



## Letter from the President

WRNC is made up of people - people who care about animals. But did you ever stop and think about what it takes to make that happen?

Some people care enough to become wildlife rehabilitators and practice the hands-on skills necessary to save the lives of injured and orphaned birds and animals. These people attend classes, seminars, and symposiums to get all the training that they can in order to provide the best care possible. They value each little life and want to be able to return that animal or bird back into the wild. They sacrifice much in order to be able to do this, always giving of themselves and their time.



Others don't want the responsibility of making the life and death decisions, but still want to play a vital role in the daily care requirements involved in rehabilitation. They often serve as volunteers and assist others with transporting, feeding, cleaning, answering phones, and whatever else is needed during their scheduled shift. They provide the services that keep a center or facility running smoothly.

Many people help pass on the torch and provide the training to these new volunteers and those who want to earn their own wildlife permits. They teach the classes at the seminars, conferences, and symposiums so that others will learn the necessary skills and gain the knowledge to become licensed rehabilitators.

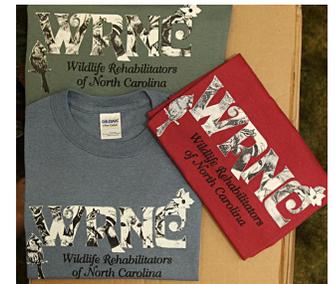
Anyone associated with a wildlife center, facility, or the individual in-home rehabilitator knows that paperwork is a daily and necessary evil that must be taken seriously. Records must be kept, statistics compiled, and many reports filed at the end of the year. Permits must be kept active and renewed by filing the proper forms as required. Financial record-keeping is extremely important to avoid conflicts with the IRS and to maintain a non-profit status. Various tax forms must be completed accurately and filed on time annually.

Nothing is free in life, and neither is wildlife rehabilitation or the training involved to achieve it. Fundraising is vitally important to have the money to provide the resources that drive these areas. Medical supplies, medications, specialty formulas, and a variety of caging are all mandatory if you rehabilitate on any scale or at any level. Instructors need supplies to give those classes and pay for the locations where they are held.

All of this goes into making WRNC what it is today. We are an important non-profit organization that benefits many people in North Carolina. Members are provided opportunities to learn, to meet others like themselves, to network, to grow and develop in their field, to build friendships, and to benefit the wildlife that they care about.

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## *Letter from the President (Cont.)*

In order to do this, WRNC needs a functioning Board of Directors made up of the members who care deeply and feel that NC wildlife deserves the chance to survive in the wild. You don't have to be a fulltime rehabilitator or a veterinarian to serve on the Board. You just need to be a NC resident and an active member. If you care enough to want to help, the Board wants YOU! Please consider becoming a part of the team that helps put on the major event provided each January for the other members - our annual Symposium. Are you willing to work to support the organization in other ways as well plus serving on at least two committees that benefit the other members? Can you participate in three telephone conference calls that constitute the rest of the quarterly board meetings? That's all it takes for you to become a nominee for the 2014 election!

If this is something you can do and are willing to commit to helping WRNC stay active and effective, then notify a current board member or a member of the Nominating Committee. You can email Toni O'Neil at [oneil9734@yahoo.com](mailto:oneil9734@yahoo.com) or Linda Bergman at [lbergman@ec.rr.com](mailto:lbergman@ec.rr.com) to indicate your interest in becoming the newest member of the WRNC board. Or you can nominate others that you feel should be considered for this position, and the committee will do the rest.

WRNC is made up of people who care. Let's provide a Board of Directors who demonstrate this passion.

Sincerely,  
Toni O'Neil  
WRNC President

## *Chimney Swift Tower and Cage Grant Programs: Deadline Looming!*



The deadline of January 5th to apply for a Chimney Swift Tower or Cage Grant is right around the corner! The opportunity for monetary assistance is available through our organization to provide much needed alternative habitat for Chimney Swifts in our North Carolina communities or Cage Grants for wildlife rehabilitators who are WRNC members who have the room and want to increase the excellence of their rehabilitative process.

Construction of alternative habitat for our feathered environmental partner, the Chimney Swift, encourages them to return and thrive in our state. If you or your organization have noticed the loss of Chimney Swift habitat (possibly due to the capping of chimneys) or a decrease in numbers of Chimney Swift presence, you or someone you know may also see the need and choose to construct and maintain a Chimney Swift tower to entice the residency of Chimney Swifts, acrobatic insectivores who vacuum the sky at dawn and dusk riding our areas of pesky flying bugs, especially mosquitoes. WRNC offers a \$300.00 grant and the Paul & Georgean Kyle book, "New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds (A Construction Guide)" to assist you or your group in the undertaking of this valuable conservation project. Up to three grants can be awarded each year.

