

# WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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## Letter From The President

by Carla Johnson

As Florence approaches the SE coast, I decided to put out a mass email to everyone on our membership list asking if anyone needed help or for help for the massive amounts of animals (probably hundreds of squirrel babies) that will be displaced after the storm passes through. It shouldn't surprise me that the wildlife people in the central and mountain regions had already contacted the wildlife people at the coast and offered whatever help that they needed either before or after the storm.

This is what I love about WRNC and its members. We may all have different opinions or views on how to rehab something or run a wildlife shelter but when disasters happen we all go out of our way to help anyone that needs help with the animals that find themselves injured or orphaned by the disaster. WRNC volunteers are the best!!!

Please take precautions and evacuate if ordered to do so. If you are injured due to the storm, how will you be able to take care of the animals that are counting on you?

Please let me know if you find that you need help with the gazillion baby squirrels that may be blown out of their nests or with any other critters that you may not be equipped to deal with. Email me at [wildlifefeed2@aol.com](mailto:wildlifefeed2@aol.com) or feel free to call me at 336-813-0800 and we will find you some help.

Everyone be safe out there and please let us know if you need help with the animals!!

Carla



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## *Nomination Committee Seeking Recommendations For New WRNC Board Members!*

Before long we will all be making plans to attend the annual WRNC Symposium during January, 2019 for fellowship, networking, education and fun! Along with all of that, it will be time for the Board of Directors' election during the General Assembly meeting at the Banquet. The Nomination committee is always looking for individuals who enjoy bringing new and employable ideas forward and contributing their wildlife rehabilitation commitment in a fuller way that impacts all members of our state-wide and beyond organization!

If you have a person in mind who you would like to recommend as a WRNC board member and/or if that person just happens to BE YOU, please contact Toni O'Neil at [Oneil9734@yahoo.com](mailto:Oneil9734@yahoo.com) or Ann Rogers at [Mom2wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:Mom2wildlife@gmail.com). Every organization needs differing views and fresh, new effective ways to develop and grow!!

A few things you should know about a WRNC Board position:

- ◆ Terms are three years
- ◆ This is a working board – all board members are expected to attend and work the annual symposium each year.
- ◆ Board members attend several phone-in board meetings throughout the year.
- ◆ Board members serve on several working committees.
- ◆ Board members need to be team players who can communicate effectively, are willing and able to collaborate and discuss issues (including controversial ones) relating to wildlife rehabilitation and conservation education.
- ◆ You do not need to be an active rehabilitator to serve on the board.



In addition to working at the symposium, board members spend lots of time during the weeks and month ahead planning for the event.

Photographs by John Althouse

## *New Deadline For WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant Applications!! by Linda Bergman-Althouse*

November 1st is the new deadline and is coming up in just a few months! With the help of WRNC's Chimney Swift Tower Grant Program, construction of alternative habitat for our feathered environmental partner, the Chimney Swift, continues to spread across our state.

We have assisted in the construction of 20 Chimney Swift Towers since 2008 and recently, two 2018 WRNC grant award towers were erected in Asheville and Chapel Hill, NC much to the chagrin of insect pests far and wide. If you 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 may also want to construct and maintain a Chimney Swift tower in your area to encourage Chimney Swifts, acrobatic insectivores who vacuum the sky at dawn and dusk, to return to your community each year.

WRNC offers a \$500.00 grant and the Paul & Georgan 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. The WRNC Board of Directors selects up to three award grants per year.



**Stock Photo**



Please refer to WRNC's website <http://ncwildliferehab.org> for details of eligibility and application requirements. This program is open to North Carolina residents only, at this time. For further questions feel free to contact the WRNC Chimney Swift Tower Grant Program Coordinator, Linda Bergman-Althouse, at 910-358-1596 or [lbergmanx@gmail.com](mailto:lbergmanx@gmail.com). Once again, the deadline for submission is November 1st, annually, and as fast as a Chimney Swift flies, so does time!

Don't miss the opportunity to host Chimney Swifts in your area!!

**Grant Application: Nov 1st, 2018**

## *Training Opportunities*

**The NWRA will hold its annual symposium in St Louis, MO on March 5th-9th, 2019.**

Check out details at : <https://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Sympoverview>

**The Wildlife Center of Virginia “Call of the Wild” 23rd Annual Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference**

Nov 16-18, 2018. Details at <https://www.wildlifecenter.org/call-wild-conference>

The **IWRC** offers a variety of courses. See details at <https://theiwrc.org/courses>

### **Carolina Raptor Center (CRC ) Rehabilitation Seminars**

CRC has rescheduled the rehabilitation seminars for March 16 & 17, 2019. Tentative list of topics includes:

Saturday — Imping, Bandaging, Case studies, Physical Therapy & Anesthesia, Tour of hospital

Sunday — Re-nesting raptors, Release Evaluation, Feathers & Aging, Clinical Pathology, Q&A with Dr. David Scott

**Wildlife Rehab Inc.** in Winston-Salem, NC offers an 11-week course (1 night/week) at **Forsyth Technical College** in the spring and fall.

