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EWC's Newsletter

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Letter From the President

Well, here we are right in the middle of rehab season. Most of you have done some rehabbing, I'm sure, because we like to spread around the fun. To be honest, since I mostly do raptors, I have slowed down a little. But boy I sure am scared to call you songbird rehabbers, especially Nimette, because I know you have no life right now. On that note, any of you that knows or has heard of some people that would like to help with songbirds please call me.

As an organization, songbird care has the fewest rehabbers. They are tremendously satisfying, different birds, never knowing what they are at times, and you will work all day for weeks at a time. They are also the most abundant wildlife type we admit, so think about helping EWC at least with a few.

EWC is always challenged every year by the things we are asked to do. Wood ducks are still rehabilitation trouble for us. We will work towards building a species-specific contraption that has all the hoops they must jump through in their early lives. It is a box of several tiers that provides shallow running water at times then closes then opens until they reach the ultimate base of deeper water to swim out to the release boxes. It takes about a week to go thru these stages. Since they must be dropped to stimulate hunger then led to water by Momma they get interrupted on this trip. It's that classic line of ducklings behind Momma crossing the road and sometimes they scatter. They will never eat on their own if this happens. It is a strange species because they are precocial, which means born ready to eat on their own, but that is after reaching water and Momma showing what to eat.

Thomas Glass and myself will build this contraption used by commercial breeders. Hopefully, next year we'll have a way to successfully rehab these little guys.

The other challenge has been turtle shell repair. Just when you think you know how we are told don't do that anymore. I will personally educate myself on the newest techniques that are used today. Dr. MacKinzie does them but she also needs to make money with paying clients. The techniques have changed almost yearly, but I like the new one very much. EWC will not however try to repair ones that are really just too bad. We have euthanized some, but we have been able to save a few thanks to River Park North doing the tank care at their Science Center. Box turtles and snappers are close to being threatened species so we do need to save the ones we can.

The phone call:

"Mark?" "Yes" "Have you seen the new Bargain Trader?" "No, why?" "There is an ad for an Osprey for sale." "What?" "There's an osprey for sale in Washington." "Oh this is going to be fun, you can't do that. Do you have the number?" "Yep its #### #####." "Hello?" "Yes sir, I'm calling about the bird you have for sale in the Bargain Trader." "Great! I've got a male and female and some eggs too." Astounded I reply "Sir may I ask where you got this Osprey?" "Osprey??" "Yes, it says male Osprey for sale." "Those dumb ####, its supposed to say Ostrich." I start laughing, "Man I was going to put you under the jail." " Hell, I wouldn't blame you!"

What is Sub-Qing

Every rehabber needs to learn how to sub-Q but what is it and how is it done?

A subcutaneous injection, sub-Q or SQ, is an injection given between the skin and underlying tissue. It is a method of quickly delivering fluids to dehydrated wildlife and can be given to both mammals and birds. It is the preferred method when body functions are slowed or absent from stress or hypothermia contraindicating oral fluid therapy.

The best place on the body for a sub-Q injection is on the back. Older literature suggests other sites but those sites aren't as easily accessible and can take less fluid so are no longer recommended. Between the shoulder blades or the back of the neck are the best spots on a mammal. On a bird choose a site lower on the back to avoid the cervical air sacs. The skin is gently lifted and the needle is inserted, bevel up, until it is in the pocket of raised skin. The injection is slowly given creating a bubble of fluid that is trapped under the skin. That bubble will be absorbed into the body at a rate determined by the body's need for fluids.

No more than 5% of body weight should be administered at any one time. A

larger volume of liquid can cause a fluid build up in the lungs. If the animal in question is very dehydrated, requiring as much as that 5% to be injected, it will be more comfortable for the animal if several injections are given rather than one large bubble of fluid that could painfully stretch and damage the skin. Several smaller bubbles will cause less discomfort in spite of the repeated needle pricks.

There are several fluids that can be used in a case of dehydration. Some, however are not appropriate to sub-Q. Use only lactated ringers solution (LRS), or sterile saline, both isotonic solutions. Products made to address dehydration such as Pedialite or Gatorade should never be injected. They are not sterile and may have other properties making them inappropriate for anything but oral use. LRS with glucose may be injected IV, intravenously, but shouldn't be administered SQ. Any solution with added sugars is hypertonic and will actually wick fluids from the body to the injection site causing further dehydration.

If you haven't learned how to sub-Q yet set up a lesson with an experienced rehabber. It's one easy way to help save the life of incoming wildlife.

How DO They Find Us?

