
    - b. Evacuation plan for animals
    - c. Evacuation locations designated and agreements signed
      - i. Evacuation location  
1. \_\_\_\_\_
      - ii. Evacuation location  
2. \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. Plan developed for movable inventory
  
  - e. Additional movable caging, food, supplies
  - f. First aid kits and medications (animal and human)
  - g. Radio and flashlights with batteries
  - h. Medical records (animal and human)
  - i. Personal items for self/family/staff
  - j. Security plan for valuable equipment
  - k. Secure premises:
    - i. Take identification, licenses, records
    - ii. Unplug equipment
    - iii. Shut off electrical breakers, water, gas
- 
- VI. After the disaster
  - a. Safety clothing and equipment:
    - i. Rubber gloves, boots,
    - ii. cleaning supplies
  - b. Check wildlife rehabilitation facility/equipment/supply damage
  - c. Photograph/document damage if necessary
  - d. Safety repairs
  - e. Inventory supplies and equipment
  - f. Building checked by electrician, etc if necessary
  - g. Notify family/staff/agencies, etc. of status
- 
- VII. Planning for the next disaster:
  - a. Review and update disaster plan
  - b. Develop a disaster contact list or telephone-tree
  - c. Other

## Analysis to Types of Disasters

**Hurricane** – Fortunately, when hurricanes are forecast in coastal areas there is time for planning and preparation. Most damage is caused by high winds. Additional damage may be caused by windborne debris or falling trees. Heavy rains and storm surge can cause flooding. The unexpected remains of hurricanes can cause unexpected and devastating flash floods.

**Flood** – Many wildlife rehabilitators may be in the flood plain for lakes, creeks or rivers. They should check with their local government to see flood plain maps that show how high water will rise based on the amount of rainfall for a given period. Many of these maps have been recently revised. Flooding may occur quickly in hilly areas or when dams burst.

**Hazardous material spill** – Any wildlife rehabilitator or facility near transportation routes with the movement of hazardous wastes, chemicals or explosive materials is a risk for a disaster. The threat of contamination may cause authorities to order an evacuation of the area. Plans to evacuate and protect the wildlife in care should be in place and reviewed regularly.

**Wildfire** – Wildfires can be unpredictable. They threaten wildlife facilities near wooded areas as well as in population centers such as those in Florida several years ago. Evacuations are mandatory and little more than an hour or so of warning time is given.

**Heat emergencies and blizzard, ice or winter storms** – In addition to the concerns caused by extremes in temperatures, the wildlife rehabilitator must be prepared for utility outages. There may also be disruptions in transportation for delivery of animal foods and supplies.

**Earthquakes** – There are earthquake faults throughout the United States. Everyone should prepare for the possibility of earthquakes.

**Tornado** – Those wildlife rehabilitation centers in tornado-prone areas should have a safe area to locate people and animals. There will be wind damage as well as the possibility of utility outages.

### Case Study Fire Evacuation

In the summer of 2003, wild fires were raging in widespread areas from Florida to Utah. Though he had smelled smoke for several days, the rehabilitator felt he was in a safe area. In the middle of the night, there was a banging on the door. He heard sirens. The law enforcement officer at the door screamed, "Mister, you need to evacuate!" The wildlife rehabilitator asked how much time he had to get things ready. "Fifteen minutes, maybe an hour if you're lucky."

The wildlife rehabilitator did the following:

- Called a friend about 50 miles from the fire and asked if he and the animals could stay until the fire was out
- Called two friends with pickups to help transport the animal cages
- Pulled the two birds from the raptor cage and packed them in carriers
- Put pets in carriers
- Put items in plastic carriers with handles to hold supplies and to be used as carriers

Things he learned from the experience:

- Keep copies of important papers in a "to go" box at all times.
- Have a plan

### Packing for pets

- Carriers
- Pet foods
- Pet health records
- Basic medications
- Extra towels and gloves

### Packing for you

- Insurance policies / numbers
- Passport / identification
- Personal checks
- Cell phone / charger
- List of animal suppliers
- Address book
- NWRA / IWRC directories
- Laptop, vital disks
- Mementoes
- Extra cash

# A FISH TALE



*This Great Blue Heron was found on Lake Norman by Joseph Murray on Feb. 26. The cause of death was asphyxiation. It apparently suffocated when a large fish became lodged in its throat.*

*Submitted by Jennifer Gordon*

## Loggerhead plan now available

The federal recovery plan for the Northwest Atlantic population of the loggerhead sea turtle is available at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/plans.htm> or <http://www.fws.gov/northflorida>.

The species is listed globally as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

The revised plan reviews and discusses the species ecology, population status and trends, and identifies threats to the loggerhead turtle in the northwestern Atlantic. It lays out a strategy to address the threats and includes recovery goals and criteria.

Loggerhead turtles in the northwestern Atlantic reach reproductive age at about 35 years. During their life, they travel and live in the waters of several nations, including the U.S. They face several threats, including development and loss of nesting habitat, bycatch in fisheries, and degradation of their marine habitats.

## BEGINNER BASICS

# Shhhhh! Bunnies in rehab

By Jean Chamberlain

This is the last in a series on the need to know the natural history of a species to provide good care. The first two articles covered the opossum and the squirrel. Today we consider the cottontail.



Photo by Pat Ferrell

Cottontails give birth to many young each season. They average four litters with between three to six young per litter (varies regionally). The young develop faster than any other mammal we rehab. They are fully furred in a week. Their eyes and ears are open in eight days. In the wild, they are weaned and independent at about 4 weeks of age.

Cottontails use a shallow nest that is little more than a depression in the ground. The nest is lined with fur. Provide baby cottontails a small, secure place resembling their natural nest. They can jump soon after birth. When they are small you can use a small container with a ventilated lid to prevent them from jumping out. Also keep in mind cottontails can squeeze through very small holes and can escape through 1" x 1" mesh.