<http://www.wildliferehabinc.org>

**Coastal Carolina Community College** in conjunction with **Poosumwood Acres** offers a 6-month course in wildlife rehabilitation. See details at <https://www.coastalcarolina.edu/>

Look for listings in the Continuing Education Schedule under the “Veterinary Office Assistant” section

**Wildlife Welfare** in Raleigh, NC offers training courses. Check them out at <http://www.wildlifewelfare.org>

## *”Night Gliders” by Linda Bergman-Althouse*

*As written for Carolina Salt Magazine*

“It’s a bird! No . . . it’s a bat!” It could very well be that both guesses are wrong. The diminutive night flyer, gliding from tree to tree on folds of outstretched skin, is the most common mammal never seen by humans in North Carolina, so it is easily misidentified. The Southern Flying Squirrel (SFS) is a small rodent with big saucer like eyes that occupies habitat similar to his larger cousins, the gray squirrel and the fox squirrel, however this itty-bitty squirrel is nocturnal, becoming active and feeding only at night while foraging on the ground. It weighs no more than 2 to 3 oz. and measures from 8 1/2 in. to 9 7/8 in., including a 3 to 4-inch tail. The SFS is the smallest of North Carolina’s 5 tree squirrel species. Its fur is a ravishing reddish brown or gray, although its belly is colored a creamy white. The most distinctive feature it sports is the cape of loose skin that stretches from



**Stock photos**



its wrists to its ankles and forms a membrane, called the patagium, with which it is capable of gliding. The membrane is bordered in black. When the squirrel stretches its legs to their fullest extent, the membrane opens and supports the animal on glides of considerable distance. Although it is called a “flying” squirrel, it actually jumps and parachutes rather than flies! It’s amazing to catch a visual of them in “flight.” The gliding membrane billows up, and by varying the tension on the patagium and using its tail as a rudder (like the tail on a kite), the SFS can direct its glide around branches and other obstacles with remarkable agility, although it cannot gain altitude during a glide. However, it can make a sudden 90-degree angle turn in the direction of its glide. That fluffy little “multi-purpose” tail is also used for communication and thermal regulation. Although the distance they glide is usually short, the longest flight on record was measured at around 200 feet. The flying squirrel lands hind feet first, head up and scampers to the side of the tree to avoid detection. The SFS is one of two flying squirrels found in North America—the other one is the Northern Flying Squirrel (NFS). While both are found in North Carolina, the NFS is rare and found

## ”Night Gliders” (continued)

only at higher elevations in the western part of our state. Although a fairly quiet animal, flying squirrels can produce birdlike chirping sounds, but some of their vocalizations are not audible to the human ear. Preferred habitats for SFS include hardwood and mixed pine-hardwood forests. They require older trees with cavities that provide 1 1/2 to 2 in. in diameter entrances for roosting and nesting, and in winter these adorable squirrels readily gather in surprisingly large numbers. Tree cavities have been found with as many as 50 roosting squirrels. Because of their need for tree cavity habitats, they are a natural competitor for woodpeckers’ homes, and even though they are quite cute, they’ve been known to bully an endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker from its nesting cavity and take over the residence. Bluebird boxes are also quite attractive to flying squirrels. Wildlife rehabilitators most often get involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of this delightful, tiny squirrel when the little one chooses a cavity precariously close to a residence or possibly, even manages to enter a house. It’s not uncommon for SFS to find a cavity somewhere on a residential structure and make their way into an attic or a wall to find a perfect and safe dwelling to nest and raise babies, which some folks object to. Sometimes a tree is cut down before realizing it is home to nesting or roosting flyers. Tree cutters bring the homeless little gliders to wildlife rehabilitators to ensure they are cared for and raised properly for eventual release back into the wild, giving them that second chance we at wildlife shelters are known for. When they are admitted, usually due to displacement rather than injury, we attempt to replicate their omnivorous natural diet as best we can. If the flying squirrel is very young, the rehabilitator will provide syringe formula until they are ready for solid foods such as meal worms, fruits, berries, flower blossoms, vegetables, seeds and nuts. Nesting and breeding usually occurs twice a year; January-February and June-July. A typical nest will be lined with finely chewed bark, especially cedar bark in the east and grasses. Lichen, moss and even feathers will provide a soft bed. More than one nest is constructed as a necessary Plan B in the wild, because Mom will need to move her infants if the nest is disturbed by natural elements such as damaging weather or predator presence such as owls, hawks, snakes, bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, weasels, foxes and the common house or feral cat (which is the most prevalent and lethal danger posed to them). Last year, a SFS was admitted to the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter in Newport by a gentleman whose cat had done a “very bad thing,” but luckily the tiny infant was unharmed. The female pup checked in fully furred but with eyes still closed and only 22 grams, one of the smallest SFS ever admitted to the shelter. So, she had a long way to go to be capable of eating on her own and reaching a releasable weight of 70-80 grams. When they reach adulthood, they are only one fourth the size of an adult Eastern Gray Squirrel. The Momma SFS