Two \$300.00 cage grants may also be awarded to help defray costs for two current (dues paid) WRNC members to use for cage building. A new enclosure might be just what you need to improve your rehab and release program.

Please refer to WRNC's website <http://ncwildliferehab.org> for details of eligibility and application requirements for both the grant programs. For further questions feel free to contact the WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant Coordinator, Linda Bergman at [910-346-8345](tel:910-346-8345) or [lbergman@ec.rr.com](mailto:lbergman@ec.rr.com) or Cage Grant Coordinator, Toni Oneil at [910-326-6432](tel:910-326-6432) or [oneil9734@yahoo.com](mailto:oneil9734@yahoo.com). Deadline for submission of application and supporting documentation is January 5th, annually, for both grant programs.



## Bird Banding

*Halley Buckanoff*

In 1803, John James Audubon tied small silver cords on the legs of nestling Eastern Phoebes to see if they would return the next year, and they did! This was the very first recorded attempts at bird banding, or as they say in Great Britain, ringing. For the next 100 years, there was a growing interest in banding birds, but each individual was using their own system and bands. Therefore, in 1909 the American Bird Banding Association was formed to organize banding efforts. By 1920 banding was so widespread that it could not be coordinated by a private group, so the Bureau of Biological Survey (now the United States Geologic Survey) and its counterpart the Canadian Wildlife Service took over coordinating bird banding. This has been a joint effort to oversee the activities of dedicated bird banders all over the world ever since.

Banding of birds in the United States is regulated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and requires a federal permit issued by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), referred to as a Master Bird Banding Permit. Individuals can become sub-permitted under a Master's Permit, and others may band under their authority and supervision. As of 2000, there were only about 2,000 Master Bird Banders and another 3,000 sub-permittees in all of North America. Interested applicants are eligible if they can demonstrate experience, knowledge and skills in bird identification, banding techniques and tools, have well defined research, and have at least three other Master Bird Banders as references.

The benefits of banding birds are extensive. Each year bird banders enter the information they have gathered into a federal database with morphological data on individual species including, weight, wing sizes, beak lengths, tail lengths, etc in addition to geographical data of where the birds were banded and released. Through the years this data has enlightened us to migratory patterns, longevity, species norms, and population trends, just to name a few.



Getting Wing Cord Measurements on an Orchard Oriole



Applying USFW metal bands in additions to approved colored bands on a hand-reared Eastern Bluebird.

In a rehabilitation setting, this can also be a valuable resource for how individuals we hand-rear and/or rehabilitate are surviving after return into the wild. While literature searches have revealed banding return data on rehabilitated birds of prey and oiled birds, preliminary investigations suggest that there is minimal data on the post-release success of songbirds and woodpeckers - species commonly hand-reared and rehabilitated.

In 2009 the Valerie H. Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at the North Carolina Zoo decided to research post-release survival of seven of our North Carolina native wild songbirds/woodpeckers that are commonly hand-reared and rehabilitated in an effort to improve our knowledge of post-release success of these species: Eastern Bluebird, Northern Cardinal, Mourning Dove, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay, and American Robin. Partnering with a local college, applications for permits and research proposals were submitted to the USGS for approval, and granted. The plan was to gather data over five years, and possibly expand to a telemetry study after five years of data collection. At each re-sight of a banded bird, an ethogram (a catalog or table of all the different kinds of behavior or activity observed in an animal) is conducted to ensure species specific, normal behaviors as well as appropriate fear and non-reliance of humans. To date, several hand-reared banded songbirds have been seen up to six months after release at their release sight, interacting with their own species! There is still another year left in this phase of the study so stay tuned for more information and final data results!

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# Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation



## International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

### Education and Resources for Wildlife Conservation Worldwide

The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council will offer the Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation course in Asheboro, NC this October for those looking to add to their formal wildlife rehabilitation education. The IWRC is a non-profit organization that offers training and support to professional wildlife rehabilitators - from large non-profit organizations to individual home rehabilitators.

#### **Course Description:**

A two day introductory course with lecture topics that include: intro to wildlife rehab, basic anatomy and physiology, calculating drug dosages, handling and physical restraint, thermoregulation, stress, basic shock cycle, initial care and physical examination, nutrition and associated diseases, standards for housing, zoonoses, euthanasia criteria and release criteria.