Cottontails are a prey species. They stress easily. Noise, handling and temperature changes are stressful to them. Keep them in a quiet place. Keep all pets as far away as possible. Do not house them in a transparent

container. They will not feel safe in it and will continually try to jump out. As they grow, use a big enough container for them to spread out. In a container that is too small they get stressed, causing diarrhea or fighting. House no more than four bunnies in a large kennel or Rubbermaid tub. They usually prefer an alfalfa hay and grass nest to a cloth nest. Provide these as an alternative. Provide room and materials for them to build separate nests. In the wild they leave the mother's nest and build one of their own.

Cottontails are herbivores (eat plants). After weaning, provide timothy hay, alfalfa hay, Old Fashioned Quaker Oats (not instant) and rabbit pellets or rabbit chow. Also provide apple slices (minus the peel), grated carrots and carrot tops, green beans, corn and wild strawberries (no iceberg lettuce, broccoli or cabbage). Introduce greens (clover, chickweed, plantain and dandelions) gradually to prevent bunny bloat.

Expose cottontails to dirt and natural materials on the bottom of the cage. Make sure the temperature inside matches outdoor conditions, and expose them to natural sounds before release. Because cottontails are nocturnal, they should be released in the evening.

Find an area where there are plenty of grasses for them to eat and shrubs for hiding. Do not winter them over. They are too high strung.

## Ask WRNC

**Q.** Is it true the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will no longer issue Possession permits for non-releasable wildlife used for education?

**A.** The name of the permit/license for non-releasable educational animals is all that has changed. Permits/licenses for these animals will still be issued and renewed, but are now called a "Wildlife Captivity License." These are issued for no more than one calendar year at a time and must be renewed annually. All of them expire each year on Dec. 31.

Have a question? Send it to Beth Knapp-Tyner at [WildatHeartRehab@aol.com](mailto:WildatHeartRehab@aol.com)

# Danger at the landfill for raptors

By Jean Chamberlain

In August 2007 I was called to a local landfill to pick up a Red-Tailed Hawk that was unable to fly. When I caught the bird, I was amazed at the damage to the feathers on its right wing. At the time I was thinking maybe the barbs were melted or chemically burnt.

I have since learned that many landfills use burners that periodically ignite to burn off methane. The burners are tall pipes that ignite at the top. The pipes make an attractive perch for birds looking for rodents among the garbage. The sudden flame from the burners can scorch and kill the birds.

There is a simple and reasonably inexpensive method of preventing many of these injuries. Spikes can be installed at the top of the burners to discourage the birds from perching on the pipes. A taller perch above the flames' reach would also help. Or landfills could reclaim and recycle the methane.

Rehabilitators in several states have started programs to notify the landfills of the need to modify the burners. We can help by identifying local landfills that use the burners and by bringing the problem to their attention, as well as providing information on how the burners can be modified to prevent injury and death to the birds.



*Methane flames common at landfills can scorch the wings of raptors that perch on them in their search for food.*

## Keeping connected: a listserve for rehabbers

WLREHAB is a listserv that allows wildlife rehabilitators around the world to share stories and information. To subscribe to WLREHAB, send the following command to [listserv@listserv.nodak.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.nodak.edu) in the BODY of your email message (not the subject line):

```
subscribe wlrehab yourfirstandlastname
```

The list generates between 20 to 100 email messages every day. If this volume is too much for you, you may switch to a digest or index option. The easiest way to do this is through the website at <http://LISTSERV.NODAK.EDU/archives/wlrehab.html>.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD*A fox squirrel gets a second chance*

By Marie Strouse

On Aug. 31, 2007, I received a call from a gentleman who claimed he found an injured fox squirrel. I was sure he had some kind of injured animal, but I doubted it was a fox squirrel. I had heard about fox squirrels here in Moore County, but I had never seen one even though I live near golf courses, where they are known to take up residence. The gentleman wasn't too far from my house, so I told him to bring the critter on by.

About 15 minutes later a car pulled into my drive, and a man approached the house with a brown box. I took the box from him and glanced inside. To my shock, there was a 180 gram

fox squirrel. I was briefly excited, then reality hit. I noticed the amount of blood smeared on the bottom of the box, and the seemingly lifeless body, lying on its side. I was not hopeful. I brought the little creature inside, got her warm, started her on fluids and antibiotics, then took a closer look to see what I was dealing with.

Unfortunately, it was a head injury. I figured she was a goner, but decided to get her started on Dexamethasone, a steroid that's used to reduce or prevent swelling. Before long, she began slowly dragging herself in a tight circle -- not what I had



*Photo by Marie Strouse*

hopped for -- and she was refusing Pedialyte and formula, which didn't surprise me because she had been in my care less than 24 hours. But I had no intention of giving up. As long as she wasn't showing signs of pain or discomfort, I was going to continue.

Day Two wasn't much different than Day One, other than the circle she was crawling in was getting larger. The third day was just as bleak; she still had no appetite.

Barbara Prescott of Mount Vernon, Va., my mentor and good friend, was helping me at the time. Barbara has more than 20 years experience rehabbing. After explaining what had been going on, Barbara called the vet she worked with, Dr Owel. They both stressed I should continue what I was doing, increase the amount of fluids that I was giving her and

continue with the Dexamethasone. It is a drug I don't take lightly, and I didn't want to continue it any longer than I had to, but I took the advice from Barbara and Dr. Owel and watched to see if there would be any improvement.

On Day Four, the little fox squirrel started sucking down formula like there was no tomorrow. She was really beginning to come around. I plopped her in with a group of healthy grays I was working with, and they were snuggling up in no time. So now what was I going to do with a neurological fox squirrel? After giving it a lot of thought, I felt getting a license to

use her as an educational animal would be best. She wasn't suffering and seemed quite content lying on her back, letting all the little gray squirrels crawl all over her. If I didn't know any better, I'd say she enjoyed the company.

Days went by, and Foxy, as I began to think of her, began walking in a straight line occasionally. She even began frolicking with her cage mates. Foxy was beginning to show some progress. When it came time to move her cage mates into the outdoor pre-release cage, I couldn't stand the thought of making her stay behind. I felt she deserved to have the experience of running and climbing in the fresh air and sunshine. So I put her in the release cage, too.