Photograph by Linda Bergman-Althouse

## *”Night Gliders” (continued)*

produces an average litter of one to three young that weigh in at less than a quarter ounce each. The youngsters will open their eyes at four weeks and stay with Mom until she births her next litter. Although SFS are mammals and babies will nurse for about a month, they will be gliding and eating on their own by eight weeks. Unfortunately, Mom is on her own during this time, as males do not assist with the rearing of babies. It will take about a year for the youngin’s to mature before reproducing. Life expectancy for these cute little rodents is up to 13 years in captivity, but not more than 4 or 5 years in the wild. Flying squirrels are the oldest living line of



“modern” squirrels, and fossil records date back over 30 million years. SFS are a nongame species and although not listed as endangered, we should still be mindful that their presence gives humans a better quality of life. Those cutie-patooties glide through the night feeding on a variety of insects and big ‘ole bugs that would surely be annoying to us during the day! So, if you find SFS have moved into your home or they are now homeless due to a tree ‘fell,’ please contact your nearest wildlife rehabilitation center or wildlife control officer for assistance, not just because they are cute, but because we need to protect and relocate our environmental partners, Southern Flying Squirrels!

### **Stock Photos**



## *Antibiotic Use In Wildlife - Food For Thought by Melisse Hopping*

I will be the first to tell you that I am not qualified to prescribe antibiotics for wildlife. Most veterinarians will tell you the same thing. That's because medications used in domestic animals have been studied extensively but not their use in wildlife. The best they can do is make an educated guess.

In my research for this article, the only study I found regarding antibiotics in wildlife was "Determination of Flouoroquinolone Antibiotic Residues in the Plasma of Eurasian Griffon Vultures in Spain." The drug was from dead beef cattle ingested by the vultures, causing kidney failure and death of the vultures, resulting in a significant decline in their population.

Having said that, let's assume I receive an animal that has been put on antibiotics by a vet or another rehabber. There are five rules to consider when administering medication:

- 1) Right patient - Not all drugs have been studied for use in wildlife. This may not be an appropriate drug for this species.
- 2) Right route - If I receive a liquid medicine in a syringe, is it for injection, oral or topical use? Giving it by the wrong route may render it useless or cause harm to the animal.
- 3) Right dosage - How many milligrams per kilogram of weight do I give? Also consider species specific dosing and the age of the animal. Is this for an active infection, or to prevent one? If the preparation is concentrated, do I know how to dilute it to obtain a manageable amount for a dose? A "drop or two" is not an accurate dose.
- 4) Right drug - Is it labeled with the drug name, concentration, dose prescribed and for which animal it is intended? An unlabeled container with medication in it is inappropriate and unsafe.
- 5) Right time – Because of the way antibiotics work, doses must be spread evenly throughout a 24 hour period. For example, not given three times a day but every 8 hours. How long do I give it? Can I stop early if the animal improves? (No)  
Do I know the side effects or signs of an allergic reaction?

Most everyone is aware of the growing problem of antibiotic resistant pathogens. Many medications take days or weeks to completely clear the system and if the animal is later eaten by a predator or scavenger, it is possible for the consumer to receive a sub-therapeutic dose of the antibiotic or its by-products, contributing to more antibiotic resistance.

We don't know how long it takes for each species to metabolize or excrete any of these medications. Releasing or burying animals with chemicals in their tissues can have far reaching consequences for other animals and the environment as a whole.

**Melisse Hopping is a Wildlife Rehabilitator, member of WRNC and Wildlife Rehab Inc., RN, and certified Veterinary Assistant.**

## *We're looking for a few good men and women speakers* by Mathias Engelmann

WRNC symposium organizers often hear requests from attendees for specific lecture or lab topics and we do our best to address those requests. However, finding good speakers who are knowledgeable on the “right” topic is not always easy. If you have seen someone give a talk at a conference or public meeting and have been impressed, please contact any board member. Contact information can be found on the WRNC website.

A good speaker :

- ◆ needs to be very familiar with their material so they can talk without constantly looking at their notes
- ◆ needs to be passionate about their field
- ◆ needs to be comfortable speaking in front of a crowd and engage the audience
- ◆ needs to present material that is accurate and useful to the audience (or at least interesting)
- ◆ needs to follow legal and ethical statues in their practices
- ◆ needs to conduct themselves in a professional manner



**Photographs by  
John Althouse**

## *Important dates in 2018 & 2019*

Next WRNC Symposium: Saturday & Sunday, Jan 26th & 27th, 2019 with an Icebreaker on Friday, Jan 25th

Deadline to submit a \$500 Chimney Swift Tower Grant Application: **Nov 1st, 2018** (NEW DEADLINE)

Deadline to submit a \$500 Cage Grant Application: **Nov 1st, 2018** (NEW DEADLINE)

## *WRNC Newsletter Schedule*

Do you have a wildlife-related idea you would like to share with the WRNC membership? You should think about submitting it to the editors for consideration. How about a relevant article you found somewhere? Send us a link so we can ask for permission to reprint it. Email all articles, ideas, comments and questions to:

Mengelmann@carolinaraptorcenter.org

The WRNC newsletter is published four times a year. The deadlines for submissions are:

**March 1st      June 1st      September 1st      December 1st.**

## *New Deadline For WRNC Cage Grant Applications*

*by Mathias Engelmann*

Do you have need a new rehab cage? Do you need to repair or improve an older enclosure.