All rehabbers have tales of being at the right place at the right time to rescue an animal. I was riding with Sherry and Donny Mills and Winston the Great Horned Owl to an EWC display at the Roanoke-Cashie River Center, http://www.partnershipforthesounds.org/crc_home.htm, when we spied an owl flopping on the side of the road. Birds of prey get caught in the downdrafts from cars and trucks as they hunt for road kill. This little barred owl was in need of help and we scooped him up and put him in

an extra carrier to bring him along.

I was sitting in McDonald's in TN on my way home from vacation when a yellow-bellied sap sucker hit the window and kids came carrying him in the restaurant looking for help. I emptied a box in the car and gave him a place to recover before he flew off to his trees.

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FYI - Don't forget the EWC library. There are many fine reference books available for members to check out.

FYI - There is a roster of all EWC rehabbers available on request. Contact Nimette if you want a copy.

Feed Your Live Food!

Many rehabbers buy crickets or mealworms for their wildlife. Did you know that feeder insects often come to us having been without food or water for quite a while. To provide your wildlife with something of real food value, feed your live food. Offering a starved cricket or mealworm to your wildlife actually provides less nourishment than you might expect.

Mealworms should be kept in a mixture of grains. I use cornmeal and wheat bran. Other rehabbers use oatmeal or other grain products. In addition they are given raw potato, apple wedges or other vegetable scraps providing moisture.

Earthworms can be kept in the same way except their substrate should be loose dirt or potting soil. If you use potting soil choose the kind that doesn't have plant food additives. It might be toxic to worms

and your wildlife.

You can purchase cricket foods from places like PETS MART, but, this isn't necessary. They'll happily eat dry cat or dog food, chicken scratch, duck chow or any other dry animal food stuff. They'll chow down on potato or apple wedges and vegetable scraps too. Crickets actually drink water so provide them some in a sponge or small dish. If it's a deep dish add some small stones to prevent drowning. I keep my crickets in an old aquarium but they'll do just fine in a bait cage if you've only got a small number of them.

Feeding your live food is called gut loading. It greatly increased the nutritional value of feeder insects for your wildlife. It'll keep them alive longer too!



The Nuthatch, the Glue Board, My Mother and Me

I have been "officially" rehabbing animals for a year, but, have been bringing strays, injured, and ownerless animals home since I was a child. Friends and family learned to live with the idea that any car I was in would not be able to pass an animal in need. After 20 years together my husband and I have come to an understanding. We will peacefully co-exist with any furred or feathered animal anywhere on our property. Spring and summer will see our office turned into a rehab nursery. We will feed, water, foster and find homes for domestic animals and safely release wild animals when ready. Amphibians, reptiles and insects will be evaluated case by case (i.e. Blue and black striped lizards – yes, black snakes – NO! "Writing spiders" –

yes, black widows – no. Anything with more than 8 legs- automatic "no". I tell you this in semi-self defense before relating the "rest of the story".

This past winter, we kept the muskrats in our pond fed, to keep them from invading the garage, as happened one cold winter. We fed the birds and squirrels and we ignored the mice living in the garage that were raiding the dog food canisters, UNTIL, they made a strike on the interior of our house. Even I had to admit that was out of line. The humane traps went down.

In January, I underwent back surgery, that left my car in the garage, unused for

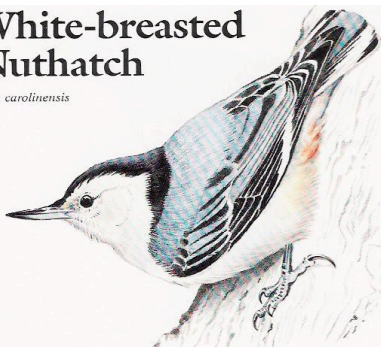
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"FYI – another use for old aquariums. Put your feeder insects in one in your release cage. Your birds or animals will be able to see them and hop in and out to self feed but the bugs won't be able to escape."

The Nuthatch, the Glued Board, My Mother and Me, *continued*

White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis



2 months. During this time, the mice, who had agreed to stay in the garage, built a nest in my engine. They augmented leaves and pine needles with several feet of electrical wire from the engine's wiring harness. Four hundred and eighty, non-insurance-covered-dollars-later, my husband declared all out war on our mice. Despite my protests, he spread varying sizes and types of traps, including glue boards, throughout the garage. Mice are smarter than we thought; we caught no mice.

One early spring day, as my mother and I were leaving to do some shopping, I passed a glue board, and remember thinking, smugly, that the only things caught were a dozen or so insects. Little did I know that the nuthatch that we were about to shut in the garage would find this an irresistible treat. A veritable smorgasbord. Upon our return Mom and I found a male nuthatch firmly gripped by said glue board. Legs, breast and one out spread wing were held fast by the glue. Pulling or tugging oh him would

only injure him. Cutting that many feathers wasn't an option. As we stood surveying our dilemma, I caught sight of a bottle of "Goo-Gone" (made by Magic American Corporation and generally used in my house to remove immovable price stickers from hard surfaces.)