As the weeks passed, I noticed something amazing. Being in a larger area helped Foxy's coordination considerably. With the exception of her slight head tilt, I could barely tell she was neurological at all. So when the time came, I let her out with the others. I figured, even if she didn't

*Fox squirrels (Sciurus niger)*

**Distribution:** Throughout the United States. In North Carolina, they're found in the southeastern coastal plain south of the Pamlico River in North Carolina.

**Habitat:** Fox squirrels in the Southeast prefer pine-dominated habitats. In North Carolina, they prefer stands of longleaf, loblolly and shortleaf pine, hardwoods and bottomlands. Park, golf course and residential neighborhoods may support large populations. They use tree cavities as a refuge and for rearing their young.

**Size:** 20 to 26 inches -- about twice as large as the gray squirrel.

**Color:** Coloration varies

**Challenges:** The loss of habitat in North Carolina

**Breeding:** They mate in mid-winter. In years when food availability is high, they may produce a second litter in summer.

**Litters:** One to five young are born in February or March. They are blind and hairless, opening their eyes at about four to five weeks.

make it, I gave her a second chance at freedom. She had come such a long way, I didn't feel she could be happy caged for the rest of her life.

Here it is 2009, and I see Foxy almost daily. She is a fair-weather squirrel and prefers to stay out of the elements on cold, wet, and or windy days. She found a cozy little home in my neighbor's yard, across the street from a golf

course where I hope she can someday find a mate. I never thought Foxy could have come this far. She brightens my day, and brings joy to my heart each time I see her bouncing across my yard.

*Marie Strouse began rehabbing six years ago in Washington, D.C., moving to North Carolina four years ago.*

## Look it up online

The Animal Diversity Web site (<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>) is an online database of animals natural history, distribution, classification and conservation biology at the University of Michigan. The website offers:

- Thousands of species accounts about individual animal species. These may include text, pictures of living animals, photographs and movies of specimens, and/or recordings of sounds. *Students write the text of these accounts and the university does not guarantee the accuracy.*
- Descriptions of levels of organization above the species level, especially phyla, classes, and in some cases, orders and families. Hundreds of hyperlinked pages and images illustrate the traits and general biology of these groups. Professional biologists prepare this part.

# In the spotlight

**Name:** Marti Tripp Brinson

**Organization:** Downeast Wildlife Rehab Center, Grifton, N.C.

**How did you get started in rehabbing?** Growing up in Windsor, N.C., there were always animals that needed a mother, or I thought they did – pigs, cats, chickens, rabbits, squirrels, dogs, rats, baby birds. We always had baby raccoons and foxes and deer.

**How long have you been rehabbing?** A little more than 39 years. I've always taken in animals.

**Who was your mentor or who is someone you admire?** My granddaddy and my third-grade teacher, Ms. Savage.

My grand-daddy loved animals. He was a hard-working man and did what he could to raise us up the way he knew was right. He was a God-loving man who would teach Sunday school in a very little church. I always knew what he was going to say in church because during the week he would be on a small tractor or plowing the garden with Cindy the mule, who heard every word of what he would say. My grand-daddy was a little man who farmed and worked so hard, but he gave me the one thing I needed most in this world – love from his heart. He always told me I could do whatever I put my mind to.

Ms. Savage allowed me to take animals to school just about every day, and she loved them as much as I do. She and two other women started the SPCA in Greenville/Pitt County.

**What animals do you work with?** Beavers, nutrias, fawns, small mammals, bobcats, turtles, raptors, baby birds.



**What type of set-up do you have?** Two beaver pens; three fawn pens (one for sick and injured animals; one for nursing animals; and the other for fawns eating on their own.); three pens for raptors; small cages for mammals.

**Any pets?** Two poodles, a house cat, two horses, a green-cheeked conure (a type of parrot); barn cats and other outdoor cats.

**Any non-animal family members?** A husband, a son, a stepson and three step-grandsons.

**What are your hobbies?** Animals. Being with animals is what I like and want to do with my life.

**If you're employed, what type of "day job" do you have?** I clean a few houses close to my home. I like it because I can work around what the animals need, like bottles and vet runs.

**Tell us about an accomplishment of which you're proud.** I'm proud of my son. I'm also proud of my nonprofit. It only took me about six months to get all the work put together with the help of a few good people. That is the best thing I've ever done.

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

**What do you like about being a part of WRNC?** I like getting to know other rehabbers and learning from them. I like being able to answer calls and tell people of another rehabber who may be closer to them or better at caring for the animal than I am.

## Museum puts out a call for birds

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences needs the following bird skins to use in its exhibits. For more information, contact Becky Desjardins at 919-606-5352, [Becky.Desjardins@ncmail.net](mailto:Becky.Desjardins@ncmail.net)

- Bitterns (any)
- Blackbirds (redwing or rusty)
- Bluebirds
- Buntings (any)
- Chimney swifts
- Crows (both kinds)
- Egrets (any)
- Flycatcher (any)
- Gannets (any)
- Goldfinch (breeding makes)
- Grackle, boattailed
- Grebes (any)
- Grosbeaks (any)
- Gulls (any unusual ones: bonapartes, lesser black backed, glaucous, etc.)
- Hawks (any except sharp shinned, or coopers unless unusual one (e.g. albino, barred tail on the red tail, etc)
- Herons (any except great blue)
- House finch
- Hummingbirds
- Ibises (any)
- Kingfisher
- Loons (any except common)
- Nightjars (any)
- Nuthatches (any)
- Orioles (any)
- Owls (short-eared, long-eared, saw whet and barn)
- Rails (any)
- Shearwaters, storm petrels (any)
- Shorebirds (any)
- Sparrows (any except Junco and White-throated)
- Swallows (any)
- Tanagers (any)
- Terns (any)
- Thrushes (any)
- Titmice and chickadees
- Vireos (any)
- Vulture (black)
- Warblers (any except Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) and Common Yellowthroat)
- Water pipit
- Woodpeckers (any except Flicker)
- Wrens (any except Carolina)