Here's a way to get \$ 500 towards that project. Go to WRNC's website (<http://ncwildliferehab.org>) and download the application and instructions. Please make sure you include all the information we ask for.

Several people had submitted an application during the last grant cycle but unfortunately missed the deadline. We will certainly consider those applications now . If you are one of those applicants, please get in touch with me ([mengelmann@carolinaraptorcenter.org](mailto:mengelmann@carolinaraptorcenter.org)) if anything on your application should change and/or if you are still interested in applying.

**Grant Application: Nov 1st, 2018**

**Since 2005, 20 cage grants have been awarded—yours could be next!**

## *Species Profile – Cooper’s Hawk, Part III*

*by Mathias Engelmann*

### **Exercising**

Cooper’s Hawks (COHA’s), especially the larger females, require a 40’-50’ flight cage at a minimum to allow for proper exercise and evaluation. Exercise cages need to conform to USWFS requirements including the no-wire-as-primary-barrier rule. Vertical slats prevent some of the issues seen with wire such as feather damage and cere damage.

Birds need to be allowed to acclimate to a particular cage and exercise routine. We usually wait a few days before starting active exercising.

Exercising a COHA is simply a matter of walking back and forth inside the flight cage once a day for a few minutes and observing the bird. The single observer should have experience and needs to take notes for the permanent record so that progress can be measured. The first few flight sessions can be a struggle, particularly after major trauma such as a broken bone in the wing and subsequent weeks of cage rest. If a COHA is not willing to fly, he or she is just not ready yet. Forcing them to fly is counterproductive. Either the original injury is not healed yet or a complication has arisen. COHA are very eager to fly whenever they can and will attempt to fly even with a Fig-8 bandage on.

Birds with healing wing fractures may exhibit pronounced asymmetry to their wing use for some time, until they are completely healed and had a chance to build muscle strength. Flights may be labored with little or no gliding. Birds often lose altitude, “dipping down” in the middle of each flight and then struggling to make it to the high perch at the far end of a cage.

A typical exercise routine consists of a set number of cage lengths (40-50’ long cage) once a day, usually 6-8 to start out with. That number will be increased every few days or weekly depending on how each patient responds. After 2-3 weeks the “average” bird will easily complete 12-15 cage lengths in quick succession without tiring. At this point they should demonstrate good “gliding” behavior without any open-mouth breathing (OMB).

They tend to reach full speed with just a few beats and then coast the rest of the way without losing any altitude. As their condition improves, they will be able to maintain altitude easily and often glide up to half the length of a cage, a good sign. They will also fly faster and demonstrate their incredible maneuverability. COHA’s can just about turn on a dime, a skill that is important when your next meal can also fly and is very agile.

OMB can be a sign of stress (there’s a person in my cage!), a sign of poor cardiovascular condition, a lack of flight muscle mass, or even a sign of a disease process or internal parasites. High daytime temperatures during the summer months can also influence their flight performance so we schedule exercise during the cooler early morning period.



**Flight cage featuring “obstacles” such as fabric strips hanging from ceiling to evaluate vision**

## *Cooper's Hawk (cont.)*

### **Nestlings & Fledglings**

Nestlings can be housed in groups as they tend to be a little more tolerant of each other. Once they get older and start flying, males and females should be separated. In the wild, COHA's fledge at 5 weeks of age and become independent at 8 weeks of age!

Food amounts have to be increased significantly compared to adult birds. We typically feed young raptors at least BID (twice a day) and the birds are getting sufficient food so that there is always some left over by the time the next meal comes.

We have no experience with re-nesting in COHA's but have been told that wild adults tend not to accept substitute nests or additional babies in their own nests.

Ideally all young birds should have some exposure to live prey since they may not have been independent yet before becoming injured. Practically speaking it is difficult to supply them with the appropriate live prey items. Captive-raised quail are the closest thing to their natural diet that would be available for purchase.



**Above : Young COHA (3-4 weeks old) with full crop and dark gray iris**

**Left : Slightly older bird with iris already lighter in coloration**

### **Transport**

Transport containers should be darkened and feature sufficient ventilation and a soft towel as substrate. Sturdy cardboard boxes make good transport boxes because they are softer than most animal carriers. Any type of wire cage is completely unacceptable as COHA's can seriously injure themselves even during a short transport.

Long-distance transports are not encouraged for healthy birds ready to be released. That means it may not always be possible to return birds to the location where they were found, even though we would prefer it. Finders are often eager to attend the release but may need to be asked to meet at a suitable alternate location.