We Soaked the bird and glue board with the "goo" and waited a minute or two. My mother deftly and gently removed the bird from the board, and gave him a bath in Palmolive Antibacterial Dish Soap. The bird was placed in a cage in the sunlight to dry. An hour later he flew away unharmed and only missing one feather. He, his mate and offspring are still in our yard.

Moral of the story: DON'T use glue boards and DO keep "Goo-Gone" on hand. It does remove more than stubborn price stickers!

Written by Bobbi Beck

Duck Rescue Network's First Annual Conference

The Duck Rescue Network is holding its first annual conference on August 17 – 19 in Charlotte, NC. Presentations include a hazardous materials awareness (oil spill) course on Friday and workshops on Saturday and Sunday. The classes are not exclusively related to waterfowl and cover topics such as avian emergency care, nuisance bird situations

and avian diseases and anatomy. The conference will be held at the Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary in Charlotte, NC. A tour of the facility is included on Saturday. Registration is limited to 50 seats and seats are still available. See www.duckrescue.org or call 704-779-3256 for registration or more information.

How DO They Find Us, continued from page 2

Recently, on my way to visit another rehabber in Hickory, NC, cars were slowing on Lenoir-Rhyne Blvd during the evening rush hour. I saw a big bird on the dotted yellow line. I pulled my car in the next driveway, found a quilted blanket, and walked back to get it. The two lanes of cars stopped and I was able to scoop up this Coopers Hawk from behind and walk back to my car. People from their cars hollered, "thanks." Another car followed me and helped me put him in an extra cage I had in my car. By the time I got to my destination, he had bounced the cage apart and was helping me navigate. There was another rodeo getting him out of my brand new car.

He was dehydrated and extremely thin so we rehydrated him and called the Carolina Raptor Center. They had a transporter meet us at IHOP the next morning to take him to Charlotte.

I think most of us grew up in the family to whom all the kids on the block brought injured and sick animals. It's as if we have a sign on our doors that not only people, but animals read. Since I've taught school here for 16 years, I have

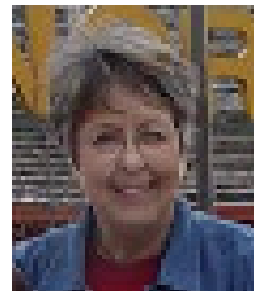
former and current students call about orphaned babies. I got started in Greenville rehab when baby squirrels fell out of the tree in the school courtyard and the teachers came to get the critter teacher. One still calls me Ellie Mae from the Beverly Hillbillies.

Rehabbers are a special breed and we tend to get along well the first time we meet. Because of the internet and emailing lists, we can get to know rehabbers across the world and sometimes meet in person. I stayed with Dutch and Danish hedgehog rehabbers in Amsterdam and released a young hedgehog into the wild there. Once a year, squirrel rehab friends who met online from across the USA get together in Hickory to share good times.

Rehabbers were the kids that were found by the sick and injured animals. And it only took one rescue to have us hooked for life. Being hooked means we have that extra carrier in the car, just in case.

Kay Raade
AG Teacher
Sadie Saulter Elementary School

FYI - For members feeding released wildlife there are nuts available at the EWC center. Just give Mark a call to pick up what you need.



A BIG THANK YOU!

As rehab coordinator for EWC I would like to thank all of our rehabbers for the work they've done so far this season. To those in our group that haven't yet gotten that call from me, please remain on stand by. The spring and summer storm season usually

brings in babies. Don't worry, I haven't forgotten anyone, and greatly appreciate all.

Nimette Soli

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
**www.easterwildlife
center.com**

It's Easy to Join Eastern Wildlife Center

Please mail to: Eastern Wildlife Center, c/o 1641 Lum Buck Rd, Greenville, NC 27858

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Please check one)

I am enclosing the \$20 fee to become an associate member of EWC
(membership to be renewed annually)

I am interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator
(a one time membership fee of \$20 is assessed to rehabbers joining EWC)

Additional Donation: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Eastern Wildlife Center is a not-for-profit organization with 501 C tax deductible status.

About Our Organization...

Eastern Wildlife Center, or EWC, is a not-for-profit organization of wildlife rehabilitators in Pitt and surrounding counties. It strives to support local rehabbers in their

work with North Carolina wildlife and to educate the public in better ways of interacting with the wild animals they encounter.