## TRAINING

**Carolina Raptor Center's Spring Husbandry and Training Seminar, April 25-26.** This workshop is designed for beginner and intermediate level educators, trainers and caregivers. In the Saturday session, topics include health checks (coping beaks, keel and fat scoring, physical exam), raptor behavior and basic handling skills for education raptors. Sunday's topics include operant conditioning and training, enrichment, volunteer management and education programming. The cost of the workshop is \$135 per day for CRC members, and \$155 per day for non-members. Participants are not required to attend both days. For more information, or to register, contact Nicki Dardinger, Director of Husbandry and Training, at [ndardinger@carolinaraptorcenter.org](mailto:ndardinger@carolinaraptorcenter.org) or 704-875-6521 ext. 110

**Euthanasia in Wildlife Rehabilitation. 5-7 p .m. March 24, March 31.** IWRC offers this four-hour class online during two sessions. The cost is \$109 for members, \$132 for non-members. For more information, go to: <http://www.iwrc-online.org/training/calendar.cfm>

**Advanced Wildlife Rehabilitation including Orphan Songbird, Waterfowl, and Raptor Care. March 16-June 8** at Coastal Carolina Community College. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced level intern positions and staff positions in nature centers, wildlife shelters, and animal sanctuaries. It also meets the requirement for specific training needed to apply for the Federal Migratory Bird Rehabilitation Permit. Course topics include euthanasia, bandaging, splinting, wound management, physical therapy, necropsy, and parasitology. Focus will also be on the care for orphaned and injured songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors from admission through release. \$60 Call (910) 938-6294.

**Chemical Immobilization. Oct. 6-7.** Safe Capture International is holding a seminar at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Academy in Charlotte. For more information, go to: [www.safecapture.com](http://www.safecapture.com).

## Test your diagnostic skills

It has been a busy spring. You have been full of bunnies, opossums and squirrels. When you do your last rounds in the evening you always turn on the radio and have a cigarette while you dance around, clean cages, remove water bowls, fold laundry and soak the rehab dishes. For the first time since morning, the rehab area smells great from the cleaning solutions and fabric softener. The dog is there beside you "helping," and the phone has finally stopped ringing.

Oh the best time of the day!

But it has been a "downer" of a spring. All the bunnies seem to suddenly die overnight and the squirrels and opossums seem to have loose stools. This cleaning and dancing to the music of the radio helps clear up everything.

### Questions to consider:

1. What is causing the bunnies to die?
2. What is causing the others to have loose stools?
3. What factors are contributing to the problems?
4. What other things might result from the "factors?"

*Answer on Page 22*





## Rehabbing turkeys? Better think again

Wild turkeys are among the animals that can't be rehabilitated in North Carolina. The law isn't new but because of an administrative error wild turkeys had been left off the restricted list on rehabilitation permits.

The N.C. General Assembly designated wild turkeys as big game animals almost 44 years ago. About 20 years ago captivity restrictions were placed on wild turkeys to protect the state's wild turkey restoration program.

Big game animals are closely protected by the Wildlife Resources Commission because of the potential for misusing them, said Daron Barnes, a permit officer for the commission. One concern is that possessed birds could be "farmed" and used for hunts or supplemental stocking.

When the ban was placed on wild turkeys in captivity, wildlife rehabilitators probably weren't considered, Barnes said. Wildlife rehabilitation wasn't as prevalent at the time, nor were rehabilitators organized to respond to the increased restrictions. Other big game animals in North Carolina are black bear, wild boar and white-tailed deer. All are now listed as prohibited on state permits.



### Board members

Bergman, Linda [lbergman@ec.rr.com](mailto:lbergman@ec.rr.com)

Cawlfied, Alicia [aliciadc05@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciadc05@yahoo.com)

Chamberlain, Jean (vice president)  
[jchamberlain1@alltel.net](mailto:jchamberlain1@alltel.net)

Degernes, Laurel, [laurel\\_degernes@ncsu.edu](mailto:laurel_degernes@ncsu.edu)

Gordon, Jennifer [waterfowlrescue@aol.com](mailto:waterfowlrescue@aol.com)

Hanrahan, Elizabeth [eh11@earthlink.net](mailto:eh11@earthlink.net)

Hiles, Brenda (secretary) [bhiles919@earthlink.net](mailto:bhiles919@earthlink.net)

Johnson, Carla (treasurer) [Wildlifefeed2@aol.com](mailto:Wildlifefeed2@aol.com)

Knapp-Tyner, Beth (president) [WildatHeartRehab@aol.com](mailto:WildatHeartRehab@aol.com)

Ledbetter, Janenie [Ledbetter767@aol.com](mailto:Ledbetter767@aol.com)

O'Neil, Toni [oneil9734@yahoo.com](mailto:oneil9734@yahoo.com)

Powers, Lauren, [wingvet@yahoo.com](mailto:wingvet@yahoo.com)

Rogers, Ann, [tom.ann@verizon.net](mailto:tom.ann@verizon.net)

Weiss, Mary [eweiss8625@charter.net](mailto:eweiss8625@charter.net)

#### Student liaisons:

Gjeltema, Jenessa [jenessagjeltema@yahoo.com](mailto:jenessagjeltema@yahoo.com)

Duncan, Austin [austin.l.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:austin.l.duncan@gmail.com)

Poston, Toni [toni.poston@yahoo.com](mailto:toni.poston@yahoo.com)

### 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.

All material in the newsletter is copyrighted and should not be used or reproduced without the permission of the author.

This newsletter is your tool for reaching everyone in WRNC. Submit comments, corrections and announcements to editor Brenda Hiles at [bhiles919@earthlink.net](mailto:bhiles919@earthlink.net), or by phone at 336-420-5581. The next editorial deadline is May 15.

# Salmonella outbreak kills Pine Siskins, Goldfinches

Pine Siskins and Goldfinches have been showing up dead near bird feeders in North Carolina and several other states, probably due to an outbreak of Salmonella.

Reports of dead birds have been documented in Cherokee, Swain, Clay, Jackson and Buncombe counties in western North Carolina, said Mike Carraway, a biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

A similar die off in April 2000 in North Carolina, also was due to Salmonellosis, according to lab tests.