## Cooper's Hawk (cont.)

### Release

A release evaluation involves a combination of factors:

- ◆ fractures and wounds are healed, full use of legs and feet, full use of wings, good coordination, good use of the tail as a “rudder and brake”
- ◆ the weight and keel score are within normal range
- ◆ good feather condition
- ◆ good behavioral evaluation
- ◆ good conditioning – exhibits fast and agile flight, gliding 25% of flight path or more, good coordination
- ◆ self-feeding

COHA's can self-destruct even in the best of cages. A large flight cage is important to give them room to exercise quickly once they are ready. Keeping track of each birds' progress is critical so that release arrangements can be made immediately once they pass their final evaluation.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a position where we feel like we need to release a particular bird in less-than-perfect condition because the alternative is to demote it to a smaller cage and watch it continue to self-destruct. Common examples would be cere or wrist wounds. Despite protective bandages, appropriate caging and minimal careful daily interaction (food, water, limited exercise) some birds manage to injure themselves. Often these patients are ready for release in every other way - fractures are healed, overall conditioning, feather status, and keel score all good. As long as those wounds are minor and covered to prevent access by flies we feel like they should heal quickly in the wild and the birds will do better in the wild than in captivity.

### Admission Trends

At CRC we see definite seasonal trends (See Fig1., next page). One admission peak occurs in late summer and reflects many juvenile birds struggling to manage independence. A second peak during the winter months probably reflects several factors: food is scarce, many 1st year birds are struggling to survive, and northern birds, both experienced adults and young birds, have migrated south and may be competing for limited resources with our resident birds.

As expected, many more juvenile than adult birds are admitted. (Fig 2, next page). The most common explanation is that juvenile birds are inexperienced and more likely to become injured. They may also take chances that an adult bird would not.



**Interesting fact—notice that in Cooper's Hawks the outer two tail feathers (R#6 and L#6) have a different color pattern than the remaining tail feathers. This is consistently true for both juvenile and adult COHA's**

## Cooper's Hawk (cont.)

### Final Words

Cooper's Hawks have adapted well to living in urban and suburban areas where they take advantage of the habitat and food sources the human population provides for them. This proximity to people unfortunately also puts them at risk for collisions and other injury causes.

They can be a challenge to rehabilitate, but with some planning they actually do reasonably well. They epitomize the fierce spirit that we admire in raptors. They are a lot of fun to observe when exercising and they will test your reflexes.

