



Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina
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The Editor
The People's Forum
The News & Observer
PO Box 191
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Dear Editor,

Your story in, Driveway Sightings, on Saturday, August 4 on the raising of the orphaned bird was captivating and caught the public attention. It was a "feel good" story about a woman raising a wild, baby bird with little information. To promote the humane treatment of wildlife is always commendable.

However, I feel that it was misleading and gave the reading public much misinformation. The "bird rescue" spokesperson gave the caregiver inadequate instructions and neglected the legal and ethical implications of the public caring for wildlife. The "bird rescue" person who gave the information was in violation of both State and Federal Laws.

There are many fine wildlife rehabilitation facilities in the Triangle and throughout the State. On behalf of the Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina, I would like to provide some education and information regarding the possession and rehabilitation of wildlife.

1. A North Carolina Wildlife License is required to possess or rehabilitate any native NC wild mammal, turtle, or bird.
2. A Federal Migratory Bird Rehabilitation License is required to possess and rehabilitate any native birds, including blue jay.

Wildlife Rehabilitators are required to have extensive training, appropriate housing, and supervised experience before receiving a wildlife rehabilitation permit from the State or Federal government.

Anyone can locate a licensed wildlife rehabilitator by going to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission web/ coexisting with wildlife site at:
http://www.ncwildlife.org/fs_index_06_coexist.htm

Then click on the county where you are located.

The Wildlife Rehabilitators of North Carolina (WRNC) offers introductory and advanced classes in wildlife rehabilitation throughout the State and throughout the year. We also hold our State symposium each January. All information on classes and the symposium is listed on our web site at: <http://www.ncwildliferehab.org>.

Wildlife rehabilitators are not employed by the State or Federal Government; 99% receive no salary and all wildlife rehabilitation activities are entirely self financed.

Your story had a happy ending. All too often, though, well meaning and well intentioned people who lack the knowledge or training have done much harm.

Kindly,

Elizabeth L. Hanrahan, President
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