The bacteria is spread at feeders by the droppings of infected birds. Because Siskins tend to flock together, the bacteria can spread quickly. Tubular feeders can reduce transmission but birds can still become infected when they feed on seed contaminated by droppings on the ground.

Carraway makes these suggestions for reducing the spread of the disease.

1. Take feeders down for a week if you have found dead birds. Disinfect them before putting them back up.
2. Keep feeders clean. Bird feeders should be disinfected at least once a month under normal circumstances and once a week if sick or dead birds have been found. Disinfect feeders by complete immersion in a solution of one part liquid chlorine bleach in nine parts hot water for several minutes. Allow to air dry before putting feeders back up.
3. Keep the area around and under the feeder clean. Rake up excess spilled seed and when you clean feeders pour the left-over cleaning solution onto the spilled-seed areas.
4. Provide multiple feeding stations around the yard to disperse bird activity if possible. However, one feeder disinfected regularly is better than several feeders that are not cleaned regularly.
5. Move feeders periodically to reduce concentrations of droppings on the ground under feeders.
6. Always wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning feeders.



*Photo by Linda Huffman*



## *Virginia geese find home at North Carolina farm*

About 60 geese from Virginia have a new home in Monroe, N.C.

The geese were rounded up in December from Mount Trashmore, a park in eastern Virginia, after the city passed an ordinance forbidding the public to feed the birds. City officials worried about goose droppings and the possibility of disease.

The geese went to Carolina Waterfowl Rescue, where volunteers built a separate enclosure for them. They were later sent to other homes, many of them going to Why Not an American Ark, operated by Jeff Wylie, in Monro. The 125-acre farm also is home to horses, cows, llamas, zebras and buffaloes.

Most of the relocated birds are Embden geese, which mate for life and form strong family bonds.

The geese were examined by a veterinarian in Virginia and given health certificates to enter the state. Ten of the birds were suffering from injuries, including broken wings and damaged bills. Others showed signs of malnutrition. Those birds are being cared for by Carolina Waterfowl Rescue and will be released later at Why Not an American Ark.

Why Not an American Ark (<http://www.whynotamericanark.com/>) is accepting donations to help feed the geese.

# You be good. I love you.

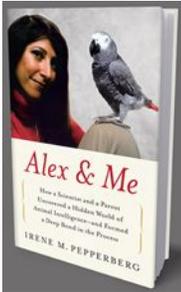
## Alex & Me

By Irene M. Pepperberg

Collins

226 pages

\$23.95



Alex & Me is a moving tribute to an African Grey parrot, who with his walnut-sized brain, did things parrots aren't supposed to be able to do. Alex could label more than 100 objects. He understood concepts of big and small, same and different. In his crackling parrot voice he became a star.

When he died in 2007, newspapers around the world carried his obituary, devoting more space to him than allotted to other luminaries.

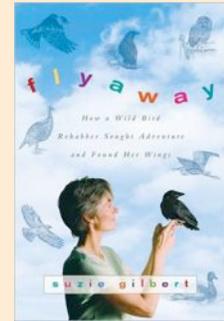
Alex had an inauspicious beginning, plucked at random out of a cage at a pet store near O'Hare Airport in Chicago. He was given the name Alex, short for Avian Language Experiment. It was later changed to Avian Learning Experiment after Pepperberg realized the idea of animal language was a contentious one in the academic world, making it difficult to obtain funding. Spoken language had long been considered "uniquely human," the thing that separated us from all else, and in the 1970s scientists were reluctant to concede maybe it wasn't so.

After a few weeks of working with Pepperberg, Alex was able to give a close approximation of "paper" and "key" when presented with the items. By the end of his life he was able to identify items by shape and color. Though training Alex didn't always go smoothly. He was capable of acting like a recalcitrant child. He quickly learned to say 'no.' He screamed when he didn't want to be handled. He often turned his back and ignored his trainers.

Alex & Me is written for Alex's fans. Pepperberg's research is documented in an earlier book called the "Alex Studies."

## BOOK CORNER

"Flyaway – How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings" by Suzie Gilbert, is being published this month by HarperCollins.



Gilbert, a rehabber in New York, tells the story of how she turned her family home upside down to rehabilitate birds. The book includes illustrations by wildlife rehabber Laura Westlake.

Flyaway can be ordered at online bookstores. A full description of the book is available at <http://www.harpercollins.com/books/>

The book is filled with amusing anecdotes of Alex's antics: the way he would play tricks on trainers, refusing to cooperate until they put him back in his cage for the day. Then he'd quickly squawk out the right answer and say "sorry." Or the way he chided the other parrots in training to "say better." (To see Alex in action, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGiARReTwBw>)

Despite all of Alex's accomplishments, the question remained: Did he understand what he was saying? To Pepperberg the answer was a resounding "Yes."

But there's a difference between what can be proven scientifically and what Pepperberg believed was going on in Alex's brain. Take "banerry," the word Alex used for apple. Was it a non-sensical word or a lexical elision – two words put together to form a new word? Did

Alex think the apple tasted like a banana, but looked like a cherry? There's no way to know, but he used the word repeatedly when presented with an apple.

Why so much fuss about a bird, people often asked Pepperberg.

"Because a bird with a brain the size of a shelled walnut could do the kinds of things that young children could do. And that changed our perception of what we mean

by bird brain," Pepperberg answered. "It changed the way we think about animal thinking."

What Pepperberg proved is what children seem to know instinctively, that animals understand them.

Alex died prematurely at the age of 31 . His last words to Pepperberg were: "You be good. I love you."

— Brenda Hiles

## *Spring cleaning tips for green living*

Spring is coming up soon and with it the dreaded (at least for me) ritual called "spring cleaning" Now is the time to start thinking of ways to make cleaning green. Our mothers and grandmothers used natural cleaners very successfully, but over the years chemical cleaners have become the norm.

Here are a few simple green ideas for spring cleaning at home.

**LEMON JUICE:** Cuts grease and removes perspiration and stains from clothing. Works great to clean microwave oven. Combine 2 tbs. Lemon juice, 2 cups water. Microwave 5 minutes and wipe clean.