### Reference

Peter Pyle - Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II

All pictures and graphs by CRC

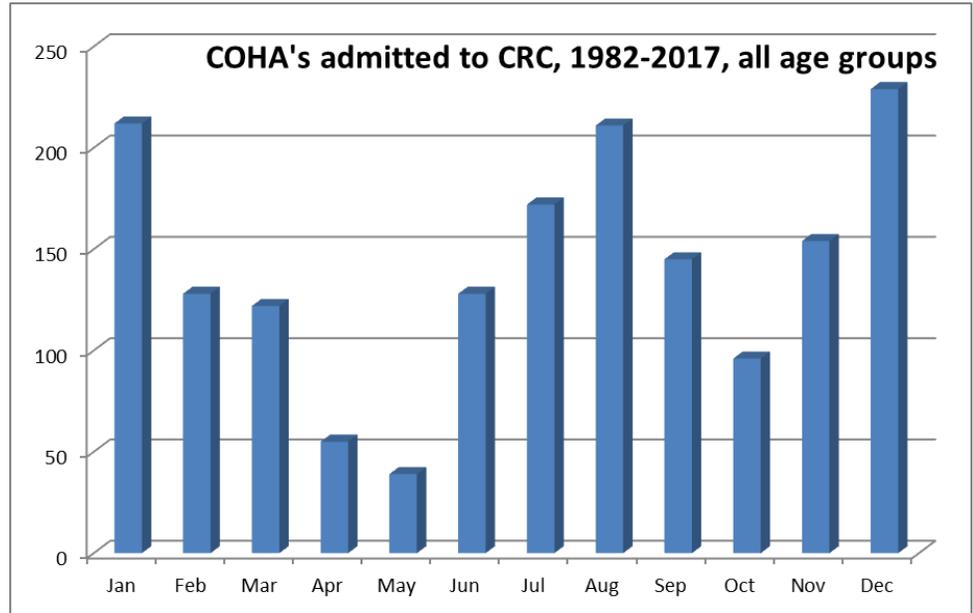


Fig 1 - COHA admissions by month

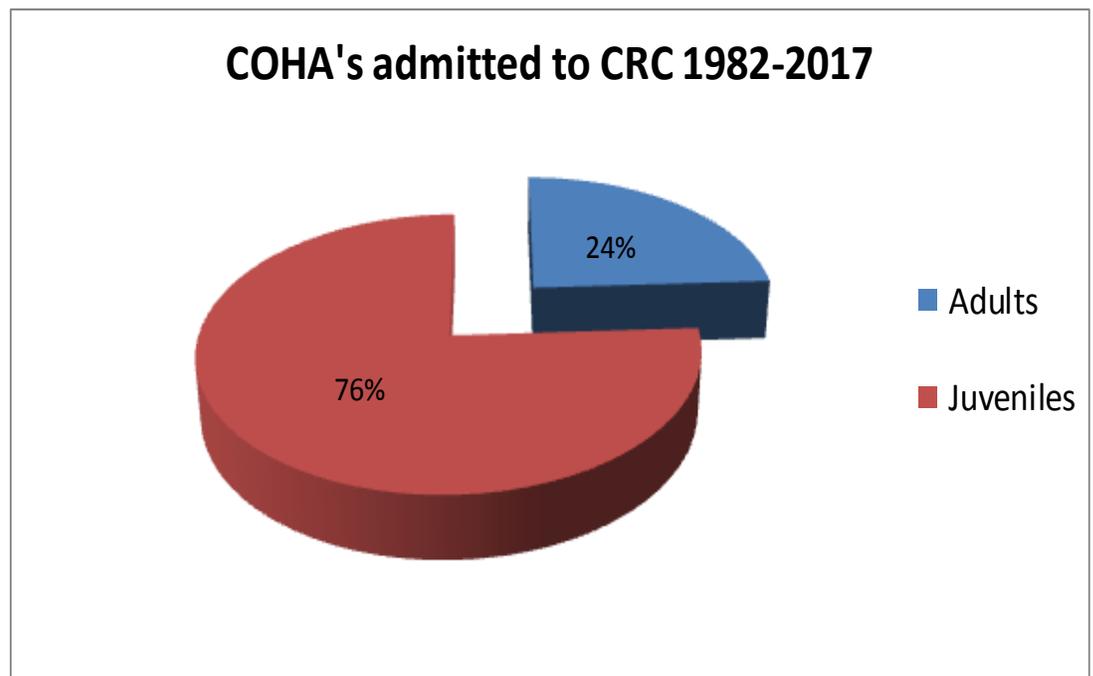


Fig 2 - COHA admissions by sex

## *As a WRNC Member, what would you like to see happen*

Help us shape the future of WRNC.

Whether you are a rehabilitator, educator, volunteer, or veterinarian — as a member of WRNC, what are you looking for from the organization? What do you need to improve? How can we help?

More educational opportunities? Grants? Changes/improvements to the symposium?

Send us your ideas and be as specific as you can.



**Vendors at the annual symposium—a good way to get supplies and gifts and support other rehabbers at the same time; Photograph by John Althouse**

## *Request for volunteers*



Bird Ally X is managing an avian botulism outbreak on site at the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge and has an immediate need for volunteers to help care for impacted wildlife. Avian botulism is a strain of botulism that affects wild bird populations, most notably waterfowl and is not contagious. This is an opportunity to learn the foundational skills of wildlife rehabilitation and help care for local wildlife by providing supportive care.

Volunteers duties will include rescue transport, handling patients for exam, preparing food, cleaning & preparing enclosures, washing dishes, laundry, and cage construction.

Volunteer requirements:

- Be sensitive to reducing captive wildlife stress
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be in good health. People who are immune compromised should not work directly with animals but are welcome to help with transport.
- Be able to lift 50 lbs.
- Must wear closed-toe shoes
- Ability to work as part of a team, be positive, fun & have good work ethic

The working conditions are outside and may involve hard physical labor. Please bring a water bottle and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. If you're interested in helping some amazing birds. please email John Fitzroy, USF&W Klamath Basin NWRC Visitor Services Manager, [john\\_fitzroy@fws.gov](mailto:john_fitzroy@fws.gov) or January Bill, Wildlife Rehabilitator, Bird Ally X @ [jb@birdallyx.net](mailto:jb@birdallyx.net)

## *Osprey Re-nesting by Carly Ouzts, Carolina Raptor Center*

Last night, after waiting out multiple thunderstorms, we successfully added two osprey nestlings to an active nest site on Lake Norman. These siblings were admitted to our medical center after they had to be removed from their nest. Over the past 10 years, we have only received 13 baby osprey, so we do not have much experience with re-nesting them. In fact, this is the first time that we have re-nested them in a nest that was not their own.

They were placed into an ideal situation: both parents present with only one baby of their own and it was similar in age to the new arrivals, and the nest was easily accessible (by boat).

After the young were added to the nest, a parent was back on it within 5 minutes.

The nest was monitored regularly over the next few weeks to make sure the parents could support their much bigger family.

We owe Billy Wilson and Gene Vaughan of Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists a huge “Thank you” for helping us to locate and then access the active osprey nest that was used.

**All photographs by Billy Wilson**



**Immediately after the 2 new babies were added, all 3 young are crouching down in the nest**



**18 days later, all 3 young still present and once again crouching down. Note the orange iris visible on 2 of the 3 birds and the distinctly spotted plumage.**

## *Animal Help Now - An Automated Service To Find Local Help For Animal Emergencies*      *submitted by Toni O'Neil*

As spring moved into summer, parents were working hard to feed their babies, and young ones were testing out their legs, fins and wings as they explored their new worlds. Animals were on the move! That included humans, too. They were driving more, working and playing in their yards, visiting parks, vacationing....

With everyone out and about, we were officially in the busy season for wildlife emergencies and conflicts. Once again, as happens every year during the spring and summer months, Animal Help Now's (AHNow's) service was being put to the test as people encounter wildlife in need.

### **Usage Soaring Again**

Our year-to-date wildlife emergency usage has increased by almost 35% over the same period last year. And our new wildlife conflict service has been accessed 2100 times since we launched it in January.

In May, our website and phone apps combined hosted, on average, more than 700 sessions each day.