**Includes a half-day lab** to practice techniques in: gavage (tube-feeding), physical restraint, intramuscular and subcutaneous injections, physical exams, limb immobilization and weighing. (Full course earns 15 Continuing Education Credits)

**Where:** North Carolina Zoo - Asheboro, NC

**When:** October 26th and 27th, 2013

**Cost:** IWRC Members \$125 Non-members \$159



**Hosted by Wildlife Rehabilitators of NC and NC Zoo's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

**Click:** [www.theiwrc.org](http://www.theiwrc.org)

**Call:** 866-871-1869

## *Creature Feature – Eastern King Snake*

*By Brooks Long*

*Lampropeltis* comes from two Greek words *lampros* and *pelta* which mean “radiant small shields.” *Getula* comes from the Latin word *Getulus* which is referring to Getulians which were people of Morocco in western Africa where this chain-like pattern was found in their culture.

**HABITAT AND RANGE.** Eastern kingsnakes can be found throughout eastern United States, as north as New Jersey and south as Florida. They live in many types of habitats from hardwoods and pines to bottomlands and swamps. They also like hammocks, tidal wetlands, farmlands, and even suburban areas. They are also known to be strongly terrestrial but can be found close to water like stream banks.

**DESCRIPTION.** Eastern kingsnakes are mostly black on the back with a white or yellow chain-like pattern. Their bellies are usually marked up with white or yellow patches on a black background which kind of looks like a checkered board. Some that are found on the Outer Banks can look more brown than black and have light specks between the patterns. Then in the mountains the chain-like markings can be broken up into small spots. Their heads are short and stout and they have small round eyes. They can average three to four feet in length.

**DIET.** Eastern kingsnakes are very strong constrictors. They prey on small rodents, eggs, frogs, lizards, small turtles, salamanders, and even other snakes. They even prey on venomous snakes as well.

**REPRODUCTION.** Eastern kingsnakes mate in the spring of the year. The females will lay 3-24 eggs under debris or in rotting logs during early summer. The eggs will hatch between August and September with an incubation period of 60-75 days. As in most reptiles, incubation temperatures can determine the sex of the offspring, warmer temperatures creates males and cooler creates females. The young resemble the adults and reach sexual maturity around 2 years of age.

**LONGEVITY.** Eastern kingsnakes can live between 10-15 years.

### **INTERESTING FACTS.**

1. Eastern kingsnakes have one of the widest ranges of any American snake.
2. They are immune to the venom of pit-vipers like that of copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes.
3. Although they frequently rattle their tail, release musk, and bite upon capture, they generally are docile.

### **REHABILITATION CONSIDERATIONS.**

1. Eastern kingsnakes are known to be very territorial, so try to release back at the location found.
2. When housing next to other snakes, place a visual blocker between the snakes since Eastern kingsnakes are predators on other snakes.
3. They like to hide under things, so make sure in the enclosure to have hide boxes or hiding places for them to hide.

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Photo Courtesy S. Russell



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## *Calendar of Events*

- **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council**  
Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Class  
October 26, 2013  
North Carolina Zoo
- **Wildlife Center of Virginia**  
18th Annual Call of the Wild Conference  
November 9-10, 2013  
<http://wildlifecenter.org/call-wild-conference>
- **International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council**  
35th Annual Symposium  
November 4-9, 2013  
Victoria, British Columbia

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**Visit us on the web: [www.ncwildliferehab.org](http://www.ncwildliferehab.org)**

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## *Announcements*

### **WRNC Symposium**

The WRNC Symposium will be here before we know it! Have you blocked off the weekend of January 24-26, 2014? We will be gathering at a new location this year - Nash Community College, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina will be the site of this year's symposium!

The WRNC Symposium Committee is already hard at work recruiting speakers, seeking raffle items, and planning activities for the weekend. The Committee would love to hear from WRNC members about what presentation topics and workshop topics they would like to see on the agenda. Please reach out to the Symposium Chair, Jean Chamberlain at [jchamberlain1@windstream.net](mailto:jchamberlain1@windstream.net) with suggestions! And, be on the lookout for requests to volunteer! Volunteers are involved with all aspects of the symposium, and the Committee wants to make sure that all members have a chance to give back to their organization.

We hope to see you there!

### **Need help during squirrel season? Turn to WRNC's Facebook page!**

Remember to take advantage of WRNC's Facebook page for help during squirrel season. Whether you have been overloaded and need someone to help carry the load, or you have just one baby squirrel and need to find a rehabilitator with a squirrel of the same age and size—the Facebook page is an easy way to reach out to North Carolina's rehabilitator community for support. Remember—you should never raise a squirrel alone! They must be raised with others of the same size, age, and level of development.

### **Pearl of Wisdom from Megan Tetreau**

Even though it is beginning to cool off at night, the days are still hot enough to allow opossums in pre-release cages a special enrichment treat of frozen cubes of beef broth (the non-salty kind) at night.