**A NON-STREAK GLASS CLEANER:** One-fourth cup white vinegar, 1¼ tbsp. cornstarch, 1 qt. warm water. Mix together and apply with a sponge or pour into a spray bottle. Wipe dry with crumpled newspaper. Buff to a shine.

**BAKING SODA:** An all-purpose cleaner. Cleans, deodorizes, removes stains, and softens fabrics. Set a box in stale smelling closet or refrigerator.

**VINEGAR:** Cuts grease and it can be used to remove mild lime and soap scum in tubs. Cleans automatic drip coffee pot.

**CORNSTARCH:** Starches clothes and absorbs odors. Sprinkle some in your shoes to freshen them.

Information: R. A. Knowlton at [www.associatedcontent.com](http://www.associatedcontent.com).

— Carol Kaczmarek

## **Diagnostic skills: Were you right?**

1. **What is causing the bunnies to die?**  
Stress
2. **What is causing the others to have loose stools?**  
Stress
3. **What factors are contributing to the problems?**  
Everything! Squirrels, bunnies, and opossums can develop soft stools due to stress. Wild animals have sensitive hearing and sense of smell. Noises that might not seem loud to humans can be major stressors. These include: conversation, radio, ringing telephones, rattling cages, other animals (dogs, cats, and even loud baby birds). Strong odors from cleaning products, perfumed soaps, lotions, scented laundry products on bedding and even the smell of urine from dirty cages can be stressors. Movement, dancing, and human activities and those of other animals can be stressors.
4. **What other things might result from the factors?**  
Almost anything. Minimize stressors!

## Case Studies

# *Deciding right from wrong*

### Case 9

What should the wildlife rehabilitator do?

She has a close friend who says she has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for more than 30 years. The friend says, "I have a federal permit but I haven't gotten my state permit."

She knows that the friend took the basic refresher class three years ago. The friend rehabilitates mammals, including raccoons, birds and deer. If the friend gets in something "cute" like a flying squirrel or raccoon, she says she will "keep it as a pet." If the friend receives something she "doesn't want to work with" she will transfer it to the licensed rehabilitator.

The licensed rehabilitator likes this woman; who has been very generous, giving her caging materials, etc. Her attitude is: "I'll pick my battles in this rural area."

- ❖ How does this relate to the Wildlife Rehabilitator's Code of Ethics?
- ❖ Which Code (s) might apply?
- ❖ How can this be resolved?
- ❖ Other questions/issues?

The Wildlife Rehabilitators Code of Ethics is available in the IWRC's Minimum Standards, which can be found at: <http://www.iwrc-online.org/documents/MSWR.pdf> on Page 7.

### *Answers to previous ethics cases*

#### Case 7

The wildlife rehabilitator has lived in the rural community all her life. She is active in church and many community organizations. She is well respected, well liked and "knows everyone."

Within the past month she has received three hawks, an owl, a black vulture, and several songbirds with verified gun shot wounds. She has a feeling that local kids who received guns for Christmas shot the songbirds. She decides not to report any of the cases to the appropriate law enforcement or wildlife conservation officials because she does not want to antagonize her hunting friends and neighbors.

Which code(s) might apply?

**Code 3:** Abide with local, state and federal laws; Also **Codes 7, 9, and 10.**

#### Case 8

The state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, known as the "Bird Lady," has been accepting animals into rehabilitation at her home in a suburb of the city for more than 15 years. She accepts small mammals, songbirds and fawns. On admission she gets only the name, phone number and address of the presenter. There are no additional records.

She has never filed any reports because "it is too much trouble." She has never been to a wildlife rehabilitation class, is not a member of a wildlife rehabilitation organization or group, and does not subscribe to any related publications. She says, "I have been doing my own thing for 15 years, and it works. I don't mess with protocols; I know what I am doing!"

**Code 1:** Strive to achieve high standards of animal care through knowledge ...continuing efforts to keep informed of current rehabilitation, methods, and regulations. Also, **Codes 2 and 11.**

# A BIG THANKS

The 2009 Symposium Raffle brought in \$1,126. Although lack of time did not allow for individual donor recognition during the raffle, we wish to make everyone aware of the generosity of these individuals, organizations, and businesses that contributed to the raffle's success.

1. **Elizabeth Hanrahan:** Three-day weekend getaway at her Ocracoke, N.C., vacation house in the off season; two pictures; two gift baskets, one with coffee, the other with beer; eight books.
2. **Beth Knapp-Tyner:** Two necklaces; two bracelets.
3. **Linda and Bergman/John Althouse:** A gift basket containing Linda Bergman's novel "Save Them All;" a framed wildlife photo.
4. **NWRA:** "Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation;" two long-sleeved shirts; five lanyards; Wildlife Rehabilitation Selected Papers and Proceedings from Symposiums (Volumes: 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13); brochures and publications order forms; VHS tape of "Wild Again;" CD of Wildlife Rehabilitation Selected Papers from Symposium (Volume 19); wolf card; inspirational journal.
5. **Maria & Luis Luques:** Framed "Advice from a Squirrel" card and bookmark; vase with eight flower pens; four of Luis' unframed prints; Avon gift basket.
6. **Carolina Raptor Center:** Bird of prey calendar
7. **Misty at Squirrel Store:** A gift basket containing a squirrel leaf container, crackers, cheese, squirrel cheese spreader, coffee, and squirrel salt and pepper shakers, valued at \$75.10; a gift basket containing NutriDrops, 12 oz. Esbilac, teat, 10 silicone nipples, 10 FourPaws nipples, 3-12cc, 2 CoFlex, gauze, vet tape, 4-20cc o-ring, 5-5cc o-ring 3-3cc o-ring, 4-10cc o-ring, 1 catac, and chocolate, valued at \$58.47
8. **BoviDr Laboratories:** Two 8-oz. bottles of Goat/Sheep Nutri-Drench; two 4-oz. bottles of Poultry Nutri-Drench; two 4-oz. bottles of Rabbit Nutri-Drops; two 4-oz. bottles of Pet Nutri-Drops; Pet Nutri-Drops brochures; Nutri-Drench brochures
9. **Kathy Lillard:** Three birdhouses; four Christmas pillows; outdoor plaque; four glass candle holders; candy; two baskets; two ornaments; candle in can; lip balm; five reed diffusers; potted silk pointsettia; 15 bowls; wooden decorative birdhouse; two boxes of Christmas cards; three suet cage feeders; three boxes of hummingbird food; medium Christmas basket; four magnetic birdhouse calendars.
10. **Bob & Carrie Kiger:** Squirrel cage with pad and hammock.
11. **Ryans Steak House:** Five gift certificates, good for Fayetteville location.
12. **Possunwood Acres:** Defenders of Wildlife backpack; large framed cardinal picture.
13. **Golden Sands Motel at Carolina Beach (Jimmy Pope, owner):** One weekend during the off-season.
14. **Kay Raade:** Three squirrel calendars; opossum calendar.
15. **ReptileFood.com:** Box live mealworms; two boxes of live crickets
16. **Shelly's Critters-N-Things:** Three \$50 gift certificates
17. **RodentPro.com, LLC:** Four \$25 gift certificates.
18. **Grubco, Inc.** Five gift certificates for 1,000 mealworms each.
19. **Doctors Foster and Smith:** \$25 gift certificate. Each WRNC member gets \$5 off their next order. Contact: Janine Fuchs, executive administrative assistant, PO Box 100, Rhinelander, WI 54501-0100. Phone: 715-369-9425. Fax: 715-369-9419.  
www.DrsFosterSmith.com.  
www.LiveAquaria.com.  
www.PetEducation.com
20. **Budweiser:** Corona umbrella and large metal beer sign.