### **A Peek Inside**

Although AHNow is an automated service, we continue to receive telephone calls and emails directly from people who are trying to help injured or otherwise distressed wildlife. The upside of this is we get a peek into the types of emergencies that are occurring.

In the past week alone, we have been directly contacted by dozens of people seeking help. Here is a sampling of those we assisted late last month:

Debra (Alabama): Injured vulture in farmyard

Dan (Texas): Lost, injured pig (yes, we do our best to help domestic animals, too)

Susan (Georgia): Discarded rooster

Brandy (Pennsylvania): Baby bunnies injured by cat

Brook (Florida): Injured duckling, can't keep up with others (photo below)

Tyrone (California): Baby falcon out of nest

Holly (Indiana): Injured hawk on roof of building

Kim (Arizona): Bird rescued from pool, can't fly

Kenny (New York): Fledgling robin, parents have not returned

Judy (Massachusetts): Young bird in yard, parents have not returned

Becky (Michigan): Baby raccoon in driveway, crying

Karine (California): Injured crow in yard



## AHNow (cont.)

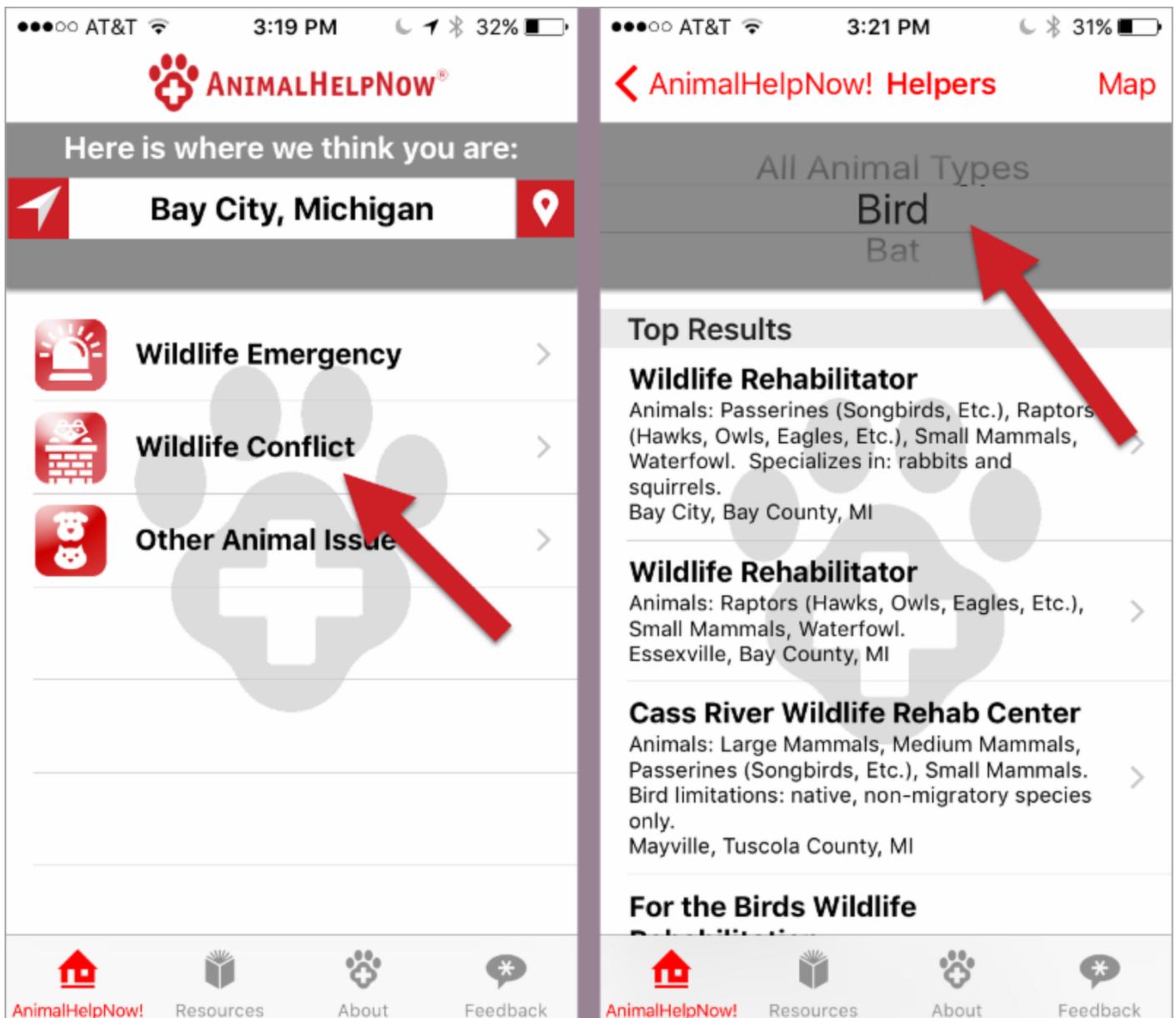
Julie (Oregon): Injured chipmunk found in auto air filter