21. **Valerie H. Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center:** Gift basket with one bottle of wine, two small satchels with matching songbird note cards, and a plaque inscribed with "Home is where the nest is."
22. **Osprey LLC:** Two Froglog "The Little Critter Pool Sitter;" 60 brochures.
23. **Cracker Barrel Old Country Store:** Gold Card Gift Certificate, good for two free meals.
24. **Outback Steak House:** \$45 gift card good at any Outback location.
25. **All About Pets:** Super Pet "Take me Home" cage; water bottle, ceramic food dish.
26. **Jasmine Russell:** Gift basket from Bath and Body.
27. **Zoo-Med Laboratories, Inc.** Six (15 oz.) Grassland Tortoise Food; six (15 oz.) Forest Tortoise Food; three (15 oz.) Maintenance Formula Aquatic Turtle Food; six (15 oz.) Growth Formula Aquatic Turtle Food; three (15 oz.) Box Turtle Food; six (1.6 oz.) Hatching Formula Aquatic Turtle Food; two (8 oz.) ReptiVite with D3 Reptile Vitamins; Repti Calcium without D3 (12-oz.); Repti Calcium with D3 (12 oz.); six (3 oz.) Repti Calcium with D3; six (3 oz.) Repti Calcium without D3; six (1 oz.) Avian Plus Vitamins & Minerals; six (3 oz.) Avian Calcium; six (1.2 oz.) Can O' Blue Bird Worms; six (1.2 oz.) Can O' Grasshoppers; six (1.2 oz.) Can O' Superworms; six (4.25 oz.) Repti Safe Terrarium Water Conditioner; two (8.75 oz.) Wipe Out Terrarium and Small Animal Cage Disinfectant; six (2.5 oz.) Wipe Out 4 Foaming Hand Sanitizer; two Bug Buddy Insect Catch and Release Traps; Large Floating Turtle Log; Turtle Tuff Splash-proof Halogen Lamp, 75 watts; Turtle Tuff Splash-proof Halogen Lamp, 50 watts; Repti Halogen lamp, 75 watts; 60 Zoo Med 2009 Product Catalogs; Mini Size Floating Dock; Filter Hanger 501; External Filter 501; 12 American Box Turtle Care Guide Booklets; 12 Leopard Geckos Care Guide Booklets; 12 Hermit Crab Care Guide Booklets; 12 Water Turtles Care Guide Booklets; 12 Bearded Dragons Care Guide Booklets; 12 Zoo Med Beginners Guide to Reptile Care Booklets; 25 Reptile Lighting Guides; five snake logo T-shirts; 25 Zoo Med gift bags; 50 UVB Bird Lighting and Avian Products Flyers; four aquatic turtle posters; 25 Zoo Med Lab "Save Your Reptiles" stickers; Repti Breeze Open Air Aluminum Screen Cage, small; ReptiSun 10.0 UVB Bulb, 18", 15 watts; ReptiSun 5.0 UVB Bulb, 24", 20 watts; Repti heat cable, 15 watts; Avian Sun 5.0 UVB full spectrum bulb, 26 watts; Deluxe Avian Sun Floor Lamp; 18 Hatchling Aquatic Turtle Food (4 gram) trial size packets; 20 Repti Safe Terrarium Water Conditioner (.25 oz.) trial size packets; 20 Aquatic Turtle Food (4 gram) trial size packets; 20 ReptiVite Reptile Vitamins (8 gram) trial size packets; 20 Hermit Crab Food (6 gram) trial size packets.
28. **Golden Corral Corp.:** \$20 gift certificate.
29. **Lab Safety Supply:** Small weatherproof first aid kit; first aid kit.
30. **Andy's Burgers Shakes & Fries:** Five \$5 gift certificate booklets.
31. **Backyard Wild:** Purse; wine stopper; pewter birdhouse pin; note cube.
32. **Wild Birds Unlimited:** Woodpecker door knocker; ceramic jar shade; Sloggers; rain gauge; book; five blue jay kites; four travel mugs; two travel mineral therapy; three bird window magnets; three golf ball window magnets; three wall plaques; three bird magnets; five 1-inch predator guard; candle sleeve; hand-painted decorative birdhouse
33. **Sue Elstrom:** Four cherry pit warmers .
34. **N.C. Zoo –** One-year family membership, valued at \$49.
35. **Wanda Simmons:** Paid parking fees for Friday attendees.
36. **UPCO** 160 catalogs; one 4 lb. container of Multi-Milk.
37. **Chris's Squirrels and More Store** Two \$35 gift certificates.
38. **National Opossum Society:** 20 Paula's Nips; handouts; OCH; National Opossum Society note cards; stuffed opossum; bumper sticker; Czina video; heater for incubator; Rybak card; Chumpy's Room Photo; 3.5 feeding tube
39. **Fox Valley :** Five 32/40 (1 lb.) bunny, squirrel, opossum formula; five 40/25 (1 lb.) raccoon formula; five 20/50 (1 lb.) squirrel 4 weeks and older formula; five 25/30 (1-lb.) opossum formula for 45 grams and up; five (200-gram) Lactobacillus Acidophilus; five Dia stat normalize stool consistency; five electrostat electrolyte powder.