Cathy (New York): Family of geese on interstate shoulder

Natalie (Missouri): Partially hatched robin on ground, can't reach nest

Alvaro (Texas): Baby bird on ground, no nest or parents nearby

AHNow's new wildlife conflict service connects people who are experiencing a wildlife conflict with professionals around the country who can help. Such conflicts include birds in the attic, skunks under the porch and

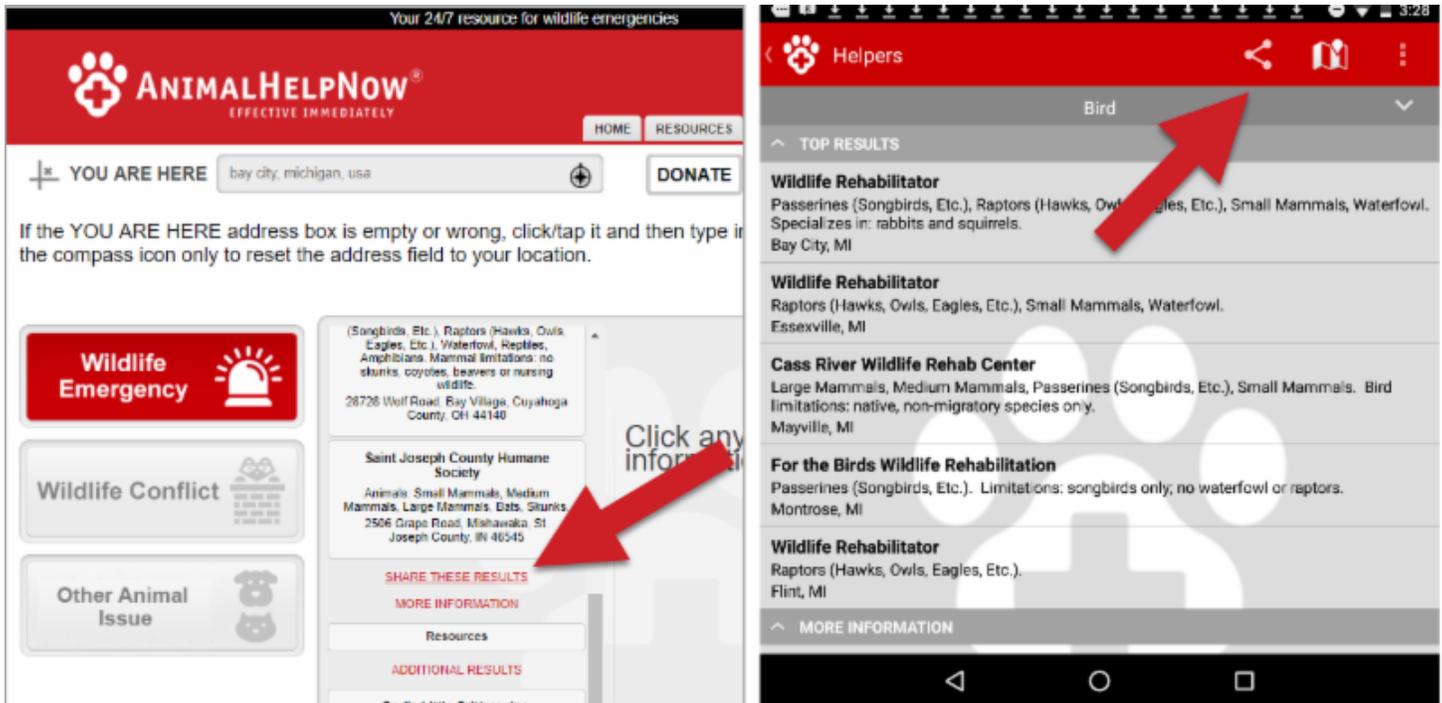


Left: Access humane wildlife control experts.

Right: Filter by animal type.

## AHNow (cont.)

mice in the cupboards. Our service features only those businesses and organizations that meet our strict criteria for listing. Less than one percent of U.S. "nuisance wildlife" operators qualify.



**Left: On our web platform (www.AHNow.org), the new share feature can be accessed at the bottom of the top results. Right: On Android, tap the share icon to access it. Access humane wildlife control experts.**

Our tech team - nine strong and composed almost completely of mission-driven volunteers- worked hard this spring on a number of initiatives, including improving our animal filter. This allows users to pare down the list of results by specific animal groups (e.g., small mammals, large mammals, birds, reptiles, etc.). If you haven't yet experimented with it, we encourage you to do so.

If you ever use Animal Help Now to help another person, you will be pleased with our new share feature. This allows you to easily share a list of results with another person. You can access this from both our Android app and our website. The feature will be added to our iPhone app soon.

Finally, our Resources page is one of the best animal FAQs available, and we've restructured it to be better than ever. It contains helpful information not only on wildlife issues but also domestic animal issues (including, for instance, valuable tips on what to do if you find a lost companion animal).

Warm regards,

David Crawford, Co-Founder and Executive Director

ps If you want to hear from us much more often - and who could blame you? - follow us on Facebook.

## *Newsletter Editors*

Linda Bergman–Althouse

Jean Chamberlain

Mathias Engelmann

Carla Johnson

Ann Rogers