40. **PetAg:** 45 lbs. of Zoologic Doe Milk replacer, valued at \$169, for the fawn session.

41. **Mike DuPuy Hawk:** One-half case 400 frozen day-old cockerels, valued at \$110.

42. **Starbucks Coffee Co.:** Coffee, milk, cups, stirring sticks, sugar, sweeteners, napkins for Saturday and Sunday.

43. **Helena Mika:** Rice and vegetable steamer; electric can opener; four stuffed animals with CDs.

44. **Parrot University:** Two parrot prints; "Bird, Insect, & Spiders" CD; "Fishes, Reptiles, & Amphibians" CD; pack of note cards.

45. **Carol Kaczmarek:** Small animal cage; three framed pictures; two calendars; Birds of North America book; two backpacks; two T-shirts; nylon jacket; pocket pet carrier; note pad box; two Beanie babies.

46. **Brenda Hiles:** Ten books.

47. **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida:** Raccoon photo album; squirrel note cards; cage guard; Wild Wings raccoon hanger

48. **Shana Turner:** MoBi Hopper bird feeder; one birdhouse.

#### EXHIBITORS:

Carolina Raptor Center; Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary; WAAZM; Red Dog Rescue; Second Chance Wildlife Rescue; Shana Turner; Linda Harris.

## WRNC T-Shirt design competition is back!

Artists, it's time again to sharpen your pencils, wet your paintbrushes, or get your mouse clicking!

WRNC is having its second T-Shirt design competition. Winning artwork will be used on T-shirts that will be available at WRNC's 2010 "8th Annual Wildlife Symposium." The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize, recognition at the symposium and in our newsletter.

Our current steel green T-shirt with Wanda Burton's winning screen design is very popular and has sold quite well for two years, but WRNC members have expressed a desire for a new color and design to add to their WRNC wardrobe.

— Linda Bergman  
WRNC Board member

### Submission guidelines:

- Number of colors in illustration or graphic is limited to three. (Black and white are considered color choices).
- Artwork should be submitted as a JPEG or PDF file via email to Linda Bergman at [lbergman@ec.rr.com](mailto:lbergman@ec.rr.com).
- There is no entry fee.
- Entrants may submit as many entries as they like.
- Artwork may be any media or mixed media, including computer generated.
- WRNC Board members will comprise the judging panel and all decisions of the judging panel will be final.



**Deadline for submission of design:** June 15, 2009

# Plunge Divers

By Linda Bergman,  
WRNC Board Member

When pelican patients are admitted to Intensive Care at the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter, the goal is to heal the wounds, remove entanglements, fuse the fractures or arrest the respiratory infections and get them outside to the pool enclosure as soon as possible. Pelicans are the messiest and stinkiest birds on the planet. There is no nicer way to say it. How can they not be sloppy and smelly? Their diet is fish, and they crap big constantly. It's always the same drill in ICU; diagnose, treat, clean, feed, clean, clean some more and repeat. But despite all that, there is no way not to love a pelican. They have the sweetest dispositions of all seabirds and want to follow you around like a puppy. When a pelican sidles up to me while I'm cleaning his dorm corner and lays his head against my leg as if to say, "thanks for helping me," I just melt.

Now, I can't say we've never had a pelican at the shelter with a nasty disposition, because we have. Recently, actually. I called him 'Killer!' Even though he was only a juvenile, his attitude was well set to be very protective of his fellow pelicans and intolerant of humans he perceived could do him or his own harm. I, a retired Marine, understand that posture all too well. Cautious as he was, he never turned down a fish tossed into his bowl. In ICU we cordon off corners of the room for these large seabirds, affording them room to walk, if they can, spread their five to six feet wing spans, if they can, and toss their heads back to efficiently direct meals of nice big fish, head first, down their throats. Most pelicans, cooperatively, stay behind the shower curtains and wait for one of the rehabilitators to tend to them as needed, which is usually meal time or 'change-the-papers, then-mop' time. Young Killer was another story. Beyond the pelican ward to the prep kitchen we could hear his repetitive loud clicks as he slapped his foot long scissor bill together proclaiming his displeasure about being held captive. There came a time when I walked through the door into ICU and he was waiting in the middle of the room for a face off after slashing through his shower curtains like some scene from an Alfred Hitchcock thriller. It became imperative after that episode to look through the small window in the swing door to find out exactly where he was before entering.

He could be hiding behind the door, and that bill around a leg could give quite the pinch. It didn't matter how bad he felt, he didn't want to be there and wanted us to know that there wasn't a wildlife shelter big enough to hold him! His cockiness impressed me and always made me laugh. I'd never met a pelican like him.

With his respiratory infection cured, Killer's three and a half weeks stay at the shelter ended recently. He and two other pelican cohorts, another young male and a female, were released at the waterfront in Swansboro, across from Pelican Island, during a slight drizzle. Three kennel cabs were aligned and all the woven wire doors opened toward the sea. Killer was the first to trot out of his carry cab, of course. The others quickly followed his lead. He didn't stay on the seawall long. He threw a quick glance our way, but it wasn't really a 'thank you' look as we like to interpret with most of our releases, probably just a 'SEE!' and he was on his way. He didn't look back again.



. . . . . Be well, Killer, live long.

